

MELLETTE MESSENGER

Welcome

What a glorious sight it is every year as students come back to school. It is always wonderful to hear of the exciting adventures our kids partake on over the summer months.

We are extremely grateful for the decision made by the Watertown School Board to allow for a new parking lot on the corner of 7th Ave. and 3rd St. We have already found it convenient for student drop-off and pick-up. Please be sure to thank them. Our HOPE each year is that relationships will grow strong between parents and teachers. Communication will play a vital part in strengthening those relationships. We are here to serve you in any way possible!

Student Absences

Please be sure to contact the office by 8:30 AM if your child is ill or will not be attending school that day. Students will be counted unexcused if not in the classroom or a phone call received by 8:35. Our mission is to teach kids the importance of being on time for their job-which is a life necessity. If you know of absences in advance, please communicate with the school so we are aware.

Breakfast

We start serving breakfast at 7:55-8:25. Please discuss with your child(ren) to not wait on the playground to play then enter to eat. They need to come in right away. Our bus students generally arrive around 8:25 and are granted until 8:35 to eat. Thank you for your cooperation!

Bus Behavior

What a privilege to have this service in our district. Please remind your children of the importance of following directions of the bus driver, remaining seated in his/her seat. Refusal to follow bus rules could lead to a possible suspension of services. Thank you for discussing this with your child.

Social Skill of the Week

August 25-September 2

Following Instructions:

1. Look at the person
2. Say "Okay"
3. Do it now
4. Check Back

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 5th - Labor Day-No School

Sept. 20th - PTO Movie Night

Sept. 21st - Early Dismissal 12:20. No AM Kdg.

Sept. 26th thru 29th & Oct. 3rd thru 5th - 6th grade Swim Unit

Sept. 30th - Early Dismissal 1:30. No PM Kdg

Oct. 10th - Columbus/Native American Day - No School

Citizen Concerns About Federal Program

A parent, student, employee, or District stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal NCLB funds and is unable to solve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the District's superintendent.

Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation (including inter-district disputes), and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth may initiate the dispute resolution process directly at the school they choose, as well as at the District or District's homeless liaison's office. The parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. Students should be provided with all services for which they are eligible while disputes resolved.

___ The superintendent will investigate, within one week, the circumstances of the complaint and render a decision within two weeks, after receipt of the complaint.

___ The superintendent will notify the complainant of the decision in writing.

___ The complainant will either accept or disagree with the decision and will provide such acknowledgement in writing, addressed to the District's superintendent.

___ If the issue is not resolved with the superintendent, the complaint will be forwarded to the District's School Board for further review. The parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the District's decision including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision.

___ Unresolved complaints may be forward by the stakeholder to the South Dakota Department of Education for review. (Consult SD Department of Education Complaint Procedure).

August 25, 2011

TO: Parents of ALL students ATTENDING A TITLE I SCHOOL

FR: Brenda Palsma, Assistant Director of Special Services

RE: Parents' Right to Know

In accordance with Title I Part A, Section 1111 (h)(6), this is to notify you that, as a parent of a student attending a Title I school, you may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers. The Watertown School District will provide a response to the parent's request in a timely manner.

The information provided to parents will include the following:

1. Whether any teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
2. Whether any teacher is teaching under an "Authority to Act" status,
3. The baccalaureate degree or major of the degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree, and
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Parents may also request information on the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments. The Watertown School District will give parents timely notice that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Any parent wishing to obtain information regarding the qualifications of their child's teacher may direct inquiries to the building principal.

All inquiries regarding achievement information on your child can also be obtained by contacting your child's building principal.

