

Memorial News

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2008

New Safety Procedures

As you may recall, in the spring of 2007 the District hired an outside consultant to complete a comprehensive security assessment of all schools in the District. One of the consultant's recommendations included making physical access to our schools more secure during the school day. As a result, students, staff, parents and visitors will soon see several changes which will make our schools more secure.

We anticipate that sometime around the first week in November, parents or other visitors approaching the main entrance during school hours will enter the main entrance and check in with the secretary. After you have signed in and have a visitor pass, the secretary will buzz you in. Office staff will be able to see and monitor visitors in the lobby.

The District will also be installing devices known as proximity readers adjacent to a number of additional doors. With this device a staff member will be able to access a locked door by waiving his or her staff ID badge across the device, which will briefly unlock the door just long enough for the staff member to open it. Visitors to kindergarten will sign in at the Main Office and receive a visitor's pass to use to enter the kindergarten classrooms. Doors adjacent to play areas

continued on page 2

Principals' Corner

Happy Fall!!!

At this season of Thanksgiving, we give our sincere thanks to our community, school board, central office, staff, parents and our children. Our school is a special place for learning because of each of you.

We are privileged to receive the Blue Ribbon Award for volunteering for the eighteenth consecutive year. Thank you to the many volunteers for the selfless hours you give to Memorial School ... we sincerely appreciate your involvement and support. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shauna Beaudin, our volunteer coordinator.

We are also proud to have received the Gold Circle Partnership Award for our community and business partnerships with Carrabba's, Laurel Center Genesis, Pepsi-Bottling Company, and Symmetry Tile Works. Sincere thanks to our partners who make a difference in our school community.

We are enjoying seeing so many of our parents and families during Parent-Teacher Conferences and Classroom Visitations. We always look forward to the opportunity to talk with you about your child(ren), and for you to share any concerns or questions that you may have. We welcome and value your feedback. As always, we want Memorial to be a welcoming place for our families. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions.

A couple of safety reminders:

Please do not park at the side of the building when we are doing bus dismissal. With busses coming in and leaving, it creates a hazardous situation. Thank you for signing in and wearing a visitor's pass when you are at Memorial. Please drive slowly through the circle in front of the building.

We wish our families a Happy Thanksgiving!!!



or staff parking lots have been selected for these devices, and additional proximity readers may be added to exterior doors in future years as funds become available. The proximity readers should begin working by mid-November.

Even as we implement these changes to make our school more secure, we will continue to strive to maintain an open and welcoming environment for parents and other members of our community. Please don't hesitate to call Ms. Ilg or Mrs. Souza should you have any further questions or concerns about these changes.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 4TH TEACHER WORKSHOP (NO SCHOOL)

NOVEMBER 11TH VETERANS' DAY (NO SCHOOL)

NOVEMBER 20TH MATH AND LITERACY NIGHT (6:30PM -8:00PM)

NOVEMBER 27TH & 28TH THANKSGIVING RECESS(NO SCHOOL)

MATH AND LITERACY NIGHT

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:

NOVEMBER 20TH 6:00PM – 7:00PM

OUR SPECIAL GUEST WILL BE ODDS BODKIN, A WONDERFUL NEW HAMPSHIRE STORYTELLER. PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS FUN FILLED FAMILY NIGHT. A SIGN UP FORM WILL BE SENT HOME SHORTLY.

Kindergarten Carpool Reminders

- Please park in the line closest to the building when picking up or dropping off your child.
- Parking along the right hand side of the parking lot as you arrive for pick-up creates congestion. It's OK to begin the line near the orange cones at the entrance of the side parking lot.
- Please have children enter and exit on the passenger side of the car.
- For security reasons, we ask that you don't gather near the playground area fence to talk with your friends or visit with children who are at recess. If you need to see a child who is at recess, please Sign In at The Main Office, wear a pass and enter the playground through the building.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

As we enter into the winter season I just wanted to share a few helpful reminders with all of you.

The children are sent out to recess even if the play area is wet. They need and enjoy the time outside with their friends. Please make sure they are dressed appropriately. As the colder weather arrives they will continue to go out unless it is extremely cold (below 20 degrees). Outdoor air in the winter is more humid and much fresher than the air indoors. Children with colds even benefit from the added humidity from the cold air. Children should come with coats, snow pants, boots, gloves and hats. Packing extra socks and gloves is also nice when the snow is wet.

Cold and Flu Season- Many of the children have already had their first cold of the season. If a child can't make it through the day without over the counter medication then they should be home resting. Reviewing prevention methods with your child will be helpful in cutting down the spread of germs.

Examples include: Covering a sneeze or cough, frequent hand washing, not sharing cups or water bottles, eating well, and getting plenty of rest. I strongly suggest that children bring home water bottles daily to be washed.

