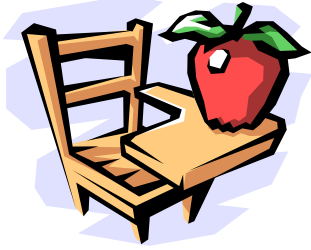


Buzzin' Around Madrona



October 2008



Welcome Back to School!

We are so happy to have the opportunity to serve you and your child. Please let us know how we can help. Call us at 476-6624 from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

when: your child's grades plunge; he does not seem to have homework; she seems deeply upset about something that happened at school.

Source: University of Illinois Extension Service (Medford Mail Tribune)

Parent/Teacher Relationships

How To Establish a Working Relationship With Your Child's Teacher:

Meet with the teacher in the fall. Tell the teacher about your child's special needs, outside activities, health and home study habits.

Look for the positive. Share with the teacher something you appreciate regarding the teacher's role in your child's life. Express your appreciation by sending a note of thanks when something special takes place in the classroom.

Let the teacher know you want to support work that's being done in class. Ask for suggestions for expanding school activities into home activities.

Be willing to participate in or set up a conference when necessary, such as

How to reach your teacher:

There are several ways to contact your child's teacher. When you need to ask questions or share information, you can call and leave a message so the teacher can call you back, you can write a note, or you can stop by and leave a message. Teachers are generally most available for meeting with or talking to you from 2:00-3:00 most days. We ask that parents avoid dropping into the classrooms first thing in the morning as teachers are preparing for their teaching at that time. However, you are welcome to drop by the office in the morning and we can leave a message for the teacher to contact you as soon as possible! We want to help!



School Time Changes

We have a “boo-boo” in our Student Handbook this year. It still has old information about student arrival time to school. It states that students should not be here before 7:30am, when in fact, students should not arrive to school before 7:10am. Madrona’s new starting time for school this year is 7:35am, and the *tardy bell* rings at 7:40am. **If your student is not in the gym by 7:40am, they are considered “tardy”. Please be aware that we have parking lot supervision until 7:45am. Students arriving late must be accompanied to the office by an adult and signed in.**

Attention!



BE AWARE: More families are choosing to walk their children or allow their children to ride bikes to school this fall. Please slow down in our school zone so children can safely enter or leave our school each day.

New Sign!

Have you seen our new sign?! Our new reader board was purchased from PTO funds that were originally raised to purchase or build a shade structure for the playground. After looking at many different types of structures, and getting pricing, the PTO realized this was a project that was truly beyond our means. So instead they voted to use the funds to pay for a new reader board so we could more effectively communicate with our parents and community. Any funds that are left over after the sign is paid for will go toward purchasing a new

curtain for our stage in the gym. Our curtain is over 40 years old and is beginning to fall apart. One dedicated parent last year re-stitched the entire hem by hand to try and make it useable for one more year. Our new curtain will be made of a sturdy black fabric with yellow trim. It will be fire safe and help provide a functional and more beautiful backdrop for our stage events! Thanks again to everyone who has helped support our school with any fundraising over the last several years! Your dollars are much appreciated and well spent!

Special Occasion Foods

According to Oregon Health regulations we **cannot** serve any foods that are not prepared in professional and certified kitchens. This means unless it comes from a licensed kitchen we cannot serve a food item. Food items should come in the original, unopened packaging. Students can bring homemade items for their own lunches, but cannot share those items with others. We cannot allow homemade items to be served at any school function during the school day. Thanks for following this standard at all times.

Lost and Found



Please mark all of your child’s sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, jackets, etc. with a name. It is a shame for you to spend money on items that we cannot seem to get kids to take home! So please, please make sure you mark those clothes. Also, remember to check periodically in our lost and found if you think your child has left something here. It is located on the wall to the right as you enter the cafeteria. The Lost and Found will be out at Conference time.

