

Buzzin' Around Madrona



October 2011 

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 541-476-6624 from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If you have a bus issue, you may call First Student at 541-476-7733.

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

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

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 email your child's teacher by going to www.threerivers.k12.or.us and click on "Schools", Select "Madrona", and then click on "Staff Directory". There is a little icon next to each person's name that looks like an envelope. Click on the envelope next to the person you want, and you can easily send them email. You can also write a note, call the office and leave a message so the teacher can call you back, 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!

Special Occasion Foods



We cannot serve any foods that are not prepared in a professional and certified kitchen. 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. Please remember this if you are supplying treats for any type of classroom celebration.

Attendance Reporting

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 makers 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.

Please remember that **school begins at 7:40am**. Student arriving after that time are marked "Tardy" and must come to the office to receive a late slip. Also, **students leaving before 1:55pm** are marked as a "PM Tardy". These both count toward the perfect attendance goals. There is no difference between a student missing school at the beginning of the day or the end of the day. Either way, it still impacts their learning. We know that sometimes it is unavoidable to schedule appointments during school time, and those are notated as "Office Tardy" which means that they are "excused", but they still count as a Tardy, and are counted toward perfect attendance.

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 every day if we have not heard from you, or if the absence reason is unexcused. Make sure you have called or sent a note within 48 hours, or your child's absence becomes unexcused regardless of the reason. For a student to earn yearly perfect attendance awards, they must have 0 tardies or absences.

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 hygiene items. Everything is completely confidential, and handled with sensitivity. Our advocate, Andrea Rodgers, also calls families to alert them about meetings and to help with attendance issues.

We 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. If you have any clothing items to donate, please bring them to the office. Thanks for helping keep our Madrona Hornets comfortable!

Andrea Rodgers- Family Advocate



Breakfast is **FREE every day** for **EVERY STUDENT!** We offer a selection of nutritious, healthy, hot or cold meals, including milk, and fresh fruit. Please plan for your child to take advantage of this.

Our **lunch menus** are now available on line. We will not be sending menus home unless a parent requests one. You can access them by going to our public web site at:

www.threerivers.k12.or.us

Then under the heading "Schools" select Madrona. On the left side, there is a heading for "Food Service Information", then select "Food Service Menu". You will also notice that there is a link to pay for your child's meals if you are using a credit card as well. Please contact our new Cafeteria Manager, Jenniffer Richardson at 541-476-6624 if you have any questions. We're here to help!



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 5-6 – Rogue Steelheaders visit Mrs. Buscher’s class
October 12 – Jog-a-thon for Goodin & Simpson classes
October 13 – Jog-a-thon
October 13 – PTO meeting at 2:45pm in the library
October 13 – Goodin & Simpson classes field trip to Science Works 8:00am-1:45pm
October 14 - No school - Statewide In-Service Day
October 19 – Parent/Teacher conferences start after school from 3:00pm-7:00pm
October 20 – **No School** - Parent/Teacher conferences 7:00am to 7:00pm
October 21 – **No School**
October 24-28 – Red Ribbon Week – Say “NO” to drugs and alcohol
October 27 – Site Council meeting at 2:10pm in the library

Mark Your Calendar!



November 2 – Hearing screening for K, 1 & 3 and referrals for grades 2, 4, 5
November 10 - PTO Meeting 2:10 in the library
November 11 – **No School** – Veteran’s Day
November 17 – Site Council Meeting 2:10pm in the library
November 21 – **No School** – Furlough Day
November 22 – **No School** - Furlough Day
November 23 – **No School** – Clerical Day
November 24– **No School** – Thanksgiving
November 25 – **No School** – Vacation Day



Fundraisers!



There are some very simple opportunities for us to earn money for our school. One way 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!

Albertson's also has a similar program called Community Partners. You can enroll your Albertson's card by calling 1-877-932-7948 or on line at www.albertsonscp.com/llc.

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!

P.T.O. News

Our annual Jog -a -thon will be held on October 13th. The pledge packets went home on October 5th. Mrs. Simpson's and Ms. Goodin's classes will have their jog-a-thon on Wednesday, October 12th because they will be gone on a field trip on Thursday, October 13th. 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 new computers, classroom tables, library and computer lab needs. Our PTO's fund raising efforts are a crucial part of how our school provides new and better learning opportunities for our children.

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 his/her normal stop. 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.

Automated Phone Calls



We have a system that will periodically make telephone calls to all our parents. This system is called "Synrevoice". What a wonderful tool this is, and we hope that it will help us to communicate with you. We use this system to notify parents of upcoming events, attendance, days that are impacted by inclement weather, emergencies, or other reasons which may require us to reach everyone in a timely manner. When you receive a call from Synrevoice, you must say "hello" to activate the message being sent to you. If you don't say anything when we call, you will not get a message. It is also connected to our student information system, therefore it is very important that the information you provide to us on your students' enrollment form is accurate and kept up to date. If you have a phone number change or disconnection and we try to send you a message, you will obviously not receive it. So, please help us keep you informed by notifying the school office when personal information changes.