Encourage children to drink plenty of water. Poor hydration results in dry mucous membranes, increasing the incidents of nose bleeds, chapped lips, headaches, constipation and dry skin.

Snacks- Children have snack time daily. It is important that they eat a healthy snack. Please remind your child to pack a snack when getting their backpack ready.

If your child becomes ill, please let me know the symptoms. This way I can keep a record of which classrooms are effected. I also check attendance daily and it is important to call your child in and report the reason for absence.

Attendance Line: 627-1776 ext. 1 or if you need to speak to me ext. 3.

Late arrivals to school- Please sign the green tardy sheet with child's full name and homeroom and arrival time.

Holidays- With the holidays soon upon us this can be very stressful time for many. Please let me know if you are in need of any help to make the holidays special for your children.

Please know you are welcome to call me at any time.

Sincerely,

Rachel Higgins RN

GO GREEN

Looking for ways to help our environment and at the same time help our school. At the front of Memorial School, on your left as you enter the driveway, you will see a large green and yellow container. We encourage you to dispose of your paper in that container. It is then recycled and Memorial receives money back from the company.

Acceptable Paper:

Newspapers	Construction Paper
Office papers	Notebooks (even with the spiral)
Home papers (mail)	Stapled paper
Magazines	Paper with clips or binders
Catalogs	Paperback books
Glossy Paper	Posters and poster boards
Envelopes (even with plastic windows)	Post-It Notes
Manila folders	Brochures
Colored paper	Painted paper
Receipts	Index Cards
Booklets	Fax paper
Calendars	Greeting Cards
Paper Bags (white)	Phonebooks
Shredded Paper (Please leave in a bag and poke some air holes in it)	



Unacceptable items in the Paper Retriever Bins:

Cardboard/hanging folders	Metals
Corrugated Cardboard	Napkins/Paper Towels
Trash	Cereal or food boxes
Plastics	Treated paper cups

For more information about this recycling program, please visit our website at:

www.paperretriever.com

or contact your local Recycling Representative Matt Libby at (617) 778-4882 or

matthew.libby@abibow.com

FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Parent-teacher conferences are fast approaching and are an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's performance and school progress. Regular communication between parents and teachers helps children succeed and communicates to them that education is important.

Here are some suggestions for making the most of parent-teacher conferences, according to the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension:

Before the conference

Talk with your child. Ask, What do you like or dislike about school? or what would you like me to talk about with your teacher? Tell your child you will talk to him/her after the conference about what is discussed.

Write down information you would like to share with the teacher, such as your child's health needs and interests. Let the teacher know about any life changes, such as a move, new baby, new job, divorce, or death in the family.

Write down questions you may have. Examples include: What are my child's strengths and areas of improvement? What are the expectations for homework? What can I do at home to help my child be more successful?

Arrange for both parents to attend. An increasing number of studies show that involvement by both parents in education has a significant impact on a child's academic achievement.

During the Conference

Be on time. If you can't make your appointment, call to reschedule as soon as possible.

Listen to the teacher's explanations about your child's academic and social behavior. Ask the teacher to explain things you do not understand. Ask any questions you wrote down before the conference.

Share the information you prepared about your child. Agree to update the teacher when necessary.

Remember to thank the teacher for his/her time and dedication to your child.

After the Conference

Discuss the conference with your child. Be positive and optimistic. Emphasize successes and make a plan to improve in certain areas.

Keep up your end of the bargain with the teacher. Stay in touch, continue to check your child's homework, read notices sent home from school and complete necessary papers/forms in a timely manner. Take part in school activities whenever possible. Show children that you support their interests, both academic and extra-curricular. When parents are involved, children learn that they are loved and that school is important.

A parent is one of many teachers a child will have. By building a strong partnership with your child's teacher and school, your child can learn and grow to his/her potential.

Suggestions for Improving School Performance

Serve a nutritious breakfast. Research has shown that children who regularly eat breakfast score higher on tests and achieve better grades.

Practice active listening with your child. School problems sometimes develop from other areas of life. Learn to listen between the lines to stay in tune with what's happening with your child.

Get additional help when needed. Find out about tutoring and mentoring programs that can assist. Lead by example. If a child is continually learning, a child will know that education is important and valuable.

Be generous with praise. Children do respond to positive reinforcement. Keep the following quote in mind:

Celebrate what you want to see more of.

Tom Peters, American Business

It's time to stuff the turkey again! As in years past, Memorial School will be holding its annual food drive to kick off the holiday season. The turkeys will be ready for stuffing on Monday, November 10 in the hall near the main office. The drive will continue until Monday, December 1st. A reminder note will be sent home through your child soon. Thanks in advance for supporting a local food pantry!

