

Monday Notes

February 22, 2116

Barbara Stokke

Good Monday afternoon

It was wonderful to feel those warmer temps and see the sun shining the past few days...although it may have been short lived (for now), Spring truly is right around the corner! We are 2/3 of the way through the school year as this Friday, Feb. 26th marks the end of the 2nd Trimester. Where has the time gone?

One sure sign of spring is the increase in activities and events. Please read on for information about notable dates.

PARCC-Students in grades 3, 4, & 5 will participate in PARCC, (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) the state's annual achievement testing, starting **Monday April 4-Friday May 6th**. The month-long window allows us to schedule the computer-based tests for each class and grade level across multiple weeks. Your child's specific testing dates will be communicated by his/her classroom teacher. Students will test in two academic areas, Literacy and Math. Please plan ahead to avoid any scheduling conflicts. It is best for the child to test with his/her classmates and not be pulled out to make up tests. While unforeseen circumstances sometimes warrant make-up testing, we hope to take preventative steps so students do not miss out on classroom instruction to make up tests.

PTO is sponsoring two free family events this week and next week:

- **Fri., Feb. 26 Wasco Unplugged!** Have fun with your family without electronics! 6:30-8:30 pm
- **Thurs., March 3 Family Art Night 6:30-8:30 pm** Create a masterpiece with your child and turn it into a coffee mug or other fun piece! Pizza and beverages will be provided.

Next Friday, March 4th is a D303 Institute Day (Elementary Work Day). **There is no school for students.** Teachers will be compiling and analyzing student data in preparation to report out on 2nd trimester student learning and growth. 2nd Semester Report Cards will be available to parents on Wednesday, March 9th at 8 a.m. on Home Access Center (HAC).

Weather and appropriate clothing at school: Each year, our optimistic students wish for spring and warmer temps to arrive sooner than they actually do. At the first glimmer of warmer temps, students shed their outerwear despite what the thermometer says. Please continue to send your child to school with warm winter clothing each day. As we have experienced, temperatures can change drastically within a school day. Students who do not have proper attire at recess will stay inside. As always, make sure each item is marked clearly with the student's name.

School Drop-off and Pick Up: Please remember the safety measures we ask parents to observe while dropping students off in the morning and/or picking them up in the afternoon:

- **NEVER** allow a student to unload or load from the driver's side. The traffic through the drop off/pick up lane presents a serious safety hazard. Students must either unload/load from the passenger side only (next to the sidewalk) or parents must park in the lot and accompany their child across via crosswalk. **NO** exceptions!!
- **NEVER** park in or obstruct the handicapped parking spaces to wait for or drop off/pick up your child. This is a law and we have many families who require access to the handicapped parking spaces. Instead, a parent can enter the drop-off/pick-up line or a parent should park and accompany their child to/from the front entrance via the crosswalk.
- **Cell phone use.** State law also prohibits cell phone use while driving in or near school zones. The Wasco School parking lot is a designated school zone. Please do not talk on your cell phone while driving in the parking lot.
- **Bus loading/unloading area is for buses only.** Please do not park along School Street to drop off or pick up your child and **NEVER** walk between buses...EVER.

Wasco School appreciates parent cooperation in these safety matters. We talk with our students daily about the four Wasco expectations and trust adults will model them too: Be Safe. Be Kind. Work Hard. Do the Right Thing. Thank you!

Our School Social Worker, Rebecca Schroeder and School Psychologist, Ashley Potocki are nearing the end of their three-lesson presentation of the Child Protection Unit from the Second Steps Curriculum. As you may remember, these lessons are presented to promote child safety and are in response to the Erin's Law implementation. Each class participated in three lessons which outlined safe, unsafe and unwanted touches and prepared them to know how to respond: recognize, report and refuse. The students have done a wonderful job demonstrating their

understanding and self-advocacy. Next up: Bully Prevention Unit and lessons. Stay tuned-parent information will be shared throughout the lessons.

PTO After School Enrichment March 14-18-information will be sent out soon.

D303 School Improvement Day: Friday, March 25-No School for students

Spring Break: Monday, March 28-Friday April 1st

Have a wonderful week....*Barbara Stokke*