

November  
2016



EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY!

# Highlights Parent Newsletter

## Message From the Principal

Second quarter is well underway, and I have to tell everyone that we are having a fantastic year! Thank you so much for all your support in making our school successful and for such a wonderful first quarter. It was a pleasure to see everyone at Parent-Conferences. The home/school connection is so important to student success!

1st quarter celebrations—K—3 Parent Literacy Night; open house, Parent-Teacher Conferences (98% attendance), 171 students with perfect attendance; 31 students (grades 3–5) with all A's; 47 students (grades 3–5) with A's and B's; 3 character assemblies; 100 students recognized for demonstrating excellent character; 1 school-wide celebration for Gold Ticket Achievement, PTO Fun Run, Mayor's Running Challenge, 4 popcorn Fridays, 4 field trips, box top contest, board tour of school, 4500+ miles for Mayor's Youth Challenge, Dads and Donuts, Red Ribbon Week, Halloween, and more! WOW!!!

It is a fantastic year, and we continue to work hard to fulfill our school Mantra—Every Child, Every Day!



### Monthly Character Trait: Citizenship/Patriotism

Each month, our school will focus on a specific character trait. The students learn, practice, and demonstrate the character trait in their daily interactions. On the announcements each morning “Words of Wisdom” are heard to allow students the opportunity to connect a story or quote to the character trait. Connections are made through class discussions and activities.

This month's character trait is Citizenship/Patriotism—Honoring Veteran's Day and demonstrating your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of the United States as well as the school and community. An assembly, on November 30th, will celebrate this trait. Two students in each class will be selected for recognition of their commitment and adherence to this trait.

#### Upcoming Events:

Picture Retakes	Nov 9
3rd Grade Harvest Music Performance (1:30 in gym)	Nov 11
3rd–5th Grade Veteran's Assembly (8:30 in gym)	Nov 11
Popcorn Fridays	Nov 4 & Nov 18
Thanksgiving Classroom Celebrations	Nov 22
Thanksgiving Break—NO SCHOOL	Nov 23–25
Character Assembly (1:30 in gym)	Nov 30

#### Special Point of Interest:

- *Your child's academic progress, attendance, and classroom information through the district's student information system, Family Access. Quick links can be found on our school and district's web sites. If you need assistance accessing this information, please call our office at 585-3021.*

# Tid-Bits

## Weather

The weather is definitely turning chilly. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather conditions. We do try to make sure children have an opportunity to go outside each day (even if it is for a shortened time). And, if you are missing coats, sweaters, gloves, hats, or other items, our lost and found is bursting. Please remind your child to look through these items. Or, call the office, and we'll take a look for you. Any unclaimed items at the end of each quarter are donated.

School closures, due to inclement weather, are determined the morning of the closure, after roads have been surveyed. Families are notified through School Messenger via e-mail, phone, or text. You may set your preferences through Family Access. Information about school closures is also released through local television and radio stations.

## MyOn

All students have access to MyOn—an on-line library with 1000's of books available. Students all have access to this library. It contains fiction and non-fiction and books are recommended based on children's interests and reading levels. Some have comprehension quizzes following. Please encourage students to read every night.

## Assemblies

We are making student recognition a priority this year. Students are being recognized in many ways (attendance, fitness, behavior, grades, accomplishments, etc...). Each month we have a character assembly. The main focus for these assemblies is character, so we invite parents to attend for those receiving a character award.

Although we recognize other areas of accomplishment; unfortunately, we can not invite all parents of recognized students, due to fire code and a limited number of people allowed in the gym. Last assembly we recognized over 350 students. Thank you for understanding, and we hope you are able to celebrate these additional accomplishments even more at home. We are so proud of each!

## Thankful for...

November is a month of citizenship and thankfulness. I (Mrs. Atkinson) want to put together a display in the teacher's lounge to recognize parent "thankfulness" of teachers.

If you could please take a moment to e-mail me some thankful words about your child's teacher or other staff members (just a couple sentences), I will print and post on the display.  
[katkinson@msd134.org](mailto:katkinson@msd134.org)

We are fortunate to have such great citizens making a difference for our students!

## PTO:

- Please make time to join PTO and attend the PTO meetings. We really need the support of all our families. This group's #1 priority is to support the students, staff, and school. Membership costs are minimal. Meetings are once per month. We need many helping hands to accomplish all that needs done and create opportunities for Heights Elementary. We are all parents working together to help our school.
- Thank you PTO for providing dinner for the staff during Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Thank you PTO for providing many teacher grants to support learning and incentives for Heights' students
- Heights would like to thank the PTO board members and parent members for their financial, academic, and volunteer support. We would also like to thank the families who participate in PTO through fundraisers, volunteering, and events.

*If you are interested in being more involved with PTO: [MiddletonHeightsPTO@gmail.com](mailto:MiddletonHeightsPTO@gmail.com) or like and follow us on Facebook.*



## Student Drop & Pick-Up:

As the weather chills, more and more parents are dropping off and picking up students. A few reminders:

- Please be kind to those on supervision—they are doing their jobs to keep our kids safe
- Please be patient and stay off your cell phones
- Please allow plenty of time to make it through the drop-off / pick-up line—we start supervision at **7:50**—come early
- If you don't drop off at the sidewalk, you must *park and walk* your students to the sidewalk/blacktop
- Students are not allowed to cross the street or parking lot without an adult
- If you can't wait in the line, cautiously, *take the inside lane all the way through to the parent parking in the bus lane*, park, and walk your child across the lot
- Remember—no left turns from the parking lot
- Remember—no u-turns on Cemetery Rd.
- Beware—driving citations are being issued

## Counseling Corner:

Every day we are all bombarded with information. As adults it can sometimes seem overwhelming to know how to help our kids handle some of the frightening information. Fortunately, there are some simple ways we can help our kids.

- **Be your child's news source.** Doing this ensures that your child get the information you want them to have. This allows you to share the facts. It also allows you to “set the emotional tone, and pass on any wisdom in a calm and authoritative way.” You child will, most likely, follow your lead on how to handle stressful information.
- **Take your cues from your children.** Invite them to tell you anything they may have heard about, and how they feel. Give them ample opportunity to ask questions. Be prepared to answer (but not prompt) questions. You want to avoid encouraging frightening fantasies.
- **Be realistic.** Share the positive information, don't over emphasis the negative. Avoid making an issue seem bigger than it is. For example, if your child is scared of clowns tell them that “a clown is usually someone dressed up in a costume with the intention of doing his job and entertaining children and families.” Reassure your child that they are not likely to see a clown and that a clown is usually friendly.
- **Be reassuring.** Children are likely to focus on whether something frightening or bad could happen to them. So it's important to reassure your child that it's highly unlikely anyone will try to scare or hurt them, and mention the safety measures that have been taken to prevent this kind of thing.
- **Be available.** If your child is upset, just spending time with him may make him feel safer. Children find great comfort in routines, and doing ordinary things together as a family may be the most effective form of reassurance.
- **Enlist other trusted adults to help.** Let your child know who they can go to for help if you are not around. For example, if your child is at school let them know that all the adults at school are working to keep kids healthy and safe. If your child has a question or concern, she can tell the school counselor about it.

<http://childmind.org/article/helping-kids-creepy-clown-epidemic/>