

# Gator Gazette

Mt. Horeb Elementary School Newsletter



November 2011

## Anti-Bullying and Character Education

Many of you have seen the district's policy concerning Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. If you have not seen it, the policy can be found on the district's website. Through our ongoing efforts to promote students' character and social development, we have proactively provided students and the school community a variety of ways to promote positive behaviors, service learning, and the development of student's age appropriate social skills.

This year, we have focused on four explicit rules related to bullying. These rules are a part of our morning announcements and have been reviewed, discussed with students in class, and are posted in each classroom. The four anti-bullying rules are consistent with our school's Code of Conduct. They are:

- We will not bully others.
- We will try to help students who are bullied.
- We will try to include students who are left out.
- If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at the school and an adult at home.

Within the school's Parent / Student Handbook, you will find a behavior grid that outlines school consequences for inappropriate behavior at school. The grid is based on Stan Davis's work and his book *School's Where Everyone Belongs*. The grid provides a structure of predictable, consistent, and escalating consequences for inappropriate behavior. It is important to note that consequences are always coupled with providing students assistance in recognizing appropriate behavior.

In addition to our efforts to provide explicit instruction targeting social and conflict resolution skills, we have incorporated specific lessons at each grade level focusing on what bullying is and how to respond to bullying instances. The overall goal of a bullying prevention approach is to proactively change the norms around bullying behavior and to provide a structure to the school

setting itself so bullying is less likely to occur or be rewarded. This is a long term effort and bolstered by our efforts in a variety of areas this year.

If you would like additional information about school anti-bullying efforts, please don't hesitate to contact me or Dr. Stankiewicz.

William Kimmick, Principal

## A Note from the School Nurse.....

With the colder weather and change of seasons, there is an increase in absences related to colds, coughs, and flu-like symptoms. Please determine whether your child is well enough to attend school, before sending him or her off in the morning. Children who come to school feeling ill, having been told to go to the nurse if they continue to feel sick will, almost always, be in the nurse's office shortly after arrival. Please plan your day accordingly. Also, remind your child to wear a jacket and hat to school as the children do go outside on most days, weather permitting.

The single best way to protect against seasonal flu and its potential severe complications in children is to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. Children at highest risk for seasonal flu complications are those with asthma, heart disease, diabetes and any condition causing immunosuppression. The Somerset County Dept. of Health offers a flu clinic as well as your own private physician. Flu-like symptoms include fever >100, chills, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue and headache.

With upcoming holiday celebrations in the classroom, please review the food allergy alert letter that was sent home by your child's teacher. Avoid those foods listed, and include ingredient labels for all food sent in. No peanut or tree nut products will be served in the classroom. If you have any concerns, please contact me.

Doris Zanchelli RN, CSN

**The Mt. Horeb Family Fun Bingo Event**  
**is coming up!!**  
**Mark your calendars for January 28, 2012**

In the past we have given out great prizes to our bingo game winners, and want to top the prizes for our next Bingo Day.

***WE ARE LOOKING FOR PRIZES AND DONATIONS  
FOR OUR WINNERS.***



If you have any unused gift cards, gift items, or fun toys that you would like to donate to Bingo Day, please contact the event chair at:  
Kathleen Ciraulo 908-626-9190 or kaciraulo@aol.com

We will make arrangements to pick up your donations.

Also, if you would like to help in collecting donations for the prizes or would like to be involved in our Bingo Event, please let us know.

We are looking forward to a fun family night out!!

**HEALTHY SNACKS AVAILABLE  
FOR PURCHASE ON MONDAYS  
AND FRIDAYS!**

Healthy Snack Days will take place on Mondays and Fridays throughout the year. Snacks served include assorted baked chips, apple sauce, fruit cups, 100 calorie pack snacks, goldfish crackers and pretzels. Kids will be limited to one (1) snack a day.

We need additional volunteers for serving snacks, so if you are interested, please contact Liz Peterson at lizpeter-son@optonline.net or Linda Fletcher at fletcherwarren@msn.com.

Snack cards are a convenient alternative to cash, and are available for \$5. At any point throughout the year, please send in your payment with your child's lunch and they can purchase a card at the snack table. Checks can be made out to Mt. Horeb PTO, or cash is accepted.

**Ice Cream Day!**

Ice Cream Day will be Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>!  
You can use your snack cards or cash!

**Ice Cream is 75 cents.**

**Clothing Committee:**

A special thanks to Lora Sedlak, Maren Klein and Cecilia Fontana for helping out with the Back to School Night clothing sales. To date we have made \$1,040.00 in clothing sales!!

**Baking Committee**

Thank you to the baking committee!  
Another thank you goes out to the baking committee for helping with Brite Nites at the Wagner Farm Arboretum and with the Halloween Party. Both went very well and provided the "treat" in "trick or treating" events this Halloween season :)

Thanks again for all your support!

