Dec 2014/Jan 2015
Calendar Dates

Tuesday, December 9
Parent Info Session, 6:00, Bobcat Gym
PTO meeting, LMC 6:30 p.m.

December 22 —January 2
Winter Break

Monday, January 5
Back to school

Tuesday, January 13
Parent Info Session, 6:00, Bobcat Gym
PTO meeting, LMC 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 19
MLK Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday, January 22
Spelling Bee

Tuesday, January 20–23
Jump Rope for Heart all week for K-3

Friday, January 23
Dismiss @ 11:35
Jump Rope for Heart for 4/5
Grade reporting, No 4K p.m. class
End of 2nd quarter

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PRINCIPAL CORNER

Brrr! The weather has quickly changed and winter is definitely here.

Our students are doing a great job academically and socially—a positive feeling is present throughout the building. With Winter Break just around the corner, the excitement and anticipation associated with the seasonal activities can tend to distract students. Please help your children maintain their focus and encourage them to give a 100% effort while in school.

Last month we focused on "Being a Buddy, not a Bully." We had an all school assembly focused on having empathy for others and concluded our celebration with an anti-bully pledge and a peace walk. Thank you for braving the cold to come to your child’s conference to hear about their successes and to partner with the teachers to ensure a successful year. School/home partnerships have a great impact on student achievement.

Please join me on Tuesday, December 9 for my next parent information session. This meeting is designed for parents to receive information regarding our progress towards our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and to discuss any issues, concerns, or challenges that they may have with the school.

May you have a safe, restful, and enjoyable holiday season,

Mrs. Larson

SAFE ARRIVAL LINE

When calling the safe arrival line, 204-1406, remember to give a reason for the absence or for the late arrival. If coming in late, let us know if your child needs a hot lunch. Choice A or B.

NO DROP OFF ZONES—REMINDER

Please remember that there is no drop off for unauthorized persons in the staff parking lot or in front of the school building. The Madison Police Department will be out in the next few weeks observing drivers and potentially ticketing anyone dropping students off in NO DROP OFF ZONES.
BOOK FAIR IS A HUGE SUCCESS
Our book fair was held the week of Nov. 17th after school and during PT Conferences! We thank all our families who attended this exciting event. Through their purchases, we raised over $1,000 dollars to support the LMC and teachers received many books to complement their classroom collections. We strive to purchase high quality, multicultural, and accessible books, media, and technology for the LMC. The book fair helps to achieve this while promoting a love of reading and learning at home and at school. Thank you to all the volunteers and families for their support of our Library Media Center! Happy Reading!

BREAKFAST PROGRAM
We have noticed students coming to breakfast long before the 8:00—8:20 breakfast time. If students are early, they must wait outside. Unsupervised students not eating breakfast are encouraged to not arrive before 8:15 when supervision begins.

LOST AND FOUND
Please be sure to have your child check the Lost and Found in the next couple of weeks. We will be donating items left there to Goodwill right before Winter Break.

TOYS
The holidays may bring new toys for some children. Please remember all toys/items should stay at home unless on display for a “Special Person Week” in classrooms. This eliminates the possibility of items being lost or misplaced at school.

From Mr. Krabbe
I have a working portfolio for all current Elvehjem students (as well as last year’s 5th graders) containing all their graded work in General Music class. Parents and guardians are welcome to view their child’s work at any time. Just email tkrabbe@madison.k12.wi.us or call to make an appt.

NEWS FROM PHY ED
In January all students will have the opportunity to participate in the Jump Rope for Heart (JRFH) program. Students in grades K-3 will participate during PE class from Tuesday, 1/20—Thursday, 1/22. Students in grades 4-5 will have the opportunity to participate on Friday, January 23rd. 4th graders 8:40—9:40 and 5th graders 9:40—10:40.

A BIG THANK YOU
The Elvehjem staff was treated to a PTO sponsored dinner on November 19th, Parent Teacher conferences. A BIG THANK YOU to PTO and Olive Garden for the wonderful food.

