

Lapham Lookout Elementary

Special Edition #3
December 11, 2009

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

Dr. Michael Hertting
Principal

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Dear Parents:

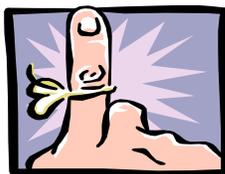
We are writing this special edition mostly to address a couple of questions we have received in the past month and also to wish you a very happy holidays with your family. Please see the question and answer section on the back of this page.

Thank you to all who attended our Lapham Holiday Luncheon. We love having this annual event. This year was the 20th year of the luncheon. Thanks also for all of the volunteer help.

The snow day last week was a nice treat for everyone. No decisions have been made as to how or if we will make up the lost time. The huge snow banks have provided several wonderful new play structures. The children really love being outside in the winter. Please make sure your child has warm winter clothing for outdoor play. Our health office is happy to help out if hats, mittens, jackets or snowpants are needed. Please check our Lost and Found in the main hallway if your child has misplaced something.

Please be sure to read with your child(ren) over break. The time together is special to your child and it is really helpful as they become readers. Finally, have a great winter break. We will see you on January 4th!

Mike Hertting



December 21-January 1

January 4

January 12

January 18

January 26

6:30pm

9:00am/6:45pm

NO SCHOOL

SCHOOL RESUMES

PTG @ Marquette

NO SCHOOL

Drama



Questions and Answers

The day after the snow day we waited for over 20 minutes for the bus. How do we know if the bus is coming? The buses ran very late that day due to the terrible condition of the roads. In addition, there were several side streets where it was not wide enough for them to meet a car so they had to wait. The Lapham office is not open until 7:20 and we usually do not have information about the buses. Please call the Kobussen Buses at 825-8700. They can give you a better idea of the status of your bus.

It was bitter cold the day after the snow day. Why was school held? MMSD closes the schools for cold weather when there is a wind chile warning. On that particular day there was only a wind chile advisory. Please check this link for more detailed information on weather related closings: <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/weather>

I heard that the school ran out of hot lunches. Is this true and how does it happen? We do occasionally run out of hot lunches. This is very rare; happening two times this year. It happens for two reasons: tardy students who are not at school when the lunch count is taken and students who do not raise their hands when the count is taken. For every tardy student we have to make a special phone call and have a lunch added. The trucks usually have extra lunches on board. We are very careful and try to take as accurate count as possible. No student goes hungry; however it maybe something different than other children are eating. Our experience has told us that some of the children like the alternative lunch better!

Do you have a question or have you heard a rumor? If so, please call the school and ask us. We want parents to have the accurate information they need. Your questions are often repeated in this newsletter so all parents benefit from questions asked.

Lapham-Marquette Endowment Fund Makes Grants Possible

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools' Individual School Endowment Initiative (ISEI) provides each school with annual income that is used to fund creative and innovative programs and projects which might not otherwise be possible. This year a total of 48 (out of the 49 total) schools had endowment interest income available to use to make grants. The total amount of interest available was \$53,416. Thirty-seven of the 48 schools awarded grants totaling \$44,701. The amount of income available and the number of schools choosing to make grants has steadily increased each year from 2006 when 22 schools made grants totaling \$14,814.

This year Lapham had \$920 in endowment income available to use to make grants for creative uses which cannot currently be funded through the core school budget. Grants were awarded to Mark Richner for a personal interview project, Lynn Najem for musical instruments and the entire school for an all school field trip in February.

If you have any questions about the Individual School Endowment Initiative or would like to contribute to our endowment, please contact Mary Bartzen at 232-7820 or visit the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools' website at www.fmps.org.