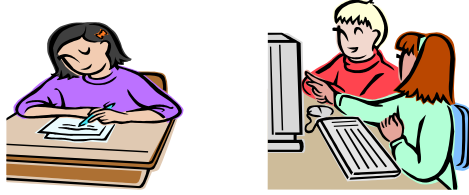


WELCOME TO CONCORD, WHERE THE FOCUS IS ON THE CHILD!  
A message from your principal,  
Dr. Laura Anderson



## CHILDREN FIRST!!

August 25, 2008

Dear Concord Families,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year at Concord! I sincerely hope that your summer was filled with special memories involving your shining stars! Our Concord team is ready to launch the school year with their unique spirit and extraordinary dedication to children! We are delighted to have you join our learning community, where the focus is always on the child and valued parental partnerships! If, for any reason, we fall short in delivering this focus, we want to know! Simply contact Laura Anderson at 630-968-3026 or [landerson@cassd63.org](mailto:landerson@cassd63.org). Better yet, drop by and visit!

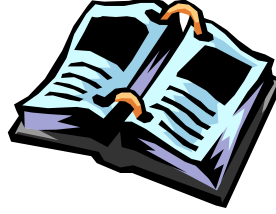
It is my administrative pleasure to share with you the new additions/changes to Concord's team!

- **Ms. Julie Rogers**, Art teacher
- **Ms. Allyson Hague**, Fourth Grade Maternity Substitute Teacher

On behalf of our Superintendent, Dr. Kerry Foderaro and Mr. Paul Bleuher, our junior high principal, we thank you for your continued support of our school district.

In this issue:  
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Healthy Snacks  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



## PARENT CURRICULUM NIGHTS

YOU are cordially invited for a PARENT Curriculum Night! This is probably one of the few times that your children are asked to stay at home for a school function! Teachers will be available in their classrooms from 7:00 to 7:35 for informal sharing. At approximately 7:35 you will have an opportunity to meet other members of the team. In addition, some of the other specialist teachers will be available from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the gym or respective classrooms. Mark your calendars for an adult night out!

Third & Fourth Grade Curriculum Night - Thursday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.

Early Childhood Special Education, First Step At-Risk, Blended Pre School, Extended Day  
Kindergarten Curriculum Night, Tuesday, September 2, 6:30 p.m.  
Kindergarten Curriculum Night - Tuesday, September 2, 7:00 p.m.

First & Second Grade Curriculum Night - Wednesday, September 3, 7:00 p.m.

## EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS



ALL Early Dismissal days this year will be at 11:45. No lunches will be served on those days.

Our first Early Dismissal Day is October 10. Please review the following procedures:

- Students in Grades 1 -4 will be dismissed at 11:45 p.m.
- Regular kindergarten a.m. classes are in session until 11:20.
- Regular kindergarten p.m. classes are NOT in session.
- ALL Extended Day Kindergarten classes are in session until 11:45.
- BASE (Before & After School Experiences) are available from 11:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. as well as the before school times 6:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Future Early Dismissal days are:
  - January 16 at 11:45
  - February 13 at 11:45
  - March 27 at 11:45
  - April 23 at 11:45

## FITNESS AT RECESS (F.A.R.)



As part of our physical education program, all students participate in Fitness At Recess (FAR) twice a day. **ALL CHILDREN NEED TO HAVE CLOSED-TOE SHOES FOR OUTDOOR RECESS. HEELS AND SANDALS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AND COMPROMISE THE SAFETY WHILE INVOLVED AT FITNESS AT RECESS OR GYM. THANK YOU!**



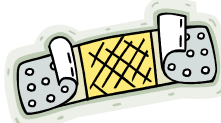
As part of our Fitness At Recess program, we have plenty of equipment for children to use during recess. Kindly have your child keep all balls, toys, electronic games, etc. at home. These items can be damaged or lost as well as cause distractions from the established routine. The only exception to this is if an item is part of a teacher-requested class activity. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



