



Mellette Messenger

January, 2012 News

From the Principal's Desk:

An often overlooked component to the success of a child at school is their attendance. There are unforeseen situations that impact attendance and that is understood. The school is empathetic to these situations and will work with parents to accommodate the situation. However, your help is needed! WE are developing life skills that will impact a child's futuristic job. A strong correlation has been researched to show that attendance problems in school will carry over to the adult world. I recently read an article on how patterns set in kindergarten to grade three set the attitude that "the job" isn't that important. The students hear me say quite often that school is their job. It is one of my goals to ensure that we do everything possible to have students attend school. This includes monitoring each child's attendance and issuing letters.

I realize that there are times when your child may make things difficult for you and not want to attend. Call the school and we will come and pick them up. Please read the following regarding attendance letters:

ATTENDANCE LETTERS

The Watertown School District's Board of Education has adopted a board policy encouraging all students to be in school every day that school is in session. The administration realizes that there are times when it is impossible for students to attend school. (sickness, funerals, unique trips, etc.) The following are guidelines that are used when issuing attendance letters and detentions for unexcused tardies and absences.

LETTER	ABSENCES	TARDIES
FIRST	2 unexcused OR 6 unexcused/excused combined	3 unexcused OR 6 unexcused/excused combined
SECOND	3 unexcused OR 12 unexcused/excused combined	4 unexcused OR 8 unexcused/excused combined
THIRD	Truancy filed 4 unexcused OR 18 unexcused/excused combined	5 unexcused OR 10 unexcused/excused combined

Three unexcused absences will result in an assigned detention 5 unexcused tardies will result in an assigned detention

Detention will be assigned to each unexcused absence or tardy thereafter.

Promptness to class is VERY IMPORTANT! It is important that students arrive at school on time at the beginning of the day. A student is considered tardy if they arrive after 8:35 AM or ten minutes after their lunch period ends. Parents will be contacted due to being continually tardy.

Welcome Student Teachers

We would like to welcome two student teachers to our school. Tori Borns will be student teaching with Mrs. Orthaus in first grade and Amy Robbins will be student teaching with Mrs. Heesch in sixth grade. We appreciate the opportunity for these individuals to serve with our staff to develop their professional pedagogy and philosophies while working with your children.

Mark Your Calendars

Jan. 1st & 2nd - No School. Christmas Break

Jan. 3rd - No School. Teacher Inservice

Jan. 9th - Beginning Band Rehearsal @ WMS 3:40-4:30
Honors Choir got to Brookings

Jan. 13th - 3rd Grade performs @ 1/2 time of HS Basketball Game

Jan. 16th - 6th Grade Band Rehearsal @ WMS 3:40-4:30

Jan. 19th - 3:30-4:30 Orchestra Practice @ WMS Instrument Room
2nd Grade performs @ 1/2 time of HS Basketball Game

Jan. 20th - Early Dismissal 12:20, Teacher Inservice
No Am Kdg. Pm Kdg attending 8:30-11:30

Jan. 23rd - Beginning Band Rehearsal @ WMS 3:40-4:30

Jan. 26th - 3:30-4:30 Orchestra Practice @ WMS Instrument Room

January 2012 Calendar

2 No School - Christmas Break	3 No School - Teacher Inservice	4	5	6
9 Beginning Band Rehearsal @ WMS 3:40-4:30 Honors Choir goes to Brookings	10	11	12	13 3rd grade performs 1/2 time of HS Basketball Game
16 6th Grade Band Rehearsal @ WMS 3:40-4:30	17	18	19 3:30-4:30 Orchestra Practice @ WMS Instrument Room 2nd Grade performs @ 1/2 time of HS Basketball Game	20 Early Dismissal @ 12:20 ~ Teacher Inservice No AM Kdg. Pm Kdg attending 8:30-11:30
23 Beginning Band Rehearsal @ WMS 3:40-4:30	24	25	26 3:30-4:30 Orchestra Practice @ WMS Instrument Room	27
30	31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2 3:30-4:30 Orchestra Practice @ WMS Instrument Room	Feb. 3

