

Madison Elementary Newsletter

Gayle Mar-Chun, Principal

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January 2007

No School

On

Monday

January 15, 2007

In observance

Of

Martin Luther

King Jr.'s Birthday

The BECCA Bill, what is it?

Public school districts are required to document their actions to comply with truancy laws, regarding excused and unexcused absences. Current truancy laws require a school to file a truancy petition upon a child's seventh unexcused absence in a month, or not later than the tenth unexcused absence in a year.

At Madison we want to reinforce the value of being in school on a consistent, on-going basis as necessary for social and academic growth. Cultivating habits of good attendance at school is an important goal throughout your child's school history. It is never too early to start.

MADISON TRAFFIC PROBLEMS!!



There are problems with parents coming to pick up their student too early. The LONG LINE is creating problems within our parking lot, but more importantly, it is creating problems on LEGION WAY. Police reported that there was a long line of WAITING cars on Legion, and it blocked traffic from 2:40-3:25 last week.

Police reported that they will issue tickets to waiting cars on Legion Way.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 15, 2007 – No School

Jan. 19th – P.A.C.E.R.S. Assembly for Students from Spanaway Elementary

Jan. 22 – Wood working class after school **begins**

Jan. 24 – Border builder class after school **begins**

Jan. 23 – Jump Rope after school (k-2) class **begins**

Feb. 19-23 – NO SCHOOL – Mid Winter Break

Mar. 2 – Madison Family Bingo night

Mar. 22 - PTO Madison Garage Sale

Ruth's Ramblings...

Children learn to share their feelings when parents use active listening. Active listening means that you stop what you are doing and give time to your child's needs, pay attention to what your child is saying by watching their expressions, and listen to hear how your child is feeling. It is also helpful to use simple words to restate what your child said. This kind of listening communicates to your child that they are loved and valued.

If your child is unable to identify the feelings they are having it can be helpful to reflect how others might feel in a similar situation or you can use the physical cues they are giving you to make a guess as to how they feel, name that feeling for them and then describe the physical clues you noticed.

Locks for Love:

April Pigue a 2nd grader in Ms. Idekers room donated her beautiful red hair during our Winter Break to "Locks for Love" one little girl or boy struggling with cancer will have a wonder wig to wear. Thank you April for donating such a thoughtful gift.

New Year's Resolutions:

The tradition of the New Year's Resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. We have the month of January because of Janus. This month is a time to look at the many great things that happen each and every day at Madison. We are proud of our accomplishments. The students learn something new each day. The staff is caring and kind. The school continues to receive rewards from the community for outstanding achievement. This is also the time for us to think creatively about how we can do things better or what we can do to personalize learning for each Madison student. Our efforts to continuously improve are a never-ending journey. Please join us as partners in school improvement.

February is Reading Month

Madison students will be spending February 2 through March 2nd participating in Madison's "Reading Between the Lions".

More information will be coming home as the big month approaches. Students may turn in one reading coupon each day and three on Mondays. Preschoolers and kindergarteners may be read to by their parents and still earn coupons. The coupons are put into a jar and they are selected to win "Breakfast with the Principal" or other wonderful prizes.

Winter Weather Updates

Each time there is a storm and you are not sure if your student's school will be cancelled or delayed, here are a few places for easy information. We post the updated notice on our school phone shortly after 5:30 a.m. @ #596-6300, or the Olympia School District post it right on the District's homepage. <http://kids@osd.wednet.edu>

Message from the Principal

Happy New Year! This has been a season of windstorms, freezing days, snow, late starts, and many weather changes! Many of the students have stories about their wind storm adventures. My family had five nights without electricity so we snuggled up by the fireplace playing board games and eating pizza by candlelight. It was a great time to brave the elements together as a family.

Happy New Year's

On behalf of the staff, we wish you the best of your dreams throughout the year.

January

By Maurice Sendak

In January it's so nice
While slipping on the sliding ice
To sip hot chicken soup with rice
Sipping once. Sipping twice..
Sipping chicken soup with rice.