

Lapham Lookout Elementary

Vol. 3 Issue #4
December 2009

Lapham Elementary School
1045 East Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53703

Dr. Michael Hertting
Principal

mhertting@madison.k12.wi.us

Dear Parents:

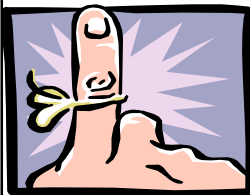
It is my hope that you had a great Thanksgiving Break with your family. I cannot believe how fast this year is going. It seems like we just had off for Teachers' Convention. Winter Break is quickly approaching.

Thank you to all of those who attended parent – teacher conferences. We are close to 100% attendance and hope by the time this is published that we will be there. If you have not had your conference, please let us know a time that would work best for you. This is one way for you to support your child's education.

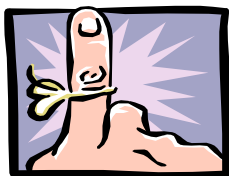
Please ask your child to tell you about a story I am reading to every class. It is titled: How Full Is your Bucket? for Kids. It is based on an adult book and talks about everyone's invisible bucket. Reading to the classes is one of my favorite things to do as a principal.

Sometimes at this time of year I am asked for gift suggestions for children. My usual reply is books and something that costs nothing at all: time. I believe families spending time together is one of the best gifts you can give your child. The Madison area is lucky to have so many family oriented and low cost activities. Kids in the Rotunda at the Overture Center and the Madison Zoo are personal favorites. Children they often tell me about the fun things they are going to do with their family.

I look forward to seeing families at our December events and hope that you have a great Winter Break with your family. Sincerely, Mike Hertting



December 7		Holiday Luncheon
December 8	6:30 pm	PTG meeting @ Lapham
December 15	12:45pm	Choir Concert
	6:15pm	Choir Concert
December 21-January 1		NO SCHOOL
January 4		SCHOOL RESUMES



Reminders

Lapham Start Time 7:40 AM
Dismissal 2:32 (1:00 Mondays)
Lunch will be served at 11:05

Safe Arrival Number (if your child is sick) 204-4148



Questions and Answers

Any new information on the H1N1 vaccines?

As we all know the original H1N1 school vaccine clinics were canceled due a shortage of vaccines. The Department of Public Health is planning to continue vaccination clinics in January, 2010. We hope to have a schedule for these clinics before winter break.

MMSD Wellness Policy Reminders

Can students bring soda, other non-approved beverages or candy in their lunches or to be consumed at school? A goal of the policy is that as students learn about healthy nutrition, they will bring healthy beverages and lunches to school; however the guidelines do not limit what students can bring to school. Students cannot bring soda or candy to be sold to other students or for consumption at a classroom party or celebration.

Can birthday parties or other celebrations be held? These celebrations are allowed. All school staff are encouraged to consolidate celebrations that include food and to consider non-food activities for celebrations.

Can students eat snacks in their classrooms? Yes, snacks can be consumed in the classroom if permitted by the classroom teacher. Parents are asked to use the list of recommended snack items if they are sending snacks for the entire class. Snacks must be eaten at a desk or table. Students must clean up after themselves.

Are there any limits on peanuts and other nut products? Yes. Food Services will not serve foods containing peanuts or nut products in elementary schools. Student projects prepared at school shall be peanut and nut free as well as not including edible seeds. Students may still bring peanut butter sandwiches or other peanut or nut items in their personal lunches. The list of snack items for elementary classrooms will not include any items that contain peanuts or nuts.

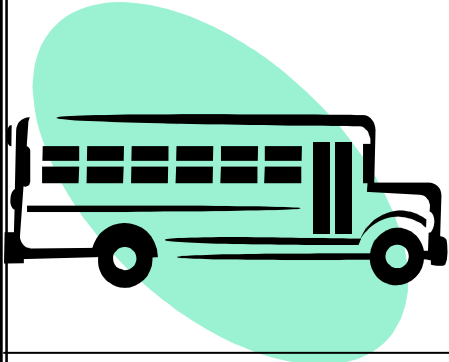
More information on the web site at: http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/topics/wellness/q_and_a.htm



Bad Weather Reminder:

On days when the weather is bad, listen to any local radio or television station for information about school closing. You can also check MMSD-TV (Cable Channel 96 or 993.) For more information on school closings, please check the MMSD website: See a letter from Dr. Nerad on Pg 7!

<http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/weather.htm> Or call 608-442-2911



Bus Contractor Information

Kobussen Buses is the new contractor for Lapham Elementary. Please contact them at 825-2700. MMSD Transportation is at 663-5288.

Meet Brie Huemmer

Hello all! I am Brie Huemmer, the new K/1 teacher. I am so happy to be working at Lapham elementary where there is so much support and such wonderful families.

I was born and raised here in Madison. I was a Madison Metropolitan School District student (Elvehjem Elementary Alumni) and have always wanted to teach here. I completed my teaching degree at UW-Madison in August of 2009 and worked as a substitute teacher all around the city before being offered this wonderful job.