## STUDENT MEDICATION PROCEDURES/HEALTH ISSUES

We are most fortunate to have our school nurse, and Mrs. Cathy Olewinski our health aide as part of our team! EVERY effort is made to ensure the well being of your child should one become ill or incur an injury. Please take the time to review the handout that you received at registration regarding District policy relative to the administration of medicine during school hours or if your child is enrolled in BASE (Before and After School Program). If your child requires the use of an inhaler, please carefully review the permission form for asthma inhalers. This reflects legislation regarding inhalers. Any student requiring administration of medicine needs to have a completed form by a physician on file. This permission form serves as authorization to dispense medicine for the calendar year. **Even if you had a form on file last year, you will need to complete a form for this academic year. Please do so AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, especially if your child requires the use of an inhaler or epinephrine pen.** Should you have any questions, please contact Cathy Olewinski, 968-3026. Your physician can fax the form directly to Concord at 630-968-0826.



While we do everything possible to ensure the safety of your child, accidents do happen. In the event of an injury, you will be contacted. For minor types of scrapes, a band aid and TLC will be provided but you will not receive a call! A log of all injuries is maintained in the office. If you have any special requests regarding your child, please contact the office. We also appreciate your assistance if

requests are made relative to the use of peanuts or any derivative of the nut family as some of our little ones do have food allergies.



Concord welcomes visitors! However, there are some 'visitors' that are not very welcome but when they arrive we try in earnest to eliminate them! If you haven't guessed yet, the 'visitors' this refers to is **lice!** Realizing that this is a delicate topic for some, we want to prevent any lice outbreaks from occurring. However, should it occur, while it is a bothersome concern, we deal with it sensitively as well as expediently. The DuPage County Health Department recommends the following:

- ❖ Avoid the use of shared combs, brushes or other grooming aids.
- ❖ Caps, headgear, clothing that goes over the head, should not be shared.
- ❖ Periodic head checks at home should occur on a regular basis.
- ❖ If you know that your child has lice, kindly notify the school. This information will remain confidential but is critical to assisting us with a grade level, classroom and/or all-school head checks. Having lice is not associated with inferior cleaning. No judgment is made but rather appreciation for letting us know so that we can prevent it from spreading.
- ❖ If lice are detected, appropriate treatment shampoo is required. Your child will be sent home and before returning will need to have proof of treatment and an examination by the school nurse or health aide before being re-admitted to class. Your child's confidentiality is greatly respected.

The intent of this information is simply that, information as well as guidelines to help us to prevent lice. In terms of the school day, the following practices are in place:

- ❖ Avoid sharing of hats, headgear for assemblies and play areas.
- ❖ Refrain from any sharing of items that could possibly be a nesting place for lice.
- ❖ Individual lockers or bins for storage.
- ❖ As part of personal hygiene, developmentally appropriate discussions of taking care of one's body. This occurs in Science class or in Skills for Growing.

### EMERGENCY CARDS

In a continuing effort to maintaining your child's well being as our highest priority, it is essential that the office have a current and complete emergency card. Should any information change during the year, please contact the office immediately. **ALL emergency cards need to be complete and up-to-date by Monday, August 25. If there are custodial or legal issues, please contact the building principal DIRECTLY!** This information is regarded as confidential but shared with appropriate personnel in order to address the protection of the child.

## HEALTHY SNACKS



It is your option to provide your child with a nutritious snack to prevent their tummies from growling! We ask that these snacks be pre-cut and not require the use of utensils or preparation. In this way, we can provide your child with time to refresh those brain cells and continue with the learning process! Recent legislation and initiatives support the role of the school as being the agent for endorsing nutritious snacks. In addition, we do have several children that have severe allergies to certain foods. These allergies extend beyond the intake of certain foods to touching an object or surface in which foods such as peanuts or milk have left residue. While it is your parental discretion to determine what type of healthy snack is appropriate for your child, it becomes our responsibility as a school to facilitate medical/health plans. For this reason, you may receive periodic notes from classroom teachers relative to snacks/birthday treats as well as classroom procedures. We thank you, in advance, for your cooperation with such requests. More specific information will be provided throughout the school year.

