

January 8, 2009

Woodcrest Elementary
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Window on Woodcrest

Mrs. Kahoun's Corner

As the children returned to school this week, many of them revisited the hopes and dreams they identified at the beginning of the school year. As part of the Responsive Classroom curriculum adopted by Spring Lake Park Schools, students think about what it is they want to accomplish during the school year. They set these goals as a result of conversations about all the possibilities of what one can achieve, along with what it will take to meet these goals. These hopes and dreams are identified first at the beginning of the school year, and often are evaluated and perhaps modified following Winter Break. Students and staff alike consider their hopes and dreams, what it takes to realize them, and how we can support one another along the way. Please talk with your child about their hopes and dreams for this school year and discuss ways you can support them at home. If you happen to have any questions about the goals your child identified for themselves, please ask their teacher. They are working hard at school with your child to ensure these hopes and dreams are realized.

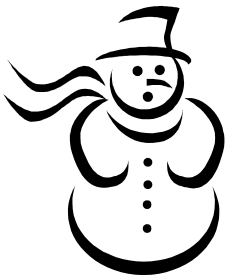
Coming Up

January

- 8 PTA Meeting—6:30 p.m.
- 16 All School Meeting—10:00
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL
- 21 NO SCHOOL
- 24 NO STUDENTS—Daytime
and Evening Conferences
- 29 Evening Conferences

New Bus Numbers

This week the all bus routes were assigned new numbers. Instead of each route being assigned a random number posted in the window, the route number now matches the number of the bus that is painted on the side of the bus by the passenger door. The bus routes are still color coded and the colors did stay the same. This should eliminate any confusion for students if they simply follow the color coding that we have been using. If you have any questions, please call our school office or our district transportation office at 763-785-5512.



PTA Meeting Tonight

Thursday, January 8—6:30 p.m.

- ◆ Guest Speaker Dr. Helmstetter, Superintendent
- ◆ A light supper will be served
- ◆ Childcare will be provided

Greetings from the Art Room



This year I see 1st through 3rd grades on a 5 day cycle. Also, I teach at Park Terrace the times that I am not at Woodcrest. Therefore, the best way to reach me is by e-mail at spfahl@district16.org.

First grade took home their clay self portraits before break and I hope they were enjoyed. We are almost finished with a project based on the works of the artist Piet Mondrian, who used lots of squares and rectangles and the primary colors of red, blue and yellow. The students made very exciting frames for their works using only circles and the secondary colors of green, orange, and purple. Ask them about the color science we experimented with using colored liquid to show what happens when colors are mixed!

Our next project uses hot and cold colors.

The second grades are in the middle of an animal sculpture unit. We drew sketches first and then made animals out of clay, which are now in the slow process of drying and being fired (or cooked) in the kiln. While we wait, we are making 3D animals out of paper and other materials.

Third grades are putting the finishing touches on their special self portraits. They are learning about and using the two kinds of texture: visual (the kind you see) and tactual (the kind you can feel). Our next project will be paintings called "Magic Squares" where they mix new color combinations. It is an exciting (and sometimes messy) process!

As always, I encourage families to talk about what we do in art class and try some projects at home. Some good web sites are Crayola.com and Enchanted Learning. Check them out and enjoy.

Have a colorful day!

- Ms. Pfahl

From the Nurse's Office

Clothing Items—If your child has borrowed clothing from the nurse's office, please be sure to wash it and return it as soon as you can. (This includes socks and underwear.) We have a limited supply of clothing for student use and we need to have them returned so that other students (and possibly your own) will have them available when needed.

Absences—If your child is absent from school, please be sure to call in and report their absence each day that they are not in school. When calling, please give your child's name (it's helpful if you also spell the name), along with the reason for their absence. We need to record this information for each absence. Providing this information saves our office staff a great deal of time and avoids them having to contact you .

Morning Arrival

Please remember that students should not be dropped off at school or walk to school before it is time for the start of the school day. We do not have staff available to supervise students before school hours. We have several students who have been arriving too early. Students who eat breakfast at school should arrive between 9:00 and 9:05 if they are not riding the bus. Students who do not eat breakfast at school should arrive between 9:10 and 9:15 if they are dropped off or walking. Students must wait outside if they arrive before those times.



All School Meeting

On Friday, January 16 we will have an all school meeting. This is the second meeting in a series that will focus on the meaning behind each letter of our "I Care" initiative. Our last meeting was on November 13 and was about "Integrity" which is represented by the "I" in "I Care". Our January meeting will focus on our next letter—"C" for "Compassion". Please take time to talk to your child about what the word "compassion" means and how you might show it towards others at home, in the community, and here at school.

As always you are invited to join us for our all school meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 16. Students should wear their blue "I Care" t-shirts and their red wristbands.