After School Back-Up Plans?
What would happen if your child got off the bus and no one was there to greet him/her? Would your child know what to do? Where would you want your child to go? Do you have a backup plan? We strongly encourage parents to develop safety plans with their children. Here are some things to think about:

- How your child can get into your house or apartment
- How parent(s) or caregivers can be reached
- Where to go if parent(s) or caregivers are not home
- Other children who get off at your child’s bus stop
- Whether your child knows how to cross streets safely
- Whether your child know how to walk home

Everyone knows how scary it is when a young child is lost, even for a few minutes. Having safety plans helps empower your child and helps everyone to have a better sense of safety.
PTO CORNER

Weekly PTO emails
Make sure you keep up-to-date with PTO school activities! Each Sunday around 5 pm, the PTO sends an email to all parents, guardians, and staff of Elvehjem Elementary. This email comes from lvmp-to@gmail.com -- make sure to add this to your address book/safe senders list. If you don’t currently receive our emails, check your account’s junk mail or trash folder. If you still don’t see it, email us at the address above and we’ll be happy to add you to the list!

Snowflake Ball
The Snowflake Ball has been cancelled this year due to negative feedback from staff and families.

Families Helping Families
Families Helping Families is our school program designed to help Elvehjem kids in need. We are looking for the following donations—please help if you can!

Food Drive. From November 21–December 12, we’ll be collecting non-perishable breakfast and lunch items to provide to our families in need during the winter break. Good choices include cereal, canned fruit/vegetables, applesauce, peanut butter & jelly, pasta, rice, soup, meals in a box, etc. We’ll have a barrel or box inside the front doors for your donations.

Winter Clothing. As the weather cools down, it’s time to think about coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves for all of our kiddos. If you have any gently used winter wear that you could donate, please bring it to Room 129 (by the office) so that we’ll have extras on hand and/or can pass along to an Elvehjem child in need.

Book Fair: Thank you to all families who volunteered their time or contributed food for the Book Fair and the Chili Cook-off & Family Game night in November. Our community of involved families, teachers, staff, and administrators is what helps make Elvehjem great, and all of our kids benefit as a result. THANK YOU!

We Need Your Box Tops!
As you all know, LVM collects Box Tops, among other things, for money to use for our school. Last year alone, LVM PTO raised over $1,700 from Box Tops. That money was used to help fund new technology in our school. Thank you! Since the beginning of the school year we have already collected over $1,000 worth of Box-Tops. We need your help to reach our goal of $2,000 for the 2014/2015 school year. A new collection sheet will be coming home in a few days. Please give all collection sheets and bags of Box Tops to your teacher -OR- place them in the white mailbox in the front school hall! Please don’t hesitate to contact me at mictrow@yahoo.com if you have any questions. Thanks and happy collecting!
Shelly Trowbridge

Clip Those Labels
Here’s an easy way to help our school. Clip any of the following labels and give them to your classroom teacher OR put them in the white mailbox located in the school entrance, across from the office. All of these labels add up, providing more opportunities for our students. Ask family and friends to help, too!

Box Tops for Education: found on General Mills, Hanes, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, and many other brands
Campbells Labels for Education: save UPC codes from Campbell's soup, Post, Swanson, Bic, and other brands
Prairie Farms: peel off stickers from gallon and half-gallon milk caps
Tyson Project A+: found on many ready-to-heat Tyson chicken products
MyCoke Rewards: Codes can be found under caps, inside tear-off 12-packs, or on multi-pack wraps of Coca-Cola products
Target REDcard: Target will donate 1% of your credit or debit REDcard purchases made at Target and Target.com to Elvehjem Elementary when you select our school through their Take Charge of Education program. Log in to your Target REDcard account or visit target.com/redcard/main for more info.
Attendance Dos and Don’ts

Do: Call the school every day that your child is absent.

To have your child excused from school, call a 24-hour voice mail line, Safe Arrival, at 204-1406. Safe Arrival is not usually checked after 9:30 AM by office staff. Please call before then or the night before.

Do: If you are not able to call the school, send a note with your child to explain why there was an absence. This note should be brought to the office and not given to the teacher.

A child can be excused for the following reasons:

- Illness (fever over 100, vomiting or diarrhea)
- Doctor/dentist appointments
- Serious illness of immediate family
- Death in the immediate family
- Extreme weather conditions
- Religious holidays

These reasons are considered an unexcused absence:

- Lack of transportation including missing the bus. All students at Elvehjem are bussed or living within walking distance.
- Staying home to take care of younger siblings.

Don’t: Go on a family vacation without letting the school know.

A parent can have their child excused for up to 10 days in writing. Please fill out Request for Excused Absence form at the Elvehjem office. Planned absences must be approved by the principal.

Don’t: Have your child miss more than 11 days of school if at all possible. Students who miss too many days of school miss out on a lot of learning.

Don’t: Let your child have unexcused absences. Students who have 5 half or full-day absences in a semester are considered habitually truant.

Do: Call Jenny Markwiese, Elvehjem Social Worker, at 204-1455 if you are having problems with your child’s attendance.

