



Madison Elementary School

1225 LEGION WAY SE. • OLYMPIA • WASHINGTON 98501 • (360) 596-6300



February 2014

Madison Calendar Items

Feb 3rd Garden Meeting, 12:30pm
 Feb 5th Student Late Start Day
 Feb 17th Presidents' Day (No School)
 Feb 18th Mid-Winter Break (No School)
 Feb 19th PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
 Feb 26th Student Late Start Day
 Feb 28th Recognition Assembly, 2:50pm
 Feb 28th PTO Sock Hop
 Mar 5th Student Late Start Day
 Mar 7th Early Release Day
 Mar 14th Early Release Day
 Mar 19th PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
 Mar 20th Hands On Science Night, 5:30-7pm

Mar 25th School Board Meeting,
 Madison at 6:30pm
 Mar 26th-28th Conference Week. (Early Release)
 Apr 2nd Student Late Start Day
 Apr 7th-11th Spring Break
 Apr 18th Recognition Assembly, 2:50pm
 Apr 30-May 2nd .Cispus for 5th Grade
 May 7th Student Late Start Day
 May 21st PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
 June 4th Student Late Start Day
 June 12th Last Day of School (Half Day)

Note from the Principal



January has been a very special month for our school community. On January 6th, after several months at different locations due to the necessary renovation work at Madison, we were able to come together as a preschool through 5th grade school community. Our students have done very well with the transition back home. School-wide and classroom routines were established very quickly, and the business of learning and teaching didn't miss a beat. I have really enjoyed seeing all our kids together under one roof and getting to know them and their families. The Madison school community is positive, generous, and supports its school so that our students may learn and grow in a safe, caring, and educational school environment. If you have a friend who has moved into the neighborhood and is thinking about enrolling their child

at a school, do encourage them to stop at Madison to meet the new principal and for an informal tour of our school.

Once they enroll, their children and our children will join together in one joyful chorus:

(Sing to "This Land is Your Land".)

*This School is your school,
 This School is my school,
 From the great big playground,
 To the lovely gardens,
 From the friendly office,
 To the nice library,
 This School was made for you and me.*

Domenico Spatola-Knoll
 Principal, Madison Elementary School
 OSD Title 1 Director



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Safety Message: Madison "Peanut Free Zone"



The safety of all our students is important to me, as I know it is to each of our families and also our extended school community. Some school safety needs are quite obvious. A puddle of water in the hallway for example, is a slipping hazard and should be mopped up immediately. Other safety needs are not so obvious, but nonetheless are still important to student safety, with peanut and environmental allergies being of particular concern.

Eight foods account for 90% of all food-allergic reactions. They are milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat, and soy. A food that is healthy and harmless to one student can cause serious illness or hospitalization for another. So please remember to check with your child's teacher if you plan to bring treats or snacks to school to share with fellow classmates.

A number of our students here at Madison do have serious food allergies, some of the more serious being to peanuts. Exposure to even trace amounts of peanut could cause a severe allergic reaction in these students. In addition to the usual nutritional guidelines regarding snacks at school, I ask families to avoid packing snacks or sack lunches containing peanut products (including peanut butter) so that we may successfully implement a "Peanut Free Zone" at Madison. This will be of great help to our staff and students as we work to keep everyone safe.

Thank you very much for your consideration of the health and well-being of all our students at Madison. Your extra efforts are what make our school so special and unique.

Domenico Spatola-Knoll
Principal, Madison Elementary School
OSD Title 1 Director

End-of-the-Day "Notes"

We ask that you send a note telling us of your child's End-of-the-Day routine changes. You may call the school during the day and give us the information. Please keep in mind that we are unable to take any calls or changes after 3:30 p.m. as students are by this time already making their way to and from classrooms to head home.

Valentine's Day Deliveries to Students

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, we would like to remind families that deliveries of flowers and balloons to students will be made toward the end of the school day, after last recess. This will help reduce the number of interruptions to instruction. Thank you!



Garden Art

Are you handy with an artist's brush? Would you like to help keep our school garden beautiful and educational? If so, please contact Mr. Suhbrier (Larson and Oliver's Dad) at 709-5234. He is looking for someone to help him with this special garden project. Thank you!



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“But I Want to Speak to Mr. DSK!”

At times there has been some confusion when a community member has phoned the school and asked to speak to the principal. A parent wanting to speak to the principal has for example, politely declined to speak to Mr. Spatola-Knoll in favor of speaking to Mr. DSK. I can assure all families that Mr. DSK and Mr. Spatola-Knoll are one and the same! The following list of names represents the same person, the principal:

- Mr. DSK
- Mr. Spatola-Knoll
- Domenico Spatola-Knoll

Because of the circumstances surrounding the start of the school year, the school district assigned me as a full time principal only until we returned back home to Madison. Starting February 1st, 2014, the Madison principal position will go back to being a part time position with the equivalent of three days a week as school principal, and two days a week as the Olympia School District Title 1 Director. My schedule will vary, at times taking me out of the building to work on Title 1. It is important therefore, that any parent or community member wishing to speak to me regarding a school related matter schedule an appointment through the school secretary.