## BUILDING SECURITY

As part of our District School Improvement Plan, building security continues to be emphasized. All staff members wear a lanyard and photo identification badge. Every room is equipped with a telephone. In addition our Emergency Preparedness Team has compiled an emergency management plan to address varied types of emergencies and safety drills are conducted regularly throughout the school year. Every room and staff member has a copy of the plan. As the principal, my whereabouts are always known and a phone is readily accessible. This is true of the entire administrative staff, our office staff, and custodial staff.

As parents, please follow these procedures to further the safety of our learning community.

- ◆ **ALL** visitors must sign in and out of the office.
- ◆ Please take the time to **WEAR A BADGE** that identifies you as a visitor, regardless of the length of your stay.
- ◆ Please do not be offended if a staff member directs you back to the office to obtain a badge. While we try to know everyone, it may take some time to learn "new faces!" If the office staff requests identification, we appreciate your understanding that we are simply prioritizing building security. Upon exiting the building, please sign out and return the badge. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Our team eagerly awaits the challenges of a new school year! We are excited at the prospect of identifying specific curricular goals to enhance your child's learning experiences. Beyond the academics, we value a holistic approach to fostering positive social interaction, appropriate choices, and socio-emotional development. Please take the time to review the calendar and handbook which

highlights policies, procedures, and general information. Our staff will review the discipline policy with your children. For your convenience, this policy is summarized on the very last page of the calendar/handbook. Following is a highlight of some of the school improvement initiatives that will be facilitated this year. A more comprehensive description of each initiative will be shared with you in upcoming newsletters and during Curriculum Night.

- ❖ **LITERACY** - Thanks to the generous investment of funding and commitment to learning, Cass School District #63 Foundation for Educational Excellence has renewed a grant to further literacy support. This grant provides funding for one full time and one part-time teaching assistants. Linked with our current literacy specialists, Ms. Joanne Riesgo and Mrs. Pam Nosbisch, as well as our school improvement goals, literacy teaching and learning will be a major focus. As you know, reading is the critical component of success for all children. Reading and use of applied strategies internalized by your child is the key to adult success!
- ❖ **BASE** - We are fortunate to be able to offer childcare before and after school. Your continued support of such services is directly linked to the success of the program. It is critical that children participating in BASE, understand that the element of respect and appropriate decision-making needs to continue beyond the school day! More information will be shared regarding the BASE program throughout the school year.

As you know, there have been changes in our District to meet the demands of our budgetary framework. These changes represent a comprehensive effort not to compromise the vision of the District or building-based focus on the child. Change represents a window of opportunity and while it can be a challenge, it also can bring about different perspectives and resources that address goal attainment. Our goal is to maintain the quality learning environment and parental satisfaction that has always highlighted our District. On behalf of our team, welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. Should you have any questions, concerns, comments, or simply want to introduce yourself, please drop by my office!

Happy Learning!

*Laura Anderson, Concord Principal*

## **JUST A FEW REMINDERS!**



**FIRST DAY OF CLASSES FOR  
KINDERGARTEN, FIRST, SECOND, THIRD  
AND FOURTH GRADES IS TUESDAY,  
AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup>!**

**FIRST STEP AND PRESCHOOL CLASSES  
BEGIN ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>!**



**ON-LINE ORDERING OF LUNCHES  
BEGINS ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 31 AND  
CLOSES ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7.  
ORDERED LUNCHES BEGIN ON MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17. CHILDREN STAYING FOR  
LUNCH NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN LUNCH  
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 17 IF YOU ARE ORDERING  
LUNCHES.**

**THANK YOU!**