Counseling Services Available

This year we are fortunate to have a group called SOASTC providing our counseling services. We have two excellent counselors, DeeDee Reich and Michelle Gallas. They will team together to provide many opportunities to serve all of our students and encourage the development of healthy mental health practices. In this role, they will sometimes visit classrooms to teach lessons, visit the playground to interact and get to know students better, and they will at times bring together specific individuals or groups to work on specific needs. In the case of individuals or groups that will meet more than once, parent permission will be required. Our counselors will also help us deal with crisis situations as needed. We are fortunate to have their great support this year! If you have any questions you can call them on Wednesdays all day or Thursdays in the afternoon. Please ask for them when you call us at 476-6624.

Pride Day



Our PTO will once again fund free popcorn for students wearing Madrona colors on Pride days. Pride Days are usually the last Friday of each month. Check our school calendar on line for specific dates. Students must be wearing an item of clothing that is mostly one of our school colors to qualify for free popcorn. Popcorn will also be available for sale on Pride days for 25 cents per bag. Our school colors are black and yellow. Madrona T-shirts are a good way for kids to display their school pride. T-shirts and sweatshirts are available for sale in the school office.

Life Skills, Second Steps, and Steps To Respect

This year we are combining two programs to encourage appropriate behavior at school. Second Step is a specific curriculum we will be teaching in our classrooms aimed at helping students to avoid violent behaviors and choosing appropriate social responses to various situations. Using Second Step along with our Life Skills program, we hope to help our students gain social skills that will help them get along well with others throughout life and to make good personal choices. This year we are introducing a new anti-bullying program called Steps to Respect. This program will be team taught in fourth and fifth grades by our teachers and our counseling staff. Steps to Respect focuses on students understanding what bullying behaviors look like including acts of exclusion and isolation and how to appropriately respond to those behaviors. It is the intent of the program to reduce the number of bullying acts that happen at school.

Each month we focus on specific life skills. Each teacher will be selecting four students per month who have shown good growth in that particular life skill. Those students will be honored at our monthly Pride Assembly. Students who achieve a life skill award will also be able to choose a book of their own from a large collection. This is our way of saying thanks for making good choices while at school.



Attendance

As you know, students who have excellent attendance are more likely to have solid achievement at school. We can't teach them if they aren't here! It is required by the No Child Left Behind Act for the school to average 92% attendance or higher each year. For students to reach that goal, they must miss no more than 14 days of school over the entire year. That means missing on average no more than 1 day per month. Parents are the most important decision maker about attendance. You have the choice to schedule appointments, shopping, dance lessons and vacations at times that will not impact your child's attendance. Be aware and make good choices for your child.

This year our Site Council has approved incentives for students who achieve certain attendance goals. Each month there will be a special recess for students who have not been absent, and have no more than 1 tardy that month. Students who have perfect attendance for a trimester and three or less tardies, will receive a Dairy Queen token presented by Mrs. Van Brunt.

A parent must excuse student absences. It is required that you let us know when and why your child is absent. You can help us with this in two ways. You can **call us** the day of the absence and tell us why your child is out, or you can **write a note** and send that in on the day your child returns to school. Absences are only excused for illness, Dr. appointments, death in the immediate family and family emergencies. All other absences are unexcused. We call periodically to check on kids who are out two or more days if we have not heard from you. Make sure you have done this within 48 hours or your child's absence becomes unexcused regardless of the reason.

A Word From Our Family Advocate

We have a Family Advocate program at our school which is designed to provide services to families such as assistance with clothing, shoes, and other household items. Everything is completely confidential, and handled with sensitivity.

We also keep a good supply of clean, extra clothing here at the school in case a student spills something on their clothes and needs to change. At this time we are in need of boy's pants sizes 6-14, and belts with buckles. Thanks for helping keep our Madrona Hornets comfortable!

Andrea Rodgers- Family Advocate

S.M.A.R.T.

SMART stands for "Start Making a Reader Today." SMART is a statewide nonprofit program that matches caring adults with children in Kindergarten through third grade who can use a little help in reading.

