November 2012

Calendar Dates
Monday, November 5
Opera for the Young, 9:30

Tuesday, November 6
General Election Voting

Wednesday, November 7
End of 1st quarter (45 days)

Tuesday, November 13
P.T.O. meeting, LMC, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 10
NO SCHOOL
Parent/Teacher conferences
BOOKFAIR 8—6
Market Day pick up
Bobcat Gym hallway, 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 21
WKCE Testing ends

Thursday/Friday, November 24-25
Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, December 5
Multico Assembly, Cafeteria, 8:40 am

Friday, December 7
Snowflake Ball, 6:00—8:00, Bobcat Gym

Tuesday, December 11
P.T.O. Meeting, LMC 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 20
Market Day pick up
Bobcat Gym hallway, 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Dec. 24—Jan 4
Winter Break, return on Mon, Jan. 7th

Principal’s Corner

Dear Families,

Elvehjem students and staff have had a very successful first quarter. Our staff have been very busy introducing new literacy curriculum and assessments to Elvehjem students. Staff have been aligned in grade level teams to better support your child’s classroom learning and social experiences. In conjunction with the Elvehjem Staff I applaud the parental support and volunteers that make a difference at Elvehjem on a daily basis.

A quick reminder that winter will be on our doorsteps soon. Please be sure that your child has winter clothing available and worn during the winter months. All Elvehjem students are expected to play outside at recess during the winter. We only have indoor recess during well below zero temperature days. A warm coat, hats, gloves are a must.

The Elvehjem staff and I look forward to seeing all of you during our parent teacher conferences scheduled on November 15th. See you then.

Regards,
Craig Campbell, Principal

LOST & FOUND

The Lost & Found is located in the back hall near the Library. Please stop by and look for your child’s lost items. We will have tables set up the week of parent/teacher conferences please take a look, as all remaining items will be donated the following week. Thank you.
**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the rare event that Madison Schools close because of inclement weather, please tune in to local television and radio stations. Madison always makes the determination by 6:30 a.m. If the schools remain open, but you feel it is unsafe for your child to attend school you are encouraged to make your own decision about sending your child/children to school. All absences due to weather are marked excused, and according to district officials, should not be considered when determining perfect attendance awards. Please use your best judgment in deciding whether or not to send your child.

When school is in session, we go outside for recess unless the temperature falls to dangerous levels. If temperatures or wind chills are above -5 degrees we go outside. Between -5 and -10, some discretion is used, and a decision is made based upon many factors. Below -10 degrees, we always stay in. This is well above the temperature where conditions become dangerous. Students are not allowed to stay in from recess because they are cold, or because parents send a note to keep them inside. If school is in session, and it is deemed safe to be outside, everyone goes out. Please make sure you send your child in appropriate clothing every day. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the office at 204-1400.

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**OPERA FOR THE YOUNG**

On November 5th, Opera for the Young performance of Cinderella at 9:30 will include the third grade classes, and their parents are invited. This will be the only chance for parents of third graders to see them perform this year as they will not be doing a spring concert.

**2012-2013 Handbook & Calendar corrections**

The April calendar and page 23 are missing from the handbook. We have attached them to this newsletter. March calendar and page 24 are in

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**2013 MMSD Recognition Awards**

Now Accepting Nominations for Distinguished Service Awards

Nominate a staff member or volunteer!

Submit nominations online at www.mmsd.org/awards. Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2013.
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND
STUDENT SUCCESS

Do you know what your child’s attendance rate is?

Did you know there is a powerful relationship between learning and school attendance? To increase student engagement and assist in student learning, Madison Metropolitan School District’s attendance policy states that all students will attend school on at least 94% of school days. To meet this goal, a student should not miss more than 10 days of school per year, including both excused and unexcused days. It is also essential that students arrive on time.

Students learn most effectively when they attend school every day. When students miss even a day of school, they are missing important lessons and essential skills needed for academic success. Making regular school attendance a priority at home just as we do at school establishes patterns of responsibility and commitment that will serve your child throughout their lives.

In order to build successful students, we must work together to do all that we can to help students attend school regularly. Here at Elvehjem we are striving to create partnerships between families and schools to identify any reasons why a student is not attending school on a regular basis.

If your child is having problems attending school on a regular basis, you are strongly encouraged to contact Mike Plantz (204-1455) the social worker here at Elvehjem. She will work with you and your child to understand the causes of your child’s absences and develop a plan which will identify home, school, or community resources available to support school attendance.