September 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	31	1 Sep	2
	School Picture Day!			
5	6	7	8	9
No School - Labor Day!				
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
	PTO Movie Night. (Time to be determined)	No Am Kdg. Pm Kdg attends 8:30-11:30 Early Dismissal 12:20 ~ Teacher Inservice		
26	27	28	29	30
Homecoming Week!	Homecoming Week!	Homecoming Week!	Homecoming Week!	Homecoming Week!
6th Grade Swim Unit!	6th Grade Swim Unit!	6th Grade Swim Unit!	6th Grade Swim Unit!	No Pm Kdg. Am Kdg attends 8:30-11:30 School Dismissal 1:30~ Homecoming Parade - 2pm

Kidscope

Kidscope will be held for Mellette Elementary School students for the 2011-2012 school year.

Kidscope is an after school program that runs from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM in the cafeteria. The program is designed to assist busy parents by allowing their children to remain in a safe and productive environment until their parents are home from work. If you would like more information on how to enroll your child in the program, please call the Boys/Girls Club at 886-6666 and ask for Lindsey.

Join The Band!

Information regarding 5th grade band recruitment will be sent home during the first week of school. Please look for this letter and return to school the

following day. Each student will be given the opportunity to play two instruments to help the music staff determine the best instrument for them.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Robyn.Magstadt@kl2.sd.us

Join The Orchestra!

Information regarding the 5th grade band recruitment will be sent home during the week of school. Please look for this letter and return to school the following day.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Peggy.Moeller@kl2.sd.us

Meals

Please feel free to have hot lunch with your child any day.

However, it is essential that you

call the school before 9:00am

and let us know. All the food is prepared at the high school and needs to be ordered in advance. The cost of an adult meal is \$2.60 payable when you come. **A reminder that we do not carry change.** Thanks for your cooperation.

Our district is celebrating family week by setting specific days for parents to eat with children at school during October. Forms will be sent home with your children so watch for them and return them promptly.

Regular Breakfast	\$1.50
Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30
Regular Lunch	\$1.85
Reduced Lunch	\$0.40
Milk	\$0.30

G.I.F.T (Get It Finished Today)

G.I.F.T. will run from 3:20-4:25 pm Monday thru Thursday. G.I.F.T. will begin Tuesday, September 6th. A snack will be offered, free of charge, at 4:00 pm. This program is available to 3rd thru 6th grade students at Mellette School.

G.I.F.T. is a great opportunity for students who need more time to finish their homework and to motivate those students who need a little extra help.

Students will have the opportunity to read, take AR tests and work on Success Maker, if needed. The G.I.F.T. room is a structured, supervised, self-guided and quiet environment for students to complete their assignments. Any Student who chooses to attend the G.I.F.T. program must have a signed permissions slip from their parent/legal guardian.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCHES

Please be sure to complete and send back your free/reduced application for meals. This is very important to the funding

that we receive from the Federal government. If we fail to have a certain percentage, as a school we will not be considered a Title 1 status school-targeted assistance. If you are uncertain, it is better to apply. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this process. 882-6385

MAGIC MILE LIONS CLUB

We serve Watertown. If you are in need of eyeglasses for your children or others, contact Richard Drake, 882-2323

PTO Happenings

Thanks:

- Thanks to Michelle Pahl and Tonya Holien for bringing treats to Open House.
- Thanks to Crickett Martin, Stacey Gerber, and Tina Lindner for handing out freeze pops to students on the first day of school.

Dates to remember:

- September 7th – Deadline to turn in your family information sheets and family dues for an entry into the \$25 gift card drawing.
 - September 7th – Deadline for Bear Wear orders.
 - September 20th - Family Move Night at 5:30pm. Watch backpacks and email for further information and volunteer opportunities.
 - September 27th - PTO monthly meeting at 6:30pm in the school conference room. Harvest Party planning is the major topic.
- Pause For A Paw is a volunteer program at Mellette Elementary. For every hour volunteered at school, one paw is earned and displayed at school. Each paw is entered into a drawing for family fun packages. Please take any opportunities to help at PTO events or at school. Please contact Tonya Holien at 868-3406 or tholien01@yahoo.com with any questions or comments or ideas.