Sincerely,
Domenico Spatola-Knoll
Principal, Madison Elementary School
OSD Title 1 Director

2014-15 Middle School Choice Programs Information Nights

We are excited to invite you to learn about three middle school choice programs in the Olympia School District. All three of these excellent programs are integrated into the middle schools that house them, and each has a different flavor and focus. Each requires an application to enroll.

- JAMS at Jefferson is an accelerated math and science program for students looking for an academic challenge.
- Alki at Reeves and MAP at Marshall are community-centered, multi-age programs that are open to students of all ability levels. Both of these programs involve parent participation.

Which program might best meet the needs of your child? Join us at one of the middle school options nights to learn about all three programs:

- Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Marshall Middle School, 3939 – 20th Ave. NW
- Thursday, Feb. 13 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Reeves Middle School, 2200 Quince St. NE

You will be able to apply for any of the three programs at these evening events. You are encouraged to attend and apply as soon as possible, as spots fill up quickly.



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Safety Update

Madison staff has been working on safety and emergency planning. You will no doubt have noticed that we have revised how visitors enter the school, and that the office is audibly alerted when the main door is opened. We are requiring all students and staff to “walk on the right” in the hallways, and our students are doing a great job in keeping right and also stopping at hallway intersections so that they don’t accidentally bump into one another.

Other safety measures include, but are not limited to:

- All visitors required to sign in before entering the building
- Background checks for all volunteers
- Enhanced student supervision
- Blinds in all classroom windows
- Room numbers visible from the outside of the building (to assist law enforcement)
- Regular sweeps of the school grounds for potential hazards and dangers
- School staff on hand at end of day to assist with dismissal
- All OSD and school employees will carry official school district ID
- Adult staff assuming crossing guard duty on the corner of Legion Way and Boundary
- Assessing facility lighting
- Not releasing a child to any adult unless we can verify the adult is authorized to pick up the child and that we check ID.
- Replacing wooden cabinetry in gym with safer, plastic cabinets for Y-Care storage.
- Removing items from hallways for clearer pathways

The above list is by no mean comprehensive, but instead meant to demonstrate some of the important work we are doing in the area of student safety at Madison.

Y-Care Update

Before Y-Care can operate once again at Madison, the area used for Y-Care must be approved and licensed for use by Washington State’s Department of Early Learning (DEL). Y-Care is not an OSD program, and is therefore responsible for seeking approval and licensing from the DEL in order to provide before and after school services. Andie Sproule is the Program Director of Child Care Services for the South Sound YMCA and is currently navigating through the licensing process. It is our hope that our facility is approved for child care very soon. In the meantime, you may contact Andie Sproule at sproulea@ssymca.net if you need additional information about Y-Care at Madison.

Madison Wish List

Like any school, Madison has a need for items which some families which some families or community members are able to help.

- ClassroomVaries by teacher. Please ask how you can help
- Health RoomSweat pants, underwear, socks, and misc. clothing
- Mr. DSK Jars of Almond Butter or Sun Butter (Cheaper)
- OfficeColored photocopy paper
- Rainy Day Recess Legos, Bricks, and Toys

Thank you in advance for any items which you are able to provide.



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Overdue Library Books

Has your child brought home an "OVERDUE" library notice lately? We have a number of Madison students with missing or overdue library books. Students are not allowed to check out new books until books have been returned or paid for. Please assist your child if you receive one of these notices. Many times parents end up finding these books in their children's bedrooms, the family car, or laying around the house. Your assistance is appreciated. We want our students to utilize the resources of our wonderful library.

Mark your Calendars for Fifth Grade Outdoor School

Our fifth grade students will be attending Outdoor School at the Cispus Environmental Center in Randle, Washington, April 30th through May 2nd. This will be a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday trip. The Center has been developed specifically for students environmental studies and has excellent facilities for both study and research. The cost is \$150.00 per student. If you need to make payments, please call Anita in the office to set up a payment plan. Also, if your student needs to take a prescription or over-the-counter medicine, the medicine and doctors permission form must be at school by Tuesday, April 22nd.

Madison Morning Routines and Time Schedules

With the move back to Madison we would like to remind parents of the daily schedule here at Madison. Many students are dropped off at the curb and come into the school way too early for staff supervision.

