

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LION NEWS AND VIEWS

1225 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA (360) 596-6300

"We Succeed with Pride"

September, 2009



MADISON MISSION

To create a nurturing environment for students, their families, staff, and the community which encourages caring, respect, academic excellence, life-long learning, and citizenship.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School's off to a fantastic start this year. It's wonderful to see so many returning students and their families, and a special greeting to our new students as well! We have 179 students including preschool...about the same number as last year. Our amazing staff welcomes everyone to the Madison Family!

Our theme for the year: **"Zooming in on Students with a Lens on Learning."** There are many new projects, staff, and students this year which bring exciting changes ahead for us.



STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Madison was selected as one of the schools in the state to receive a 2009 Title 1 Part A Improvement Award based on student performance from the WASL. We made significant gains in closing the achievement gap and showed overall school improvement. The financial award will be used to enhance our intervention programs.

NEW READER BOARD

Did you notice our new Reader Board? It used to belong to McKenny Elementary, but when the PTO purchased a new sign, we were able to recycle and personalize the sign with our Madison logo. Thanks to Tim Byrne for getting the city permit process through, and to Mink Construction. Mink donated the concrete forms as well as the concrete for the installation.



**LATE START WED —
OCT 7
SCHOOL STARTS AT
9:55AM**

If you have looked the 2009-2010 school calendar for our District (<http://osd.wednet.edu>), you'll notice that there will be a monthly one-hour late start for teacher collaboration. The one-hour late starts are October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, May 5 and June 2. On one-hour late start days, we begin school at 9:55am. Teacher collaboration time offers our instructors a chance to work with each other to design lesson plans, discuss successful curriculum and develop interventions to help struggling students. Research indicates that regular, consistent teacher collaboration is a critical element to promote student learning. **Please mark these dates for future reference and make childcare arrangements ahead of time.**

STAFF UPDATES

- **Jennifer Starks** is our new 5th grade teacher. She comes to us from Seattle, and not only has several years experience as a classroom and music teacher, but is an accomplished concert violinist herself!
- **Kathy Chavez** is our Health Room assistant among many other things. She was at McKenny Elementary. We are fortunate to have such a highly skilled professional like Kathy, plus she speaks Spanish.
- **Justin Wright and Kathy Black** will be working with third and fourth grade students. They both bring many talents to our school. In fact, Justin is a professional clown!
- **Sara LaPlante and Meg Schmidt** are our newest Americorps members. They are a dynamic duo hoping to organize games, clubs, and a lot of other student & family activities. Sarah has lived abroad and Meg has experience working with a number of our region's community agencies.
- **Bob O'Donnell and Julie Wright** are future principals, both doing their administrative internship at Madison this year. Bob is currently

the district's technology teacher facilitator, and Julie works at OSPI with teacher programs. They each will be spending a day at Madison.

- **Maria Gibbons** retired over the summer. As a paraeducator for over two decades, she has been a bedrock of strength, compassion, and humor for Madison staff and students. Your child will remember Maria's red hair, Scottish accent, and hugs. We will miss Maria, and wish her the very best.

FAMILY LEARNING NIGHT



**Thursday,
September 18**

K-2nd/West Wing:

5:30-6:30pm

3-5th/East Wing:

6:00-7:00pm

OFFICE REMINDERS

First Day Packet Information is due as soon as possible so we have student emergency contacts and parent information. Due Sept. 25.

Students get stressed out when their end-of-the-day routines are different! Let the office by 3pm or sooner since the end of the day can be hectic in the office.

Make sure your student has \$\$ in their lunch account for their "debit card". It is not a credit card.

Free and reduced breakfast and lunch applications can also be obtained in the office.

PTO FALL FUNDRAISER Friday, Sept 18-25

Please check your child's back pack to find out about the fall fundraiser catalog on Friday, Sept. 18. Questions? Contact Michele Giordano: 705-1898

PTO will be notifying families about how the PTO funds will be used for the coming year.



PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

8:55 - First Bell

9:00 - School starts (Tardy after 9:00)

8:40 - Breakfast

8:45 - All other students in gym

3:22 - School ends

Do not park or leave your car idling or unattended. **This is especially important before school.**



If your child takes the bus, encourage him/her to follow all the bus rules including waiting safely at the bus stop and walking straight home.

LIKABLE LIONS

Likable Lions are our "students of the week." They are recognized monthly for their unique talents, interests, and hobbies Celebration Assemblies. Each classroom selects a student to be honored.



Please note: Likable Lions will be recognized on the **first Thursday afternoon of the month from 2:45-3:15.**

A-TEAM

Students on A-Team are self-managers. Any student can be part of A-Team with continued good effort. We are not expecting perfection, but want to recognize those who are "trying hard." They will be recognized the 3rd Thursday each month.

Attendance + **A**ttitude + **A**cademics =
A-Team!

PARENT HANDBOOK

We are trying to go green and use less paper this year. We will place the Madison Parent Handbook on our school's website <http://madison.osd.wednet.edu/>

If you need a hard copy, we have a few copies available in the office. Check out the handbook since it explains many of our school routines, procedures, and programs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers for the classroom, reading buddies, lunch buddies, and special guest speakers. Also, if you have a special outdoor game or indoor hobby that you would like to share during noon recess (11:55-12:35), please contact us. Don't forget to stop by the office and pick up a volunteer application form.



