

CONCORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 2009
Volume 4, Issue 4



Contents

Principal's News	1
Registration Info	2
Thank You!	2
School Happenings	2
Counselors Corner	3
Tips for Parents	4
Reminders	5

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 2/5 6:30 2009/2010 Kindergarten Round Up
- ◆ 2/13 Valentine Parties
- ◆ 2/13 Early Dismissal
- ◆ 2/16 No School
- ◆ 2/19 1st Grade Music Program
- ◆ 2/27 No School

PARENT NEWSLETTER Dr. Laura Anderson, Principal

Principal's News



Here we are, once again, at the half-way point of our school year. It was great to see and talk with all of the parents that came to our recent Second Grade Music Performance. Thank you for your continued presence and support in our school community.

As the first semester ends, we're happy to note the many exciting things happening at Concord Elementary. Our staff works diligently to provide challenging and engaging learning activities in all content areas. Just check out our hallway displays the next time you are in the building to witness the results of dedicated teaching and motivated learning. The multiple talents of our students are visible in and around every classroom.

The second round of reading benchmark testing is completed and results will be used to plan and deliver focused reading instruction to the students based upon their

needs. Students are making wonderful progress. Please continue to encourage reading at home - at least 30 minutes each night.

We are beginning to plan for our Valentine Parties. Parties for K-4 will take place on Friday, Feb. 13 between 10:00-11:00. School dismisses that day at 11:15.

We have had a wonderful first half to this school year. We look forward to even more opportunities and success in the months to come.

Dr. Laura Anderson



THANK YOU TO CASS FOUNDATION!



A huge thank you to Cass District 63 Foundation for Excellence! Our first grade teacher, Mrs. Antonio was granted her Foundation Grant application for three LCD projectors and screens for our first grade classrooms!



REGISTRATION!

Registration packets for the 2009-2010 school year for Kindergarten and PreSchool are available in the office. A Kindergarten RoundUp will be held at Concord February 5th at 6:30 pm. In order to be eligible for kindergarten, the child should have reached his/her fifth birthday on or before September 1, 2009. We have tried to keep an updated list of children who will be attending kindergarten but please notify any of your neighbors or friends who live in the district and are eligible for kindergarten or our preschool program. For registration packets please contact the school office at 630-968-3026.

CONCORD HAPPENINGS!

So much has been happening around Concord –

- ✓ We held our Holiday room parties on January 9th that were delayed because of our snow day
- ✓ All students attended a “Bye-Bye Bully” assembly
- ✓ Our 3rd graders participated in the CAPS program sponsored by the YWCA
- ✓ Our 2nd graders performed in their music program “Round The Seasons”
- ✓ All students enjoyed an Abraham Lincoln assembly presented by Historical Perspectives

COUNSELORS CORNER



Concord School's Counselor's Corner January 2009 "Bye-Bye Bully"

Happy New Year to each of you! I sincerely hope you enjoyed the "gifts of love" from your children during the holidays. They report that they are still working hard on getting along with their siblings and keeping their rooms clean. In the December Counselor's article I mentioned how much the children wished for their parents to go out and play in the snow with them. How many of you actually had the opportunity to go out in the snow and play with your children? We certainly have had enough snow for this fun activity. Many students have reported the excitement of sledding with their family over break.

