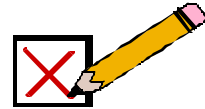




November Newsletter

ATTENTION KINDERGARTEN PARENTS!



Kindergarten parents/guardians will be receiving a letter from your child's teacher to set up a parent conference at which time you will be given the 10 week report card.

REPORT CARDS– For Grades 1 – 4

Report cards for our first marking period will be sent home on Thursday, November 16. As indicated above, kindergarten report cards for this first marking period are given out at the parent conference. Report cards do not need to be returned. **However, the envelope does need to be returned with your signature.**

Numbers 1 – 4 will be used to indicate level of student achievement. Please see code below:

4	=	Highly Competent
3	=	Competent
2	=	Minimally Competent
1	=	Below Competency

(+ or – may be added to the number)

PARENT CONFERENCE HALF DAYS

Time is set aside each year for parent/teacher conferences. Students are dismissed early so that teachers and parents can meet. CONFERENCE DAYS are scheduled for November 30, December 6, and December 12. Teachers will set up appointments with parents. Academic Intervention Service (AIS) staff will also be available. Students will not eat lunch at school on conference/early dismissal days.

Please – If you have a conference scheduled and find that you cannot keep it, call the school so that the office can notify the teacher. If you are not contacted and you want to schedule a conference, please call the teacher in advance or send in a note.

UPCOMING VACATION DAYS

Here is a quick review of upcoming vacation days for students:

Friday, Nov. 10	-	Superintendent's Conference Day
Wednesday, Nov. 22 through Friday, Nov. 24	-	Thanksgiving Holiday

PLAYGROUND



Playground continues throughout the winter months whenever possible. Starting November 1 students **MUST DRESS FOR COLD WEATHER**. When weather is severe, we will keep all students in. Please note winter clothing requirements:

- * Gloves or mittens
 - * Hat/hood (ears must be covered)
 - * Boots
 - * Coat or snowsuit
 - * Snow pants or second pair of pants to wear over
- These guidelines will be in effect until May 1, 2000

HOME/SCHOOL RELATIONS

We encourage you to feel free to contact school any time you have concerns. Just call 589-9668 and ask for your child's teacher.

PICKING UP YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

We are very careful in discharging students from school. If you need to pick up your child before regular dismissal, please ...

- send a note to your child's teacher
- include date, child's name, teacher's name, the time you wish to pick up your child, and reason (for attendance purposes)

The note will be forwarded to the nurse. She will fill out a **blue release slip which you need to pick up at the Nurse's Office before you take your child out of class**. When you arrive at school to pick up your student, please check in at the Main Office. We will ask you to sign in and pick up a *Health Office Pass*. You will then return this pass to the Main Office as you exit the building. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We do not encourage picking up your child at dismissal time since the road is filled with buses and the parking lot is often very busy. If you have to pick up your child at 3:00 p.m., please do not drive in the circle and please be sure the teacher knows you have picked up your child. **We need to know where every child is ... we need your help.**

No child will be released from school (other than to bus) without the blue release slip.

ROLLERSKATING THANK YOU

The students, staff, and Mrs. VanNostrand (3/4 rollerskating chairperson) would like to thank all of you who helped at the skating party on November 1st. These parties would not happen without your help!

VALUES ARE IMPORTANT

It has been said that American schools do not teach values. Well, not so at Williamson Elementary. We do stress the following values and hopefully we also model these behaviors: ***caring about others, caring about nature, honesty, helping others, respect for other's belongings and views, cleanliness, fairness, taking turns, and sharing***. These are among the qualities we believe in and try to reinforce with our children.

These values are reflected in the "BE WISE" Program.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

There may be times, due to adverse weather or other emergencies, when it will be necessary to close the school. If the determination to close is made before the opening of school in the morning, local radio station WHAM (1180) will carry notifications of the closing. This station will also be notified if emergency conditions dictate early closing. Channel 10 and Channel 13 T.V. are also notified if emergency conditions dictate a closing. Should school close early for emergency reasons, we would like to be sure that each child knows where he or she is to go. A form will be sent home for you to indicate any special arrangements for emergency closings. Please be sure to return this form.

REMINDER – STATE LAW

Effective November 1, 1990, Chapter 62 of the Law's of 1990 amends previous law to include school driveways as included as it applies to passing school buses. In other words, if a bus is stopped in the school driveway and has ***it's red lights flashing***, it is ***illegal*** to pass that bus. To ensure the safety of our students, ***this law will be enforced*** on our school driveways.



RETAKЕ DAY FOR SCHOOL PICTURES

Retake Day for school pictures is scheduled for Thursday, November 9.

If your child did not have his/her school picture taken, this is your opportunity to do so. If your child's picture was taken and you are not satisfied with them, return the pictures and request to have the picture retaken.