We are currently unable to run our SMART program this year because we lack a volunteer coordinator. We are looking for a dedicated person or a team of folks who are willing to work together to get our program back up and running. We already have a list of dedicated folks who have served our students in SMART in the past, so our coordinators would have something good to start with. If you are interested in helping to coordinate this important learning opportunity for our struggling readers, please call the SMART office at 955-3765 or come into our school office and talk to Mrs. Van Brunt.



Education of All Disabled Children/Young Adults

Public law 105.17 known as I.D.E.A. (Individualized Disability Education Act) requires that school districts provide a free and appropriate education to all disabled children/young adults ages 0 to 21. Three Rivers School District requests the identification of any disabled children/young adults between the ages of 0 to 21, who are not enrolled or currently being served by the district schools.

If you know of any disabled children/young adults between the ages of 0 to 21 who are not receiving educational services, please call the Special Education Department of the Three Rivers School District. The phone number is 862-3111.

No Child Left Behind

Our school receives federal funds for Title One programs that are part of the No Child Left Behind Act. Under this law, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). If you request this information, the district will provide you with this information in a timely manner. You have the right to request the following information:

- If the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction
- If the teacher is teaching under an emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived
- The type of college degree major of the teacher and the field of discipline for any graduate degrees and certificates
- If your child is receiving Title One services from paraprofessionals and if so, his/her qualifications

If you would like this information, please contact Madrona Elementary School.

Mark Your Calendar!



- October 3** – Perfect Attendance Recesses 1:20pm
- October 9** – Progress reports go home
- October 9** – PTO Meeting 2:10pm in the library
- October 10** - No school Statewide In-Service Day
- October 16** – Site Council meeting 2:10pm in the library
- October 17** – 4th Grade Field Trip to Sunny Valley Oregon Trail Museum
- October 21-22** – Jog-a-Thon
- October 27-31** – Red Ribbon Week
- October 30** – Family Fun Night 5-7:00pm
- October 31** – Pride Assembly 1:00pm.
- November 3** – Perfect Attendance Recesses 1:20pm
- November 10** – No School – Staff Development
- November 11** – No School – Veteran’s Day
- November 12** – Parent Conference information goes home
- November 13** – PTO Meeting 2:10pm in the library
- November 14** – OMSI here- “Golly-ology” at 12:40pm in the gym
- November 20** – Site Council Meeting 2:10pm in the library
- November 21** – Pride Assembly 1:00pm in the gym
- November 25** – End of 1st Trimester
- November 25** – Perfect Attendance Recesses 1:20pm on the playground
- November 26** – No School – Clerical Day
- November 27** – No School – Holiday
- November 28** – No School – Vacation Day

Notes required!

Please be aware that the bus drivers require a bus pass issued by the Madrona office anytime your child is going to ride the bus anywhere other than home or other pre-arranged place. The only way that a bus pass can be issued is by **BOTH** children having a note from their parents. At no time is a child allowed to get off at an undesignated stop, or to ride a different bus without a pass issued by the office. Thank you for making those plans ahead of time and ensuring that your child has a note.

Fundraisers!



We are collecting plastic grocery type bags for a special recycling program offered by Wal-Mart. Any day students may bring in empty plastic bags and turn them in. We will turn them in at the end of the fundraiser and Wal-Mart will pay us for them! What could be easier than that? We earned over \$300 last year for our empty bags! Wow!

Another very simple opportunity for us to earn money for our school is called eScrip. All you have to do is register your Safeway Club Card, and use it every time you shop at Safeway, and Madrona gets a percentage of your total bill. Every shopping trip counts, all year long! It’s easy to register by going to escrip.com or by calling 1-800-400-7878. Please don’t hesitate...do it today! It’s easy!

Target also has a “Take Charge of Education” program. All you have to do is call 1-800-316-6142 or go to Target.com/tcoe, enroll your Target credit cards, and Madrona will receive a percent of everything you buy with your card. It’s that simple!