Helene Grunstein, Julie Hoffman and Nicky Toor

### **Brite Nites**

A special thank you to Cecilia Fontana for leading our Brite Nites Event at Wagner Farm Arboretum. We had 150 Mt Horeb Families and Friends purchase tickets. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for our private event, but our families were able to attend during one of the many public sessions. Thank you to those families that attended!

### **Halloween Party**

A big thanks to the following committee members who helped run a terrific party for our students and their families: Bonnie Lavoie, Jane Cerwinski, Susan Delaney, Brenda Liberti, Maryanne DuBois, Pauline Seda, Tina Walter and Demi Esposito.

### **Reading Buddy Dog Program**

The Reading Buddy Dog Program needs volunteers from 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. to greet the dog owner and dog at the main entrance, escort them to the different classrooms for the reading sessions with the children, and escort them out of the building. Volunteers are needed for Wednesdays in January, February, April and May of 2012. Please contact Bonnie Lavoie at [blavoiefamily@gmail.com](mailto:blavoiefamily@gmail.com) to volunteer.

### **International Day**

Come "host" a country...International Day, March 7th, 2012. Bring your friends and family in to help in your room/country. Look for the emails to sign-up. It's a fun and educational day; come be part of it! Please call/email Deneen Gatto (732) [560-1850](tel:560-1850)/[dmgneen@myway.com](mailto:dmgneen@myway.com), Lori Weiss (908) [626-0762](tel:626-0762)/[mitchw13@aol.com](mailto:mitchw13@aol.com) or Nancy Phillips [lmnp88@optonline.net](mailto:lmnp88@optonline.net)/908-604-0325. Thanks!!

### **Book Fair**

This year's book fair is going to be out of this world! From Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, November, 9<sup>th</sup>, students and parents are cordially invited to browse and purchase books from the book fair. Come and see the wonderful range of titles, from fiction to non-fiction, all age ranges from preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Older kids may want to preorder the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book for delivery in mid November. Younger readers may enjoy such titles as the award winning *Interrupting Chicken* and *Bad Kitty Meets the Baby*.

Monday is the preview day, when all children can browse the books and make a wish list. Sale days are Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m., when each class will have a scheduled time for purchasing their books. Parents are welcome to come in at any time during the fair to make purchases. Don't forget our teachers will be writing wish lists, too, so you can donate books to your children's classrooms.

There is a website for the fair at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/mounthoreb> where you can browse titles at your leisure and even print off a wish list. Remember that books make great holiday gifts, too!

We hope that everyone will be excited about the Book Fair. It's a great way to get kids interested in books and to raise money for the school Library. See you there! Any questions, please contact Nicky Toor or Colleen Abbot.

### **Bulletin Boards**

A special Thank You to Tina Walter, Colleen Abbot and Patricia Hardy for making our PTO Bulletin Boards and Display Case look terrific!

<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>	<b>CALENDAR</b>
<b>6</b>	Daylight Savings Time Ends Set clocks back 1 hr.
<b>7,8,9</b>	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL 1:20 PM</b> with Lunch Period Parent/Teacher Conferences
<b>7</b>	Book Fair Preview
<b>8,9</b>	Book Fair Sales (Preview Date is Nov. 7th)
<b>9</b>	Gr. 4/5 Marking Period Ends
<b>10,11</b>	<b>SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>
<b>14</b>	Bd. of Ed. Mtg. at Middle School
<b>14-18</b>	American Education Week <b>Visitation:</b> Wed., 11/16 10:00 — 11:00 AM Thurs., 11/17 1:00 — 2:00 PM
<b>18</b>	Ice Cream Day (75 cents)
<b>22</b>	Gr. 4/5 Report Cards Sent Home
<b>22</b> <b>(Rescheduled Date)</b>	Picture Retakes—9:00 AM Original Photos or Order Form required
<b>23</b>	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL 1:20 PM</b> with Lunch Period
<b>24,25</b>	<b>SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>
<b>28</b>	Bd. of Ed. Mtg. at Mt. Horeb School

**BOARD CORNER**  
**November 2011**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Fluencies Initiative

Warren Township teachers and administrators will work together in November in a 2-day training institute to begin planning lessons and units that incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century “fluencies” in classrooms across the district. With the concept of “global digital citizenship” as an underlying foundation to all program development, teachers will link more authentic, integrated problem-solving opportunities to their curriculum. Following a kick-off presentation by internationally-known speaker Lee Crockett on October 11<sup>th</sup>, a pilot group of teachers representing all schools will examine their curriculum content to find appropriate areas where a structured, project-based approach can provide students with opportunities to collaborate as they solve problems and to use technology to access, evaluate, and present information about a solution. The goal of the initiative is to develop lessons and units that address traditional curriculum and standards while cultivating 21<sup>st</sup>-century fluencies in our students. Core teachers will implement these lessons in their classrooms and will share their experiences with their colleagues.