

Principal Points

Dear Island Lake Families,

Last week on Friday, I had the opportunity to read aloud to every student at Island Lake. The book chosen, Too Few of Me by Peter Reynolds, is a funny tale of a boy named Leo who finds himself stretched to the limit with the many tasks he has to complete. He attempts to solve this overwhelming burden by creating more of himself. His results leave him more stretched and exhausted. In discussion with each grade level, we explored that, like Leo found, busy doesn't mean better.

The story ties into our Community Building monthly focus of Responsibility. In this holiday season, I found it very timely to also ask students to prioritize the most important parts of their lives. I shared that the most important things in my life don't have batteries and, if broken, can't be fixed with glue. My responsibility is to the most important people in my life. I asked students over the weekend to find the people in their lives that mean the most and to tell them.

As the year closes I want to extend my thanks to all of the families at Island Lake. It has been a pleasure to serve as the principal for the close of 2008. I look forward to 2009 and the many promises the new year holds for us.

With warm regards,

Todd Durand



January Testing Dates

All students in grades 3 and 4 along with select students from grades 1, 2, and 5 will participate in NWEA math and reading testing in January. The tests are administered via computer and results are in the form of a RIT score. The data generated will help teachers plan for appropriate instruction according to student need.

Mark Your Calendars!

All students at Island Lake will participate in spring testing. Students in grades 3-5 will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment-II on April 14, 15, 21 and 22. Students in grades K-5 will take the NWEA math and reading tests sometime between April 13 and May 29. The results of spring testing help determine (but are not the sole factor in determining) placement in instructional groups, student growth in grade level, and the need for instructional interventions. Classroom teachers will communicate specific testing dates and times as the spring window approaches.

It is important for students to be on top of their game for testing! Students should get plenty of sleep, eat a good breakfast, and **be present** for testing. Please try to avoid non-emergency absences during the testing window, such as vacations and appointments. Thank you for your support!

Heather Martell
Testing Coordinator
Instructional Strategies Facilitator

Calendar

Monday, January 5

July Half-Birthday Lunches with Mr. Durand

Tuesday, January 6

4th Grade Science Fair Presentation – 10:00 am

Wednesday, January 7

Thursday, January 8

Friday, January 9

January Birthday Lunches with Mr. Durand

Monday, January 12

July Half-Birthday Lunches with Mr. Durand

(1/2 of 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade)

PTA Meeting - 6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 13

5th Grade Field Trip – Physics Force 9:30 – 12:15 pm

Wednesday, January 14

4th Grade Animal Humane Society Presentation 1:30 pm

Thursday, January 15

January Birthday Lunches with Mr. Durand

(1/2 of 3rd Grade)

African Music Ensemble 1:30 pm

Friday, January 16

Chess Club – 7:30 am

Upcoming Events

Jan. 19 – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 23 – No School – End of Quarter

Island Lake School “Gift Cards For Others”

Thank you very much to the wonderful families, staff and school community members for their continuing support of the “Gifts Cards For Others Program.”

Almost \$2,000 in gift cards were donated this holiday season which benefited Island Lake families. Thanks also to our PTA for donating \$500 towards this effort.



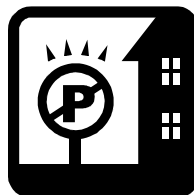
Island Lake School Will Be Closed for Winter Break

Monday, December 22
through
Friday, January 2

School Resumes Monday,
January 5



Itinerant Staff Parking



What Does it Mean?

Itinerant Staff are teachers and staff who have an ‘itinerary’ which takes them out of Island Lake for meeting at other locations.

Please do not park in the Itinerant Staff Parking spots even for a short time. Itinerant Staff needs to get into these parking spots quickly.



Important Message to Parents who Drop-Off and Pick-Up Students at School

HELP! Our school buses often cannot get onto school property because of the backup (sometimes into the Victoria Street and County Road E intersection) of cars driven by parents dropping off their students in the morning and picking them up at the end of the school day. We ask that cars come into the lot **SINGLE** file, **pull way up past the “island” and have your student ready to exit/enter the car quickly. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE!** Safety patrols are there to help expedite the process by opening car doors – an adult is also there at the end of the day.

Also, remember that school starts in the morning promptly at 8:50 am. Any students that enter the building after 8:50 am will be considered tardy for the day.

Attention Parents of 5th Graders

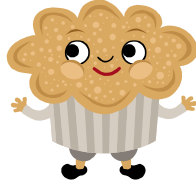


Watch your mail for an invitation to Parent Information Night at Chippewa Middle School. The event will be held on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Topics will include an overview of our middle school program, sixth grade registration information and a question/answer session with current sixth grade teachers and parents. This information night is geared toward parents. Student orientation is scheduled during May.

Thank you PTA!



The entire Island Lake staff says "THANK YOU" for the wonderful treats provided in the staff lounge during this last week before winter break. The selection was tremendous, the taste was delicious and the kind gesture was truly heart-warming!



**Happy 'Howl'-idays
from the Island Lake Wolves!**