BEST CONNECTIONS BEST CONNECTIONS BEST CONNECTIONS

Dear Parents,

We would like to tell you that we are opening our school store, *Best Connections*, on November 6. We will be open on Mondays at lunch time. We will be selling school supplies again this year. We will have pencils, crayons, paper, and folders. Everything will cost under \$.50. We hope your children will visit us at the store.

The Best Connections
Grade 4 Advertising Team

BEST CONNECTIONS BEST CONNECTIONS BEST CONNECTIONS

FIRST GRADE NEWS

Learning to read, write, and add numbers is the awesome task facing first graders in September and October! Mastering basic sight words, applying consonant sounds to the beginnings and endings of words, and listening for short vowel sounds in the middle is the task of all first graders. Using this knowledge to express thoughts in writing while remembering to add "finger spacing" and a period at the end of a sentence requires daily practice and lots of encouragement on the part of the teachers. As a result of our conference days with Richard Strong, we have begun to teach first graders basic skills of note making as we enjoy literature together. By starting with pencil drawings the students are recording key events and details which can later be used to write about a favorite book or simply to retell the story in their own words. The focus on key words goes beyond reading and into the realm of math as we learn to add numbers together after listening to a story problem which requires a solution in which the work is shown, the students are asked to find the words which told them what process to use to solve the problem. Thus, "how many in all" takes on meaning as an important part of the whole concept.

NOTIFICATION OF BUSING ARRANGEMENTS

1. In case of new enrollees (including kindergartners) and changes from previous year's busing arrangements – parents are required to provide the school either in person or in writing (by mail or personal delivery) with accurate information about where the child is to be picked up and delivered from school. Such notification must be received prior to the day the child enters school.
2. In cases of where a change in either pick up or delivery site is sought – this applies to all changes requested after the start of school. Parents are required to provide the school, either in person or in writing (by mail or personal delivery) with accurate information about the requested changes in busing arrangements. **Such notification should be made no later than 9:00 a.m. of the day of the proposed change.**
3. In cases of emergency when a change in busing arrangements is required by uncontrollable circumstances, parents must call the appropriate school office and ask for the person in charge of bus passes. The parent should be prepared to explain the general nature of the emergency and to provide personal data that insures the caller's identity.

Such requests must be made to the office of the school in which the child attends school. The bus garage will not process such requests.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

This month and next we will be focusing on vision and hearing screenings on every child. Often, changes in these 2 senses are so subtle that they go unnoticed until a screening at school is performed. If a problem is noted, you would receive a letter informing you of the need for further evaluation. Early treatment would, therefore, be quite beneficial to your child's development.

Color Deficiency – Color deficiency is the inability to distinguish between the primary colors. Signs/symptoms are: unable to discriminate colors, difficulty learning primary colors, family history of color deficiency, fails testing. Treatment: no known treatment, parents and teachers must be aware of deficiency, counsel child in later school years regarding realistic career goals.

Reminders from the School Nurse

When a child is absent he/she must bring a written excuse on the first day of his/her return. If a student comes to school late, he/she must report directly to the nurse's office before going to the classroom. If your child runs a fever, he/she should not return to school until free of fever for 24 hours. All students who have throat cultures done may not return to school until the culture has been read. If your child needs to take medication while in school, even non-prescription medication, the school nurse needs orders from the doctor and a request from the parent. **NEVER SEND ANY MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.** It must be brought in by an adult. Medication **must** be brought in a properly labeled bottle.

Reye's Syndrome Alert

Reye's Syndrome is a very serious disease that you should know about. Some people develop Reye's Syndrome as they are getting over a viral illness like the flu or chicken pox. Watch for these symptoms, usually occurring in this order:

- Relentless or continuous vomiting
- Listlessness (loss of pep and energy with little interest in their environment)
- Drowsiness (excessive sleepiness)
- Personality change (such as irritability, slurred speech, sensitivity to touch)
- Disorientation or confusion (unable to identify whereabouts, family members, answer questions)
- Combativeness (striking out at those trying to help)
- Delirium, convulsions, or loss of consciousness

Studies have shown that using aspirin or aspirin-containing medications to treat symptoms or viral illnesses increased the chance of developing Reye's Syndrome. If you or a member of your family have flu-like illness, *do not use aspirin or aspirin-containing medications*. In fact, you should consult your physician before you take any drugs to treat the flu or chicken-pox, particularly aspirin or anti-nausea medicines. Anti-nausea medicines may mask the symptoms of Reye's Syndrome.

Please call Mrs. Plyter (School Nurse) if you would like more information.

Needed/Wanted:

The Nurse's Office desperately needs sweat pants and large sized t-shirts. Socks would be helpful, too. Thank You!