Upcoming Event

Tuesday Night Lights: Tuesday, September 17th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

We hope to see you at the first Tuesday Night Lights of the school year, featuring the ever popular Truly Remarkable Loon, who will show you how you ‘Read Books and Juggle Everything Else’!

Mrs. Kepler’s Notes and Quotes

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Here at Emerson Elementary we are approaching the 2013-14 school year with the enthusiasm and belief that every student, every family and every staff member will achieve the greatness that is the hallmark of our community.

Karen Kepler,
Principal, Emerson Elementary School
Food Service at Emerson
Welcome Back for Breakfast

Welcome back for the 2013-14 school year from Ms Elisha Bouvais, Emerson’s amazing cafeteria coordinator and the other staff who support breakfast in the cafeteria. Ms. B. is responsible for ordering the amount of food needed daily to serve and have it heated and ready at the appropriate time to for each meal. It is also her responsibility to be sure Emerson’s cafeteria meets all safety and cleanliness standards, including any special needs such as allergies and special food orders! There is no photo of Ms. B in this article because she never stands still!!

Students may enter the building beginning at 7:20, come into the cafeteria through the back door by the Library, pick up their breakfast card (color coded by grade level) and walk to the food service area to turn in their card and make their choice. Children have the privilege of sitting anywhere they choose.

It is important for students to check the monthly breakfast/lunch menu so they know if they are going to choose the daily special or cereal. Every day students have the choice of juice or a piece of fresh fruit and low fat or skim milk. Cereal is a choice everyday as well and includes a stick of string cheese! Yummm!

Breakfast service ends at 7:35. Please be sure your children are in the cafeteria so they have enough time to eat before the bell rings at 7:40. Children who are running late and need to bring their breakfast with them are welcome to eat in the cafeteria within the regular breakfast schedule. They may purchase milk for 50 cents. Juice and fruit are not available for purchase.

Many students come in and eat, clean up their area and still have time to head out to the playground for a short recess. Our goal in the Emerson Cafeteria is for all children to start their day having a relaxed and pleasant experience eating good, healthy food!

Welcome Back for Lunch, too!!

As soon as breakfast is cleaned up Ms. B. gets started tabulating the lunch counts she picks up from each class!

It takes a special skill to put in the lunch order and get enough A choices or B choices so that as many students as possible get the lunch they really want. This process is complicated by students coming in tardy so their lunch choice is not marked on the class chart.

Please know that Ms. B. does her best, however some days students who arrive at school late may not get a choice as Ms. B. has already placed the order with a few extra of only one of the choices.
How do you pay for lunch or milk??

There are envelopes printed for sending lunch account money to school. They are located in the office or you may send a note and ask a teacher to send one home in the Eagle Folder.

At any time families may send in a check which will be recorded in their student’s account. Each day your student has lunch or a carton of milk with a cold lunch from home it is recorded in their lunch account. Students may also bring 50 cents to pay for a carton of milk on a day when they are having lunch from home.

It is important for your child to be prepared to report in the morning when lunch count is recorded if they are purchasing milk from their account or with ‘2 quarters’.

We are here to serve our students!

Please feel free to ask for clarification on any breakfast or lunch questions you may have for Ms. B. If your child has any dietary restrictions be sure to have a statement from your medical professional on file in the Health Office.

To assure the healthiest, well-balanced meal for all of our Emerson Eagles we expect children to only eat their own lunch! We also expect milk to be consumed for those healthy bones to grow. Thanks for supporting our dietary goals here at Emerson!

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Emerson Awarded $800 for Saving Energy!

With Special thanks to the 2/3 Power Patrol Club led by Ms. Gallagher!

Dear Principal Kepler,

On behalf of MMSD and McKinstry’s powerED program, I am pleased to inform you that Emerson Elementary School has been awarded $800 in recognition of its energy savings. Of all Madison elementary schools, Emerson Elementary School demonstrated the second greatest reduction in energy use this year as compared to last year. Congratulations!

Please take a moment today to recognize and celebrate the efforts of everyone at Emerson Elementary School for their outstanding efforts in achieving these savings. By communicating this achievement to staff and students before the end of the school day today, you can inspire the Emerson community to carry forward energy saving behaviors and good habits into next school year.
This monetary award is part of an incentive program that rewards MMSD schools that actively save energy through McKinstry’s powerED Program and the People.Power.Planet Campaign, sponsored by Sustain Dane and McKinstry. By powering down computers and lights and optimizing the heating, cooling and ventilation of buildings, MMSD schools have collectively reduced their carbon emissions by 11,706 metric tons since July 2010. This translates to 2,439 cars off the road! Last year alone, the District saved over $397,000 in lower energy bills!

Later this summer you will receive information from accounting regarding the distribution of these funds.

Again, congratulations to the students and staff of Emerson Elementary School. I applaud your leadership in reducing energy use and thank you for your continued commitment to modeling environmentally and fiscally sustainability for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Julie Jarvis - Program Manager, Sustain Dane

John Finnemore - Director of Building Services, Madison Metropolitan School District

Glenn Bolt, LEED AP - SBS Project Director, McKinstry

Counselor's Corner

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year!

As we transition back into classrooms, it is a good time to think about the MMSD’s goal in ensuring that education addresses the “whole child”. In doing so, we focus on both academic learning as well as social emotional learning. Social emotional learning, or SEL, is a process through which students and adults develop the fundamental social and emotional skills for life success.

The MMSD has adopted the Second Step program as a means of teaching these life skills. The first unit in the program focuses on skills for learning. You can support your child’s social emotional development with the Home Links activities that are available from your child’s teacher for almost every Second Step lesson. Many families have enjoyed completing these activities together.

You may also find it helpful to read books together about starting school and talk about the hopes, dreams, and goals your child(ren) have for the upcoming school year. The books listed below could be used to inspire your conversations:
Meet David Kent Watson,
Emerson’s new AmeriCorps VISTA!

Hello All! My name is David Kent Watson and I am the new AmeriCorps VISTA here at Emerson. I’m really looking forward to an exciting year. I already know that this school and the surrounding community are uniquely vibrant.

A little bit about myself: I went to college at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where I learned all things creative on the computer: web design, graphic design, audio production and video production. This is my second AmeriCorps year, my first was with an educational organization called City Year. Currently, in Addition to being your VISTA I serve on the Board Of Directors at WORT 89.9. I also produce the Monday Morning 8 O’Clock Buzz at the station. In my free time I like to play and record music, make music videos, and play ultimate Frisbee.

MMSD Bicycle Policy: Board of Education Revised Procedure allows 4th and 5th Graders to Bike to School

In August, the BOE approved a change in the Procedure within Policy 4233 regarding student bicycle use. The revised Procedure allows all students in 4th grade or above to ride a bike to school. Students in younger grades may ride a bike to school if accompanied by an adult, or if their parents request and obtain approval from the school Principal. Bike riders must wear helmets and lock their bikes, and Principals may establish their own rules regarding bicycle use on school grounds. The revision was made with input from teachers and principals. Visit the Safe Routes to School webpage to read the text of the new Procedure, and for resources you can use to enforce and implement the policy, including how to get helmets and bike locks for students. If you have questions, contact Sonia Dubielzig at 663-5454 or sdubielzig@madison.k12.wi.us.