Elementary homeroom 3 periods

To increase accuracy on the amount of the students’ missed learning time, the elementary schedule now breaks the elementary homeroom into three parts; it is now a 3 period schedule. Homeroom period schedules are:

1st period  8:30—10:45
2nd period  10:45—1:05
3rd period  1:05—3:22
TEACHERS’ WISH LIST
Although holiday gifts are not necessary, the donations of the following would be appreciated:

Pencils, Kleenex & hand sanitizer for Specials teachers, Special Ed. teachers, Support Staff

Music—Krabbe
3x5 blank index cards, pencils, pencil tip erasers, a Rubik’s cube, a 4 color ink pen, children safe scissors

LMC

4K Teachers
Gift cards to Target & Michaels for games and supplies.

Kdg Teachers
Gift cards to purchase classroom materials. Walgreens, Target, Walmart, Staples, Office Depot/Office Max, Woodman’s, ITunes gift cards (for apps for iPads)

1st grade Teachers
Rohde—ITunes gift cards (for apps for iPads), Target gift card

2nd grade Teachers
Gift cards to Target, Barnes & Noble, Office Depot. Scissors and pencils for students. CD—boom boxes for classroom listening centers. Dominoes, dice, playing cards, plastic sheet protectors. ITunes gift cards (for apps for iPads)

3rd grade Teachers
McCormick—ITunes gift cards

5th grade Teachers
Slotten—Gift Cards for Target, Michael’s, Staples. Construction paper, folders, colored card stock
Jabs, Scherck—Gift cards for Target, Staples, Office Depot, Learning Shop
When is school closed due to weather?

November 2012

Dear Families of MMSD Students,

When the weather is bad, the Madison Metropolitan School District follows a set of guidelines for deciding if school will be open or closed. The district must make a decision that is the best for all students. We realize our decisions may create an inconvenience with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your child(ren). You are always the best judge of your child’s health and safety.

The process for deciding when schools are open or closed due to snow and/or ice

District staff members review the weather conditions beginning early in the morning. They talk with weather forecasters, the City Streets Department, Madison Police and Dane County Sheriff’s Departments, and school district staff to see if all buildings are accessible for students and staff.

MMSD consults with bus companies to see if buses will be able to travel safely to and from school. MMSD administration makes the decision whether to close schools by 6:30 a.m. or earlier, and then communicate this decision to all local news outlets and to parents via email, phone and text message.

How you can find out if schools are closed

On days when the weather is bad, listen to any local radio or television station for information about school closing. If during registration you have provided an email address and/or text message phone number in the parent portal to the Infinite Campus student information system, you will be contacted in the morning regarding a school closing. You may also check our website www.mmsd.org or MMSD-TV Cable Channel 993.

When schools are closed because of extreme cold

When the National Weather Service has a wind chill WARNING for Dane County in effect for the time just before the school day begins, we will make a decision if our schools should close. It is quite likely we will make this type of closing decision on the morning of the day in question. If there is a wind chill ADVISORY (and not a WARNING) for the county, schools will likely be open.

When schools are closed, all activities are canceled

When Madison schools are closed for the day, it also means that all activities scheduled in school buildings for that day are canceled. This includes all MSCR programs and all after school programs.

Why schools are generally not dismissed early on days when the weather is bad

In many of our families, adults work outside the home and they have no child care arrangements available before the end of the school day. However, if your schedule allows and if you feel your child(ren) will be safer at home, you can pick your child(ren) up before the end of the school day. If you do, go to the school office and request that your child(ren) be dismissed to you.
Elvehjem Elementary School Endowment Fund Makes Grants Possible

The Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools’ School Endowments provide each school with annual income that is used to fund creative and innovative programs and projects that are not funded within the core school budget.

This year Elvehjem Elementary School had $800 in endowment income available to use to make grants for imaginative programs and projects that propel student learning which can’t currently be funded through the core school budget.

Our grants committee decided to fund the following projects using the available endowment income:

$800 will be used to purchase sensory materials for each classroom. Plans include ongoing P.D. for staff to implement sensory breaks for kids within the classroom. Sensory break items, tools, games, and activities to promote social and emotional learning. Tools such as stress balls and sensory toys are often used to help students physically calm themselves. Funds will also be used to purchase board games and partner activities for use during supported learning time.

If you have any questions about the School Endowments, please contact Mary Bartzen at 232-7820 or mbartzen@fmps.org. To donate to our school’s endowment, visit the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools’ website at www.fmps.org.