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moundsviewschools.org • September 26, 2008 • Debbie Zamow, Editor

From the Principal's Desk

Island Lake families:

It's been a busy and challenging week for many in our community. Now that our new classrooms have been added and students have been reassigned, I'd like to revisit a few aspects of our recent changes.

Thanks to School Board action, Island Lake now has class sizes in every grade that are much lower than during the first weeks of school.

Grade Level	After addition of teacher	Prior to addition
½ Day Kindergarten	20.33	30.5
Second Grade	24	30
Third Grade	24	30
Fourth Grade	25.2	31.5

Reassigning students into new classes is never easy. However, I'm pleased by the flexibility, cooperation and patience displayed by our parents, staff and students during this time. I'm confident the Island Lake staff will continue to make this transition as smooth as possible.

In last week's backpack mailing, families of kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students received a letter from Superintendent Dan Hoverman explaining our staffing timeline. I'd like to excerpt from his message to re-emphasize a few points:

- For the 11th year in a row, K-12 enrollment has declined. This fall's enrollment is down 53 students from last fall but about 125 students higher than we projected when the School Board approved its budget in June.



- The District's enrollment varied greatly throughout the summer. This uncertainty is typical because enrollment is never clear until students actually begin school.
- Schools are funded on a per-pupil basis, so we staff our schools with teachers in January based on the number of students we expect in September. Fiscal responsibility says you can't spend money that you don't have, and you don't have the money necessary to hire additional teachers until you have confirmed the number of students in schools every fall.
 - Until the Board acted in September, there were no teaching positions to assign to any schools.
- Non-resident enrollment is not the cause of our temporarily higher class sizes this fall. For years, Island Lake's enrollment has been closed to new non-resident students, yet we're pleased to welcome so many new resident students to our school this year.

As always, please call me or e-mail me with any comments, questions or concerns.

Todd Durand
Principal



Calendar

Monday, September 29

1st Grade (Robertson) Field Trip – Shoreview Library
Volunteer Training Session 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, September 30

Kindergarten Plus Field Trip – Aamodt's Apple Farm
Volunteer Training Session 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October 1

Kindergarten AM Field Trip – Aamodt's Apple Farm
Kindergarten PM Field Trip – Aamodt's Apple Farm

Thursday, October 2

Bus Evacuation Drill
3rd Grade Field Trip – Wildlife Science Center

Friday, October 3

Grandparents and Special Persons Day

Monday, October 6

Tuesday, October 7

Wednesday, October 8

Thursday, October 9

Friday, October 10

Upcoming Events

Oct 16 & 17 - MEA Break – No School

Oct 24 – Picture Retake Day

Oct 31 – Early Release Day – AM Schedule
Last Day of the Quarter

Art Forms with Mrs. Gerold Stibal

Highlights from the Art Room

The 4th graders will begin weaving on a cardboard loom. Students will view and discuss weavings from a variety of cultures using the MIA collection, "The Village of Textiles" video, and actual woven art works.

5th grade students will view and discuss woven images from a variety of cultures from the MIA collection, "The Village of Textiles" video, and actual woven art works. Students will weave pouches on cardboard looms using the ideas and techniques they've studied.

In anticipation of creating horse sculptures after the weaving unit, students need to be collecting sticks.



News from the Library Media Center

Mrs. Lipelt, Library Media Specialist
Mrs. Heaton, Library Media Assistant



We would like to welcome all of our new and former students to our beautiful Library Media Center. Students began their book checkouts the second week of school. Our kindergarteners took a tour of the Library and learned about how to check out a book and take care of it so others may also enjoy it. The rest of our students reviewed these simple rules in the library: respect yourself, respect others and respect the equipment and materials. Throughout the year students will learn about different genres, how to locate fiction and nonfiction books using our automated catalog and hear many stories by a variety of authors.

Kindergarteners may check out one book each week and all other students may check out two for recreational reading. In addition to all of the print resources in our collection, students will also learn how to access a variety of online resources under the supervision of Mrs. Nelson, our media technology specialist, Mrs. Lipelt and their classroom teachers.