- 8:50 a.m Madison Staff arrive to start the day (Teachers do their daily planning and work at this time)
- 9:05 a.m Gym opens for students having breakfast (ONLY)
- 9:15 a.m Supervision begins in the gym for students
- 9:20 a.m First bell of the morning rings. Teachers pick up students in gym
- 9:25 a.m Last bell rings to start the school day

We as a staff know the later start for our school can be hard for your morning schedules, but we ask that you do not drop off your students early as the staff is preparing for the busy day ahead.

Madison Reader Board Volunteer Needed

Would you like to volunteer more but your job and family life take up a big chunk of your life? We are always looking for that person that could give us a half hour to an hour each month changing the notices on our parking lot Reader Board. This is one of many ways we try and keep our parents informed of upcoming dates and events for Madison. Please call the office if you would like to volunteer for this project.



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Madison Lifeskills Awards for January

The following students were presented with Madison Lifeskills Awards at our January Recognition assembly. Each month teachers nominate up to two students in their classroom for children who have been observed to be regularly using the Madison Lions Lifeskills. Congratulations!

- Rilee R., Flexibility
- Kaylah R., Flexibility
- Sanoon S., Effort, Caring, & Initiative
- Owen B., Initiative & Problem Solving
- Miranda W., Integrity
- Chaz D., Cooperation
- Gabriella G., Caring
- Ava K., Effort
- Tiffany N., Problem Solving
- Vanessa O., Initiative
- Shantika C., Patience
- Gage C., Effort
- Joey Q., Effort
- Mary R-W., Initiative
- Jazmine K., Patience
- Miles A., Organization
- Nick D., Effort
- Kaylee L., Responsibility
- Duong N., Organization

General Reminders

Here's a list of some reminders that we thought we would list under the heading of "General Reminders". Thank you for your work in helping our school run smoothly and keeping our children safe.

- Some drivers are driving a little too fast when entering the Madison parking lot and are also coming too close to parents and children walking on the curb. Please make sure to follow safe speeds.
- Keep moving at curbside – No parking or idling before or after school. If you need to stop your car, find park in an empty space and turn off your engine. Additional parking is available in the Knox parking lot and also on Legion Way.
- Please walk your child to and from the entrance of school. Children running between cars is unsafe and makes us nervous.
- Children's clothing is expensive to replace, so please label all coats, sweatshirts, hats, and clothing. (Our Lost and Found is always growing.
- Bring in a doctor's authorization for any medications to be taken at school, including over-the-counter medications like cough drops, Benadryl, Tylenol, etc.
- If your child has had a fever or has been vomiting in the past 24 hours, s/he will need to stay out of school until they have been fever/vomit free for 24 hours.
- If you are planning a vacation or an extended weekend during school days, please complete a Planned Absence Request form. These forms are available in the office.

Thank You

- New Bridge Church: For their generosity in providing the Madison School Community with a facility to start our school year, and also for their ongoing support of our school and its children.
- Karen Danielson (a former Madison student) and Riley Katkansky for donating many books for our school library and our students.
- The many parents and community members who came in to help us with our move out of New Bridge back home to Madison.
- Rick Mullens, Katia Miltmore, and Joellen Reineck Wihelm for their work in supporting the school gardens and cooking cart
- All the parents and volunteers who helped with Madison's "Harvest Party" in November
- First United Methodist Church for housing the Welcome Room program while Madison was under repair.



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Box Tops For Education

The annual PTO Madison Box Top competition is under way. Our classrooms will be collecting Box Tops until Feb 28th. The classroom that collects the most will win a popcorn party! Every year Madison earns \$400-\$700 just from Box Tops. This money is used to fund general activities such as Bingo and the Sock Hop.



Valentine's Day Goodies



On February 14th, some classrooms will be celebrating the Lifeskills of "Friendship and Caring" by having a Valentine's Day party. Please check with your child's teacher before committing to bring in food items. Please remember that school district policy only allows for store bought food products to be brought into classrooms, so please, no home made cupcakes, cookies etc.

Stop! Don't Touch! Get an Adult!



Play Safe!



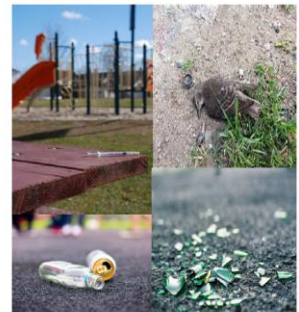
Don't put your hands in places you can't see such as blankets, jackets, or garbage.



Play Safe!

Don't Touch!

- . broken glass
- . sharp points/edges
- . needles
- . broken toys
- . dead animals
- . cracked surfaces
- . splintered wood



Stop! Don't Touch! Get an Adult!



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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The Madison Musical this year was a great success! Our PTO raised over \$3300 and also received a \$1000 from OSDEF (Olympia School District Education Foundation). The entire Madison staff would like to thank all the families that helped support this year's production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". This thank you extends to the over 30 individuals that volunteered their time to help make this year's play such a success.