I look forward to meeting everyone and want to thank you all for the great support I have received so far.

MMSD Goal of 94% Attendance

MMSD has a goal of 94% attendance for every student. Lapham overall meets this goal every year. 94% means missing no more than 5 days of each semester. Please look for your child's name on the wall near the Auditorium to see if he/she is making the goal. Try to schedule any appointments outside the school day.

Starting the Day Calmly

A smooth start to the day begins the night before. Think about:

- Checking the weather forecast and help your child choose clothes, coat and footwear
- Placing your child's backpack by the door with permission slips completed homework ready to go.
- Planning a breakfast with your child and packing a healthy lunch.

Setting a timer 5 minutes before you leave as a signal to your child.



Holiday Luncheon Times

Lunch at 11:00 Serving Period

Kindergarten Classes
Ms. Huemmer's Class
Mrs. Freng's Class

Students in this serving period will go outside after they are done eating.
They will return to their classrooms somewhat later than the regular time.

Lunch at 11:40 Serving Period

Ms Stern's class
Ms. Blume's class
Ms. Jung's Class
2nd Grade Classes

Students in this serving period will stay in their classrooms until around 11:40.

Notes:

- ✓ Parents who have children who eat at both times can eat with each child if they want; being served at either period or you can move your child to the other time. (Keep in mind your child will then need to stay with you the entire time.)
- ✓ We will move folks along near the end of the first serving period to allow us to reset some of the space for the next serving period. Parents can go outside with their child if they wish.
- ✓ Volunteers to serve and clean up are still needed. Please let us know if you can help us out.



December, 2009

Dear Families of MMSD Students,

When the weather is bad, the Madison Metropolitan School District follows a set of guidelines for deciding if school will be open or closed. With the winter season here, I'd like to review these guidelines with you.

The district must make a decision that is the best for more than 24,000 students. We realize this decision may not fit with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your child(ren). You are always the best judge of your child's health and safety.

The process for deciding when schools are open or closed due to snow and/or ice
District staff members review the weather conditions beginning early in the morning. They talk with weather forecasters, the City Streets Department, Madison Police and Dane County Sheriff's Departments, and school district staff to see if all buildings are accessible for students and staff.

We also consult with bus companies to see if buses will be able to travel safely to and from school. This is the primary factor in making our decision. We make the decision whether to close schools by 6:30 a.m. or earlier, and then communicate this decision to all local news outlets.

How you can find out if schools are closed

On days when the weather is bad, listen to any local radio or television station for information about school closing. You can also check our web site (www.mmsd.org) or MMSD-TV (Cable Channel 96 or 993) or you can call (608) 442-2911 – it has a recorded message.

When schools are closed because of extreme cold

When the National Weather Service has a wind chill WARNING for Dane County in effect for the time just before the school day begins, we will make a decision if our schools should close. It is quite likely we will make the closing decision on the morning of the day in question. If there is a wind chill ADVISORY (not a WARNING) for the county, schools will likely be open. ([Thresholds from National Weather Service](#))

When schools are closed, all activities are canceled

When Madison schools are closed for the day, it also means that all activities scheduled in school buildings for that day are canceled. This includes all MSCR programs and all after school programs.

Why schools are not dismissed early on days when the weather is bad

In many of our families, adults work outside the home and they have no child care arrangements available before the end of the school day. However, if your schedule allows and if you feel your child(ren) will be safer at home, you can pick your child(ren) up before the end of the school day. If you do, go to the school office and request that your child(ren) be dismissed to you.

We try to keep schools open

When schools close, many families have issues with child care. As a result, we try to keep schools open if it's safe to do so. However, as we stated at the top of this letter, parents can always make the decision to keep their child(ren) at home in bad weather.

Why school starts are not delayed on days when the weather is bad but will improve during the day

In many of our families, adults working outside the home are not able to adjust their work schedules or find child care to accommodate a later start. If your family transports your child(ren) to school, we appreciate the extra effort it takes on severe weather days and acknowledge that the students' arrival might be somewhat delayed.

When schools are closed for other reasons

If you have a question about whether schools or a particular school will be closed for reasons other than severe weather, please listen to local radio or television stations, go to our web site or watch MMSD-TV.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation

For every family which is happy that school is in session on days when the weather is bad, there is another family that feels schools should be closed. The decision to open or close schools during inclement weather brings out some of the strongest community reactions – no matter which way we go with our weather decisions.

We appreciate your understanding of the difficulties in making this decision, and your support in helping your child get to school safely on winter days. Please know that we will use safety considerations in making all of our weather decisions.

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools

School Closing Hotline—New!!

On days when the weather is bad, listen to any local radio or television station for information about school closing. You can also check our web site (www.mmsd.org) or MMSD-TV (Cable Channel 96 or 993) or you can call **(608) 442-2911** – it has a recorded message.