Over the summer students participating in our PTA sponsored summer reading program in grades K-2 read over 1,200 books and in grades 3-4 read over 24,000 pages. As a reward for their good reading, we gave out over 95 books. Parents, thanks again for your strong support.

We always need volunteers to assist us with shelving books, book checkout and other special projects. David Cline is coordinating our volunteers again this year. Please let any of us know if you are interested in volunteering. It's a fun place to work.

Parent Portal Is On Its Way!

Like the middle schools and high schools, Island Lake will be implementing a parent communication tool called "Parent Portal". It enables parents to check attendance and follow-up on student assignments and is a safe, secure and private way to check on your child's status at school.



The school is currently planning the implementation process. As soon as it is ready, parents will be notified.



Parents, please respect that we are trying to create a safe and secure process for student drop-off and pick-up. To help with that we have staff members strategically located at these times. If you transport your child to or from school it is our expectation that you will use the parking lot at the front of the building by Victoria and follow the direction of our assigned staff member. Please do not use the St. Odilia parking lot or the entrance to their facility for drop-off or pick-up. We want to maintain a safe process and a neighborly relationship.

For safety reasons I have decided that the Vivian Street door (by the "Big Gym") will not be used for student arrival or dismissal. Our front door is very well staffed and is the ideal location as our transportation hub. Our walkers who come from west of the school will need to walk to the front door to enter. Our District Maintenance department has assessed the fence which runs perpendicular to the school. Soon they will remove a section of that fence to accommodate walkers who can then proceed to the walkway along the south side of the building. I appreciate your support of this move as I am confident it will increase student safety.

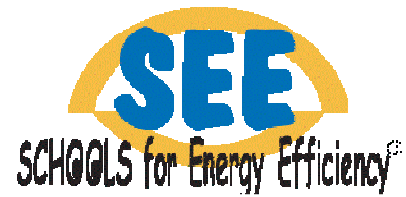


The Mounds View High School Orchestras are presenting a "pajama" concert on Monday, October 6 and Tuesday October 7 at 7:00 pm. The concert will be in the Mounds View High School cafeteria. The school is located at 1900 Lake Valentine Road, Arden Hills.

This year's concert will be the classic adventures of "Peter and the Wolf" and the famous "Casey at the Bat" (with an adaptation of "Stacey at the Bat"). Children of all ages are invited to come hear the orchestras perform and be part of the action.

Youngsters and parents are invited to wear their PJ's or their baseball/softball attire to the concert. Blankets may be brought for floor seating. Tickets are \$3.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults. Popcorn will be sold at the concert for \$1.00.

It will be a very fun evening!



You may have heard that we launched a new program called Schools for Energy Efficiency® (SEE) that is intended to help our entire District save money on energy costs. The unique part of this program is that it focuses on no-cost and low-cost strategies for our district.

Mounds View Public Schools has committed to this program because energy costs are one of the top expenditures in our district, and with this program we have an opportunity to avoid \$300,000 District-wide in utility expenses in the first two years alone. Our school will contribute to that savings by working together to meet the 10 percent energy reduction goal for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. Each quarter we will receive a progress report on our energy savings so we can see exactly what we have saved.

Energy awareness campaign materials -with this year's theme: *You have the power* - have been posted throughout hallways and classrooms school-wide to help prompt behavioral changes that are expected to contribute to a 10 - 15 percent energy cost reduction in the next two school years.

Look for quarterly communications about our school's progress in upcoming newsletters and find out how the District, as a whole, is doing by checking the District web site (www.moundsviewschools.org) throughout the year.

Can YOU Help During the Lunch Hour?

Island Lake is looking for substitute paraprofessionals to help on the playground and in the lunchroom. Hours would be between 11:00 and 1:30 and



would be on an as-needed basis. These positions are paid and would require an application through the school district. If you are interested or would like more information, please call School Secretary, Jan Hermes at 651-621-7002.