BOWER'S BUZZ

As we begin another great year at Madison, here are a few tips about reading at home from our Reading Specialist, Mrs. Bower:

- Make it a priority to have your child read a minimum of twenty minutes each day at home. This is just the minimum. For beginning readers

in Kindergarten and First Grade, please read to or with your child.

- Visit our local Timberland library with your child. The Children's Librarians are available to help you and your child choose "just right" books.
- Ask your child to tell you about what they have just read. We often call this "retelling". For older students, ask questions such as what is the setting, who is the main character, or what do you think will happen next.
- Happy Reading!



Madison did NOT meet the attendance standard because so many students missed too many days of school. We are in Year 1 of School Improvement for attendance. As parents, you can make a difference in making sure that your child is healthy and prepared for school each day.

- **Parent Choice in Failing Schools:** More choices are given to parents in schools that are failing to meet adequate yearly progress. Parents can transfer their child from a failing school or be provided supplemental services if the school is not meeting adequate yearly progress. Fortunately, Madison is not a failing school, and students continue to learn and grow each day.
- **Parent Involvement Plan:** Madison will be revising its annual Parent Involvement Plan with the assistance of several parent representatives from the Ed Leadership Team and the Madison Action Team. Also...be looking for the Madison School Compact, an agreement between home and school responsibilities.

MADISON – TITLE 1 SCHOOL



Title 1 is the largest federal aid program for our nation's schools. The intent of Title 1 schools and No Child Left Behind is to improve the performance of all our students. Each state receives a basic grant for the program annually. The state then sends allotments to school districts based on the number of low income families. Madison is a schoolwide Title 1 School because its free/reduced lunch count is 63%. Each eligible student generates funding for this program. It allows us to provide extra help to students in reading or math.

What are title 1 funds used for at Madison?

- Salaries for our Title 1 teachers and para-educators
- Extra supplementary books and software
- Parent education classes and family literacy activities

Key Elements of the No Child Left Behind Act

- **Highly Qualified:** Teachers and paraprofessionals must be highly qualified. All of our staff meets this rigorous standard.
- **Student Accountability:** Each 3rd-8th grade student is tested on the WASL in reading and math. Students who do not meet the standard on the tests are given extra support and placed on student learning plans.
- **Adequate Yearly Progress:** Each school is given a "Report Card" which tells how successful a school has been in reaching all groups of students. Madison made adequate yearly progress, exceeding many other schools with like-student population in academics. However,

THANKS TO THE CONGREGATION AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A special thanks to FUMC for their generous donation to the Madison. Tons of school supplies, classroom supplies, and backpacks filled our Welcome Room! Additionally a financial donation was offered to our teachers which we plan to use to enhance our classrooms. We thank them for their support!

SWINE FLU INFORMATION

For most up-to-date information:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/HIN1Flu.aspx>

Things You Can Do to Prevent the Flu

- Wash your hands
- Cover your cough
- Get Flu shots
- Make a childcare plan for your sick child

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept

- 17 PTO Fall Fundraiser Kick Off 2:45
- 18 All School Assembly for Maria Gibbons 9:40
- 23 Walk to Reading begins
- 22 Reading Buddy Training, 2:00pm
- 23 Reading Buddy Training, 12:00noon
- 28 Reading Buddy Program begins
- 24 Family Learning Night 5:30-7:00pm
- 27 Ed Leadership and Madison Action Teams Mtgs 3:40-5:00pm

PERMISSION SLIP FOR MADISON FAMILY DIRECTORY

Communication ...communication...communication. We think that school should be a gathering place for students, families and staff to come together and get to know each other.



We would like to put together a classroom directory what allows you, as parents/guardians, a way to arrange play dates, birthday parties, or on-going parent communication with other families in your child's class.

Please let us know if you would like your family to be listed on this schoolwide Madison Family Directory. It will not be shared outside the school for any reasons. Its purpose is for you to contact other families in the classroom, and for us to contact you via email.

This also would be a good time to have a conversation with your child about phone etiquette: when is it appropriate to call, how to answer and greet others, limit the amount of minutes on the phone, what an appropriate phone conversation might sound like, and ground rules for your child to call others with your permission only.

The directory would list the home room teacher, the student's name, the student's home phone, and your name as the parent/s.

Please check all information that you would like added to the Madison Family Directory and return to office by Sept. 29.

Child's First/Last Name:

(Print neatly)

Parent First/Last name:

(Print neatly)

Evening or Weekend phone number:

(Print neatly)

Email:

(Print neatly)

Please do NOT include any information about my child or my family in the Madison Family Directory.

IMPORTANT!

No paper copies of the school newsletters will be made in the future. You may read it on our school website or you may give us your accurate and neatly written email address so we can send it to you directly. Please return to the office as soon as possible.

Your Name (print) _____

Child Name/Grade: _____

Your email address(print legibly)_____