To update you on our learning environment I want to share with you some information that came across my desk. Research tells us that bullying is a problem in schools and may be the most frequent form of school violence. Surveys consistently indicate that almost one-quarter of all students experience hurtful and wounding interactions with peers on a monthly or daily basis. Wishing to be **proactive** in the matter of a safe learning environment for our students our next focus is on bullying. "Manners do Matter" and now we are taking respect to a new level. The Fine Arts Team, consisting of Ms Rodgers, art teacher; Mrs. Voss, PE teacher, Mrs. Zurawski, music teacher; and Mrs. Scott, counselor addressed the issue of bullying with the slogan, "Bye-Bye Bully." They reminded the children that bullying is repeated actions or words that make one feel uncomfortable or frightened. The students were informed that there are three types of bullying: physical: pushing, cornering; verbal: teasing, putdowns, threatening; non-verbal bullying: excluding, ignoring. A distinction was made between tattling and telling. Tattling is usually reporting someone to get them in trouble. Telling is getting help from an adult in a situation where one is concerned about the safety of oneself or a friend. These teachers presented skits on how to appropriately deal with individuals who make one feel frightened or unsafe at school in the hall, the lunch room, the bathroom, at recess, walking to and from school, waiting for the bus or on the bus. Step 1-Take deep breaths to calm oneself, Step 2-Walk away, Step 3-Find an adult. The students responded positively to the "Bye-Bye Bully" assembly. Feedback has been good. In classroom discussions afterward the students were able to distinguish between a one time occurrence, accidents, and true bullying. They also presented skits to gain courage to stand up for themselves and their friends. They realized one did not want to be a participant by being a bystander. With more self and social- awareness the children are developing their ability to handle more effectively life challenges and to thrive in both learning and social environments.

The most frequent concern among all students at all grade levels was the "teasing" at home among their siblings. Perhaps addressing the issue of sibling relationships and discussing some of these ideas will help at home. Let me know what you think. I look forward to hearing from you. In the mean time, keep warm!

June Scott
Concord Counselor



A Valentine Gift Parents Give their Children

I Loved You Enough

Some day when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them:

- I loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.
- I loved you enough to insist that you save your money and buy a bike for yourself even though we could afford to buy one for you.
- I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was not a best friend.
- I loved you enough to make you take a Milky Way back to the drugstore (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk, "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."
- I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.
- I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that parents aren't perfect.
- I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.
- But most of all, I loved you enough to say NO when I knew you would dislike me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end, you won, too.

Homework Reminders

Our lives are very busy and complicated today. Finding time to fit everything in is difficult. Making time to do homework is important in order for children to be successful. Sometimes just encouraging children to do their homework can be a challenge. Here are some suggestions to help students study at home:

- Designate a time each night for homework.
- Designate an area at home for children to work.
- Have necessary materials in the homework area, such as paper, pencils, pens, dictionary and calculator
- Encourage children to work on improving skills even if no homework has been assigned (reading, reviewing math facts, studying spelling words, and reviewing for upcoming tests).

Determining Style Can Help Your Child Study Better

We all have ways in which we learn best. For some of us, it's by listening. For others, it's by seeing. And for others, it's by touching and doing.

If your child learns best by listening, she may find it helpful to read her text or notes out loud and record them. Then she can play the tape back and listen to the material.

If your child learns best by seeing, have her read the material several times. As she goes through it the last time, she can quiz herself on all the key points. Also have her picture the written questions and answers in her mind.

If your child learns best by doing, have her write out information. She can copy notes or make outlines. Drawing pictures and making diagrams is also helpful.

Flashcards are helpful tools for students who learn best in any of the above ways. A 'doer' benefits from writing questions on one side of the card and answers on the other. A 'looker' benefits from reading cards over and over. A 'listener' benefits from saying the questions and answers out loud.

2009-2010 Concord School PreSchool Program

Applications are now available in the school office for the 2009-10 PreSchool Program. Depending on enrollment there will be an AM and PM session 4 days a week Monday-Thursday. The student needs to be 3 or 4 years of age and the family must be a resident of District 63. Yearly tuition will be broken down in monthly payments of \$300.00.



Concord School
1019 Concord Place
Darien, IL 60561

Phone:
(630) 968-3026

Fax:
(630) 968-0826

E-mail:
landerson@cassd63.org

SCHOOL REMINDERS

- ✓ Please remember our school hours - classes **begin** at **8:15** so students **must** be in their classrooms at **8:15** or they will be marked tardy. Students can be dropped off at **8:00**.
- ✓ PLEASE let the office know if your phone numbers have changed or your email address. We need to have up to date phone numbers in case of an emergency and up to date emails for you to receive "note tote" items.

We're on the Web!
www.cassd63.org
Our website is going to be revised in the months to come - please continue to check the website for more information.

CONCORD STUDENTS ARE THE BEST!



Note Totes - Remember note totes are being sent via email and are posted on the District website
www.cassd63.org

