



Brooks' Bulletin



November 2006

Report Cards

Friday, Nov. 3 was the end of the first trimester. This means that parents will soon be coming to school for conferences with teachers. We all look forward to this opportunity.

As noted, the report cards will be coming home with students on Wednesday, Nov. 15. Please take time to look them over prior to meeting with the classroom teacher.

Institute Day

Institute Days give teachers the opportunity to meet for their own professional growth and plan for student learning. On Nov. 7, we will be meeting to learn more about the MAP tests and how to use this student data. On Nov. 15, when the students in grades 2-5 bring home their report cards, they will also be bringing home an individual report from the MAP testing they did in October. Please know that during conferences, our main focus will be on your child's performance in the classroom. If you have a brief question about your child's MAP scores, the teacher will answer it. However, Dr. Smith is making a presentation at MSS on Nov.

28. She will be giving more in-depth information at this time. Right now, we only have baseline data that we will be using to make classroom, building, and district plans for student learning. We are all just learning how to use and interpret all of this new data that we have.

Student of the Month and Volunteer of the Month

At the October Board of Education meeting two members of the Isaac Fox community were recognized. Stevie Andress was recognized as the "Student of the Month". Stevie is in fifth grade in Ms. James class. Lisa Mosack was recognized as the "Volunteer of the Month". Lisa is best known for her work on the Health and Safety Committee. She assists in coordinating the Safety Patrol, and she was instrumental in organizing the "Walk to School Day". Bravo to both of them!!



Bus Safety

During the month of October, we recognized the bus drivers who bring our students to school safely every day. They certainly exemplify the CHARACTER COUNTS! pillar of "responsibility". In order to let them know how much they mean to us, we created a bulletin board for them. Attached to the board was an envelope for each bus driver. Students wrote letters to the drivers which we delivered to them via the transportation office. They were very excited to receive all of the kind notes.



Student Council Elections

We have many wonderful candidates running in the student council elections. This is a great opportunity



"Nothing you do for children is November 2006"

Dates to Remember

Nov. 7- Institute Day/Election Day

November 15- Report Cards Sent Home

November 16- Parent /Teacher Conferences 4-7:00 PM
Bd. Of Ed. Meeting-7:30 PM

November 21- Early Release
Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30-7:00 PM Market Day

Nov. 22-24- Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29- IF PTO, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria

Dec. 5- Fourth Grade Demo
Orchestra Concert- 7:00 PM, MSS

Dec. 20- Third Grade Holiday
Concert-7:00 PM (Bring a non-perishable food item, please.)

Dec. 21-Last day before holiday break which is Dec. 22-Jan. 7

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"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted."

Garrison Keillor

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Thanks

On behalf of all of the staff, I want to thank the PTO volunteers for the wonderful Book Fair/Silent Auction that we had here. They worked so hard! Due to all of their efforts a lot of books were donated to the library, and enough money was raised to purchase a permanent basketball backboard that will be wall mounted at a lower level for our younger students. They also have enough left over to begin a playground fund. This will be used to update and enhance our current playground. We are so fortunate to have such a great group of people in the Isaac Fox community!

CHARACTER COUNTS!

As we begin our second year of this program, we are trying to seamlessly integrate it into our school expectations. The focus in October was the pillar of "responsibility". Since home reading is an expectation at every grade level, the classroom teachers submitted the names of their students with the most home reading minutes. Then a random drawing was held by grade level to determine who within each grade level will be receiving a t-shirt! These names will soon be announced!

Weather

As the weather gets colder, please make sure your child comes to school with a warm jacket, hat, and gloves/mittens. The students go out every day, unless the windchill is close to zero or below.

Pennies for PADS

I'm proud to announce that due to the generosity of our students and staff, we were able to

donate over \$2000 to the Lake County PADS Crisis Center.

Their goal was to raise \$10,000 to help defray the cost of the replacement bus that had to be purchased recently. It is necessary for them to have a reliable carrier to transport the homeless men, women and children to a warm and safe shelter each night. They actually raised over \$12,000 and still have several organizations collecting money. They thanked us for "making a difference" in the lives of people less fortunate than ourselves.

School Safety

I always feel that my two biggest responsibilities are learning and safety for the students here at Isaac Fox. As we read about different incidents at schools across the country, please know that we take great precautions to ensure the safety of your children. On institute day, we will be going through a "code red" drill with the entire staff. In the near future, we will be holding a practice drill with the students in order to let them know the appropriate steps to take in case of an emergency. I will be sending home a letter with a specific week for this practice drill, which will be conducted in conjunction with the Lake Zurich Police Department to make sure that the plan we have created is effective. My letter will give you specific tips for language that should be used when discussing this with your students. Please know that all of us here take our responsibility for your children extremely seriously.

Traffic

At the beginning of the school year, a flyer went home outlining the specific procedures for drop off and pick up of students. It stated that this should be done in the front of the school. This is the same procedure followed by MSS.

It recently came to my attention that we had an unsafe situation in the rear parking lot. Parents were lining up to drop off/pick up students. There were near misses between busses and cars, and students were running between cars, in addition to other unsafe behaviors. My only recourse was to close off the back lot except for the originally stated purposes. This lot is only for parking and coming in to pick up students, or for parents picking up physically challenged students.

I appreciate your help in our efforts to keep students safe.

Wellness Suggestions

The nurses and I wanted to share with you some of the creative birthday treats that have come through the doors of Isaac Fox. Mrs. Noble's class has had whole wheat pumpkin bread, zucchini bread, apple bread. They've also had cheese and crackers and 100% juice popsicles. Ms. Gillilan looks for snacks that have fruits or vegetables as an ingredient. She's using two books with examples of good choices, and the students want to follow these good examples. In the office, we've seen jello, pudding cups, pretzels, apples, and nonfood items, such as colorful pencils.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jill Brooks, principal

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