January Social Skills

January 4-13 Asking For Help

1. Look at the person
2. Use a nice voice
3. Say "please" and tell what you need
4. Say "Thank you"

January 16-27 Asking Permission

1. Look at the person
2. Use a nice voice
3. Say "May I...."

Stars for December

Shelby Billings, Jolie Femrite, Hannah Hoeke, Nathan Visser, Emma Roe, Matthew, McDaniel, Chase Spartz, Keira Whitlock, Camila Perez, Jayla Haight, Garielle Mischke, Malachi Swenson, Olivia Weber, Dacey Veflin, Savannah Blankenship, Traver Hansmann, Kaiden Rawlins, Mariah Whitlock

Operation Blizzard

Don't let the nice weather fool you...Winter weather will be here before we know it. Make sure you have a plan in place for when school closes due to bad weather. For our rural students we have "Operation Blizzard" forms available in the office.

Past Yearbooks Available

Currently Available - hundreds of yearbooks from the years of 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 that have been ordered and never picked up. They are currently being stored in the Arrow Education Foundation Office at Garfield School and will be tossed in a month. They are free for anyone who will pick them up.



December 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The local Watertown dentists are conducting a Give Kids A Smile® event on February 10, 2012. Give Kids A Smile is an annual centerpiece to National Children's Dental Health Month. It is a one-day event where dentists and dental staff volunteer their time to provide free dental care to children.

We would like to focus on kids that do not have a dental home and are currently unable to receive dental care due to low income, lack of insurance or Medicaid, and have no other sources available to pay for services.

Please call 605.753.5437 to sign up. We will then send you paperwork. You will need to fill out the paperwork and mail it or drop it off at Lake Area Pediatric Dentistry by January 23rd. If we do not receive the paperwork by that day, we will not be able to see your child.

Give Kids A Smile will take place on February 10, 2012 starting at 8:00 a.m.

You may contact Lake Area Pediatric Dentistry directly at 605.753.5437 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kari Ness
605.868.2136 cell
605.753.5437
Lake Area Pediatric Dentistry
600 4th St NE
Suite 208
Watertown, SD 57201



Giving a Reason for the Season!!

What IS the reason for the season? Well, fifth grade students and families were asked that exact question before the Christmas break! Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Slama asked their class members and their families, "What's \$1.50 worth to you in a good deed done well? Would you be willing to have your child perform a good deed for you, a neighbor, or other loved one in exchange for \$1.50?" Once that good deed was accomplished, then that child was asked to do ANOTHER good deed by bringing the money to school to contribute to "adopting" Lorcan, the European ferret, from the zoo!!! Their ultimate goal was to have each and every single fifth grader tackle this task so they could cover the cost of the adoption fee from the Bramble Park Zoo. But to



get the funds and give the students an idea of the reason for the season, the point was to have the students do something nice for someone to earn the money.

The funds that adopted this "wild child" will eventually be for helping with Lorcan's living quarters at the zoo, improving his habitat, and helping to provide for his general care for 1 year. The fifth grade classes received a class nameplate that will be displayed at the zoo, a fact sheet on Lorcan, a photo of him, a certificate of sponsorship, and a toy replica of his resemblance to put in one of the classrooms. The Mellette Fifth Grade class name will also appear in a future issue of the Bramble Park Zoo newsletter.

As part of the adoption process, Lorcan was able to visit the classrooms during the last week of school before the break. A few of Lorcan's other



zoo outreach "friends" also made the trek for the students to enjoy, including an old acquaintance from Mrs. Johnson's Fall Open House...Rock, the ball python snake. With the successful adoption, both of the classes will also get a special treat in the Spring by having the full-time zoo educator, Jaime Stricker, visit their classes with some "other" worthwhile guests...like Buttercup, the yellow, albino, 10-foot long Burmese python.

The fifth grade students went above and beyond in their "good deed" efforts and came up with more than enough money to provide for Lorcan. They had a great time interacting with the animals and learning more about their fellow furry friends and their habitats. It definitely made for quite a memorable -- and purposeful -- holiday season!