



Whitehall Memorial Elementary Newsletter, October and November - 2017

The school year is off to a fast start at Whitehall Memorial Elementary and the hallways are beginning to come to life with the colors of art projects and student work. As fall now embraces us and the school year moves along, there are a few areas I would like to reference for you and your students.

Outside Dress - We are quickly moving into cooler and more inconsistent weather. Please ensure your son or daughter is dressed for these ever changing weather patterns. Likewise, as we move toward the possibility of snow, please keep in mind we require boots for outside recess once that becomes a reality. We will do our best to hold off winter, but it is something to think about as we come closer to those days!!

Parent/Teacher Conferences - The first round of Parent/Teacher Conferences is scheduled for October 19th from 11:30 am to 7:30 pm. Confirmation sheets should have already arrived at home if you signed up for a spot. With our new format this year it will be more important than ever for teachers and parents alike to be on time and to stay within our schedule. Any help you can give with this will be greatly appreciated!

Evening Athletic Events – Elementary students are of course welcome to attend varsity, junior varsity, and middle school athletic events with an adult. However, students attending these games should be spectating in the gym and not running around the halls or building. Trips to the concession stand or bathroom are fine, but recently we have had numerous students roaming about the building while games are in progress.

Tri-mester ending – Tri 1 ends on November 30th. Look for report cards arriving home shortly after that date.

Report Card – The elementary uses a “Standards Based Report Card” in grades 4K – 6. This type of report card is different in the sense that it will report on specific grade-level skills and what students are able to achieve with each of those individual skills. You will not see one final grade for Reading (A, B, C, D, or F), but instead you will see numerous skills such as “Asks and answers questions using evidence from the text” and an E for Exceeds Standard, or an M for Meets Standard, or a W for Working Toward Standard. We hope this type of reporting will be more informational to you and provide more insight into exactly what students are expected to know and where your son or daughter is on those skills.

Calls and Notes - Remember to give your child a note if after school activities are different than your normal routine. If we do not hear from you, we cannot take your child's word. Likewise, we try our best not to interrupt instruction by transferring calls to your child's teacher. We generally deliver messages during recess, lunch, and prior to the end of the day. If you have a message for your child or your child's teacher, please send a note in the morning if possible. Calling at the end of the day increases the chances a communication error could occur since this is a very busy time of the day for the office and classrooms.

Busing - Please stay in close contact with Pape Bus Company regarding any changes to your child's bus routine. According to school board policy, one pick up and drop off location can be designated for your son or daughter. Any variance from this location requires a daily note from a parent or guardian.

STAR Testing – STAR Testing, which measures students' growth in reading and math, has been completed for the beginning of the year. Grade 2 – 6 students will receive reports at P/T Conferences. If you have any questions regarding this testing, feel free to contact me!

Family Night - Save the Date!! On Monday, October 30th, the district will be hosting a family night for families of students in grade 4K-12. The event will take place in the elementary school. More details will be sent home next week! There will be activities for all ages!

Important Upcoming Dates –

October 19 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 11:30 – 7:30
October 20 – No School
November 6 – Teacher Inservice, No Students
November 22 through 24 – Thanksgiving Break
November 30 – End of Tri1

Anything Else? – If you have any questions that were not answered in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to call me at 715-538-4364 or email me at lisowskid@whitehallsd.k12.wi.us with your questions.

Respectfully,



Damon Lisowski
Whitehall Memorial Elementary Principal