Reminder: According to MMSD’s new attendance policy, arriving more than 15 minutes late is now considered a third of the day absence.
PTO CORNER - Building a Strong School Community

Thank you to the families who joined us for the fall fundraiser—CHALKATHON. It is wonderful when our families can join us at events at the school and get to know what is happening with your children when they are at Elvehjem. The designs were amazing and students had a great time.

REMINDERS:

Market Day Pie Sale is in full swing...a great way to stock up on delicious, frozen pies for the holidays. ORDERS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12. Pick up is Thursday, November 15th from 3:30—4:30pm.

We will host the 6th Annual Snowflake Ball at LVM on Friday, December 7th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is a free event, however donations are gratefully accepted.

We also have several FUNdraising Initiatives that can be part of your everyday lives:

Box Tops for Education, General Mills box tops label—Goal $1600. Each Box Top is 10 CENTS, would you throw out a dime? Clipping Box Tops is an fun easy way to have you child/ren be involved in FUNdraising too!

Labels for Education, Campbell’s labels—Goal 10,000 labels. Post Cereals is now participating in this campaign.

Contact person for both BTFE and Labels: Shelly Trowbridge, dmtrow@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our school and children!

lvmpto@yahoo.com,
http://lvmpto.digitalpto.com/

Or drop a note in our white mailbox near the front door.

Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools

FMPS is sending Madison’s Leaders Back to School

Since 2004, the Foundation for Madison’s Public School’s A Principal Experience (formerly known as Principal for a Day) has built relationships between Madison’s community leaders and MMSD students and staff. This year, Bob Morris from Morris & Associates served as our school’s “Principal Partner” during the event held on Tuesday, October 16. Principal Partners learn just how much students and staff accomplish in a single day and that the job of a Madison public school principal is both challenging and rewarding. A Principal Experience forges relationships between school and community leaders, laying the basis for new partnerships that support and strengthen Madison’s public schools. It is our hope that Principal Partners take their experiences back to their businesses and adopt the school they visited. The Foundation’s Adopt-a-School program cultivates, nurtures, and sustains partnerships between schools and the Madison community. Adopt-a-School partners provide a combination of volunteer time, in-kind contributions, and financial resources to meet the needs of students. In return, businesses receive a multitude of benefits including an increased sense of pride and involvement in Madison’s public schools and the awareness that they are contributing to the success of our next generation of leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a Principal Partner next year or would like more information about the Adopt-a-School program, visit www.fmps.org<http://www.fmps.org/>, email mbartzen@fmps.org, or call any of the office staff at (608) 232-7820.
Book Fair
Thursday Nov. 15th
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Online Book Fair Nov. 10th-Nov. 30th

Our Book Fair will be held one day only this year on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Conference Day).

We are pleased to bring you this Book Fair, because it gives you and your children the opportunity to buy carefully selected, quality books and products at affordable prices. You’ll enjoy the excitement and atmosphere! Plus, proceeds from this event will benefit our school library collection.

We’ve attached a Book List that previews only a few of the books offered at the Fair. Students will see an author video promoting the event the week of Nov. 5th. You and your family are invited to come during any of our open hours. Children do need an adult to attend with them. We have books for all ages, including some adult titles. We think that you’ll be surprised at the varied selection and reasonable prices.

We will have gift certificates available for families that would like to add books to classrooms or the Elvehjem Library.

As always, our Scholastic Book Fair promises to be a great even for literacy and our school. We urge you to attend, and look forward to seeing you there.

If you are not able to attend take please take advantage of our Online Book Fair at http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/LVMLMC. Online fair is available from Nov. 10th-Nov. 30 and all profits benefit the LVM LMC. Great for gift giving and shop from the comforts of home.

We accept Master Card and Visa.
When is school closed due to weather?

January 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

Why school starts are not delayed on days when the weather is bad but will improve during the day

In many of our families, adults working outside the home are not able to adjust their work schedules or find child care to accommodate a later start. If your family transports your child(ren) to school, we appreciate the extra effort it takes on severe weather days and we acknowledge that the students’ arrival might be somewhat delayed.

When schools are closed for other reasons

If you have a question about whether schools or a particular school will be closed for reasons other than severe weather, we will communicate via email to those parents/guardians who have provided their email address to us via Infinite Campus – the online student information system. You can also listen to local radio or television stations, go to the school’s Web site or watch MMSD-TV.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation

For every family which is happy that school is in session on days when the weather is bad, there is another family that feels schools should be closed. The decision to open or close schools during inclement weather brings out some of the strongest community reactions – no matter which way we go with our weather decisions.

We appreciate your understanding of the difficulties in making this decision, and your support in helping your child get to school safely on winter days. Please know that we will use safety considerations in making all of our weather decisions.