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is coming the week of October 27th - 31st!

Red Ribbon Week was established a number of years ago to help educate students about the negative impact the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco can have on a young body. The emphasis is to encourage kids to choose healthy habits that will serve them well for a lifetime.

We have some wild and crazy activities planned for this week.

Monday is "Taking Drugs is Hare Brained Day". Students and staff are invited to style their hair in a crazy hairdo that day! Red Ribbons will be passed out.

Tuesday is "Make a Pledge Day". Students will have the opportunity to sign a school wide banner to stay away from drugs, alcohol and tobacco. This will be displayed in the office once it is done. Students and staff are encouraged to wear red that day! Mrs. Van Brunt will have a special treat for the class that has the most students wearing RED.

Wednesday is "Turn Your Back on Drugs Day!" Staff and students will have the opportunity to wear items of clothing backwards today!

Thursday is "Living Drug Free is NO Sweat Day!" Students and staff may wear their sweat clothes to school today. This evening is our Family Fun Night from 5-7:00pm. Students and parents are invited to wear school friendly costumes. We hope to see you there!

Friday is our Pride Day. Kids are as always encouraged to wear their Madrona T-shirt or an outfit of yellow and black. Students wearing a T-shirt or an outfit of mostly black and yellow will get a free bag of popcorn! Yeah! The Pride Assembly is at 1:00p.m. That day will also be our "Give Drugs Alcohol and Tobacco the Slip Day". Kids and staff are invited to wear their slippers to school. For PE. and playground, kids should have their regular play shoes for their safety please. This is also a good precaution in case it rains.

I hope you will help your child join in on these festivities. They are fun reminders of why children must make good choices now so it is easier when he or she is challenged later in life with the true decision to avoid things that are a danger to his or her safety and well being! So mark your calendars.

P.T.O. News

Our PTO is changing some of the timing of our annual events this year. We will not have a Fall Harvest Carnival event this year. Instead our Family Fun Night will be held on October 30th. This is a free event except for foods to purchase. We will have an array of fun activities set up on and around our playground. Bounce houses, games and art activities including making bird feeders and other fun activities will be set up. Dinner and drinks will be available for purchase. We will have a face painting booth as well. Students are welcome to wear their costumes to this event if they wish. Please keep in mind that costumes should be school appropriate, meaning no weapons and nothing so scary that it would impact the younger family visitors for that evening. They should also be tough enough to stand up to some hard play! Costumes are not required. **There will not be any costume wearing during the school day this year.** We will have our annual Reading Celebration at the end of February and kids will be able to dress up as their favorite book character. Now is a good time to set aside interesting costume items for that event.

Our annual Jog -a -thon will be held on October 21st and 22nd. More info will come home soon. I would like to encourage you to help your child participate even if it is with just a small donation. Our PTO uses every penny wisely to support activities like field trip transportation, assemblies, items for our classrooms and big ticket items like our reader board sign outside and our curtain for our stage. Our PTO's fund raising efforts are a crucial part of how our school provides new and better learning opportunities for our children.

Site Council

Our site council met recently and we are continuing to work together to help improve our academic program here at Madrona. Our site council members include Lise Van Brunt, principal, Carrie Simpson, Kitty LaCombe and Lisa Kramer, teachers, Mary Storie, teaching assistant, and three parents, Michael Morris, Debra Waterhouse and Gwen Hanks. At our first meeting we reviewed our school goals of improving our writing and math programs. We will also be working on developing new vision and mission statements for Madrona that are more up-to-date and aligned with district goals. We have recently made some changes to our program that includes the following items and purchases:

Teachers will each have two days of paid substitute time to either visit other classrooms on campus or with “master” teachers at other schools or go to workshops they are interested in attending. We have some additional assistant time so that most teachers have assistants for a minimum of 40 minutes twice a day to support reading, writing or math. We extended computer lab coverage with our computer lab tech, Mrs. Garcia to include all grades. Ed lab hours were extended. Ed Lab assistants provide a quiet place for kids to work when needed, reading support through Read Naturally and a time out place for students with discipline issues. We extended the time that Read Naturally could be offered to 3, 4, and 5 to four days per week for each class rather than two days a week only. This allows more intense work and or more students to participate. We will begin offering after school support to specific groups of students later in fall. Teachers are still working at grade levels to make recommendations on how to best implement this. We have purchased out of Title One Funds, an additional lap top computer,

projector, and cart so we now have two complete sets for teachers to use in their classrooms. We have purchased an Elmo which is a piece of technology that allows direct projection of things like papers, books, and drawings onto a screen or wall without making transparencies. We have purchased additional sets of calculators for classroom use. Eventually we hope to purchase class sets for each classroom. We have purchased ReadWell 2 materials as a pilot in Miss Witcher’s class.

Our site council also developed our School Compact which was sent home on September 26, 2008. We hope all families will take the time to read through and take on the appropriate commitments stated there. It is important that the school and the home be partners in our students’ program for success. If you did not get one, please ask in the office.



Lifeskills Award Winners for September

"Respect"

Strickler – Kindergarten

Autumn Gettys
Conner Hyde
McKenna Lawson
Skylar Swanson
Eric Hookland
Loni Klose
Eternity Quintero
Zachary Scott

Kramer – 1st Grade

Sierra Combe
Natalee Goode
Lindsey Eells
Kalee Staten

Witcher – 1st & 2nd Grade

Eva Bernard
Jadon Hodges
Carlos Garcia
Joseph Gerson

Fisher – 2nd Grade

Neill Dove
Peyton Hyde
Brianna Stark
Brycen Stevens

Simpson – 3rd Grade

Mary Backes
Kasey Copeland
Dalia Linares
Sam Waterhouse

Phelps – 3rd Grade

Mattia Sakraida
Cyndi Taylor
Bradlee Touey

Goodin – 4th Grade

Koey Kreiss
Angelica Quevedo
Ashley Pearson
Haley Reynolds

Law – 4th Grade

Ryan Doak
Emily Adams
David Pitts
Alexis Sanders

Buscher – 5th Grade

Kadie Fowler
Madison Larson
Tanner Prince
Nicholas Stark

LaCombe – 5th Grade

Chase Allen
Shayla Lawson
Jared Scherrer
Alahna Staten

Math Masters

Pasquelina Godfrey
Zach Morris
Owen Stevens
Jared Scherrer
Ashley Pearson
Zachary Holmes
Ruben Martinez

Accelerated Reader Achievements

Super Reader

Dane Backes
Mary Backes
Carly Cubic
Jennifer Mason

Super Reader 3

Julianna Bradley
Jenelle Hurley
Kim Kuykendall
Mara Oachs
Brianna Stark

Advanced Reader 2

Christopher Davis

Star Reader 3

Kiara Van Rossum

Classic

Jacob Gomez

Community Corner

Girl Scouts of America

Attached are flyers for signing up for Girl Scouts of America. They have programs for grades K-12.

Fall Recreation Guides Available

There are many other events listed in the new Fall 2008 Grants Pass Recreation Guide. They are available in the office. If you would like one, have your student pick one up, or come on in and see us!

Grants Pass Family YMCA



The YMCA offers many fall activities that are reasonably priced. We have flyers in the office if you are interested. Have your student pick one up, or come into the office and get one!

Family Support Group

The Josephine County Family Support Group is for families of children with mental, emotional, and/or behavioral challenges. If you register for the class in advance, they even offer free childcare during class time, food and drinks! The class is on the 3rd Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm at the Bethany Presbyterian Church located at 748 NW Fifth Street, Grants Pass. For more information, please contact Laura Willey by phone at 210-2487 or email ofsn.lwilley@yahoo.com or you can contact 1-800-323-8521 or go to their website www.ofsn.org.