October 2012
Calendar Dates
Friday, October 5
PLAA/PMA testing ends

Tuesday, October 9
LVM PTO Meeting, 6:30—8 pm, LMC
Free Childcare in Bobcat Gym

Tuesday, October 16
Principal Experience
Open House, 6:00—7:30

Thursday, October 18
Schuster’s Playtime Farm,
Kdg., 12:10—2:05 p.m.
Market Day pickup, 3:30—4:30,
Bobcat Gym hallway

Wednesday, October 24
Picture Retake Day

Thurs., 25th & Fri. 26th
Professional Development
NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, Oct. 31
MAPS testing ends

Open House
Due to district conflicts on October 9th, our Open House has been moved to Tuesday, October 16th from 6:00—7:30 p.m. The PTO meeting will return to Tuesday, October 9th 6:30—8:00.

November Parent-Teacher conference sign up will also be available in the Cafeteria during Open House.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents:

Our school year is off to a tremendous start. I want to thank everyone who attended Ready Set Go Conferences before the start of the school year. Parent—teacher communication is so important for the success of your child in school. We value your support and suggestions throughout the school year.

Craig Campbell
Principal

Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools

FMPS 101: Intro to Investing in Our Schools

Once again September has arrived and with it those changes from sunscreen to packing lunches, from family vacations to homework help. As busy parents, you may not have heard of the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools (FMPS). Maybe you have but just aren’t sure how it helps your school. FMPS brings alumni, parents, friends, corporations and even other foundations together to create opportunities that privately support our schools, inspiring every student to excel.

Through the Foundation’s work, we have invested millions in our schools to support students in all of Madison’s public schools. From academics to athletics and field trips to scholarships, FMPS funds opportunities to create a brighter future for every student in our public schools. Through our numerous grants and school endowments, we provide resources to support quality education through innovative programs and imaginative approaches. Through our passthrough funds, FMPS has helped build school playgrounds, ensure students have access to dental care, and provided free breakfasts to students in need.

As we embark on the new school year, FMPS' commitment to enriching the educational experiences of all students continues, and we are eager to expand our efforts by building even stronger partnerships. To learn more about FMPS and our many programs, visit www.fmps.org, email fmps@fmps.org, or call any of the Foundation staff at (608) 232-7820.
You can never be too prepared!

We would like to urge all families to send an extra change of clothes to school with their children. These clothes should stay in your child’s locker at school. Here are a few reasons why it is nice to have a change of clothes at school:

- Clothes are wet from rain or snow
- Spilled food
- Mess from paint or markers
- Accidents that might make clothes dirty
- Rips or tears from playing

Also the health office is always looking for clothing donations, especially in small sizes. Items we could use are gently used coats, hats, mittens/gloves, scarves, small pants with elastic waistbands, small shirts, small sweatshirts, socks & winter boots.

Do your children get enough sleep?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Total Sleep</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0—3 months</td>
<td>14—16 1/2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>3—9 months</td>
<td>14—15 hours</td>
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<td>1 year</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
<td>12—12 1/2 hours</td>
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<td>4 years</td>
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<td>5 years</td>
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<td>6 years</td>
<td>10 3/4—11 hours</td>
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<td>7 years</td>
<td>10 1/2—11 hours</td>
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<td>8 years</td>
<td>10 1/4—10 3/4 hours</td>
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<td>10—12 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>13—24 years</td>
<td>9—9 1/2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 and older</td>
<td>8—8 1/2 hours</td>
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**DIRECT PHONE NUMBERS FOR LVM**

Craig Campbell, Principal 204-1403
Pat Gallagher, Main Office 204-1400
SAFE ARRIVAL LINE 204-1406
Jeneile Luebke-Cleary, Nurse 204-1408
Laurie Matthews, Nurse's Asst 204-1409
Mike Plantz, Social Worker 204-1455
Kim Miller, Psychologist 204-1460
Lana Johnson, Kitchen 204-1420
Auto Attendant Voice Mail 204-1402
than press 2 and put in the ext. #

**SUPPORT SERVICES SCHEDULES**

New schedules for the 2012-2013 school year, this is when you can find us....

Jeneile Luebke-Cleary, Nurse is in the nurse’s office Monday and Friday afternoon, and all day Tuesday. She can be reached at 204-1408. When she is not at Elvehjem, she can be reached at Kennedy School @ 204-3432.

Laurie Mathews, Nurse’s Assistant 204-1409, is in the nurse’s office in the mornings.

Kim Miller, School Psychologist 204-1460, is here Monday & Tuesday all day, Wednesday morning & Thursday afternoon.

Mike Plantz, School Social Worker, 204-1455, is here everyday.

**B-DAY PARTY INVITATIONS**

Please do not have your child bring birthday party invitations to be passed out at school. This can cause hurt feelings among students who are not invited. It has caused disruptions in the classrooms.
**VOLUNTEERING IN MMSD**
At Elvehjem School we are following the district policy related to volunteer disclosure statements. The responsibility the MMSD has to its school children and community necessitates gathering information from all volunteers regarding arrest and conviction records.

If you plan to volunteer on a regular basis or go on field trips, you must fill out a Volunteer Disclosure Statement that is provided in the school office. This form only needs to be filled out once, not every year. Failure to complete this form accurately and completely will disqualify a volunteer from consideration for volunteering or will be cause for removal from volunteer assignments. If you have any questions, please see Craig Campbell, Principal of Elvehjem School.

**VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**
Kindergarten hearing screening will be done on Tuesday, October 2nd. If your child doesn’t pass this screening, you will receive a referral letter to have an exam by a doctor.

Kdg, 3rd and 5th grade vision screening will be done on sometime in November, and again you will receive a referral letter if your child does not pass this screening.

Please contact Jeneile, the nurse, if you have questions or need any help arranging follow up appointments. 204-1408

**BIKE PERMITS**
Students must be 10 years old to ride their bike to school. Stop at the office to fill out the bike form.

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**Lost and Found!**
Did your child come home without his or her coat? Check out the Lost and Found near the back door/library. Jackets, hats, lunchboxes, shoes, etc. can be found there.

**WISCONSIN KNOWLEDGE & CONCEPTS EXAMINATION (WKCE)**
All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders across the state of Wisconsin will participate in the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) during the official window of November 5 – November 16. Fourth grade students are assessed in the areas of: Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. There is also a required written language component. Third and Fifth graders are assessed in reading and math only. Parents are encouraged to ensure a healthy breakfast, a good night sleep and schedule appointments around these times. Teachers will communicate exact testing times to families.

**MAPS Testing**
On October 1st thru October 18th, third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be participating in an assessment called MAPs (Measure of Academic Progress). This on-line reading, language and math assessment is given in the computer lab in Oct, Jan, and May. All third-fifth graders in MMSD will participate. Parents will be notified of their child’s results. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Campbell.
**PLEASE NO PETS ALLOWED!**

In accordance with board policy and to maintain the safety of all students and adults at Elvehjem, dogs and other pets should not be brought onto the school grounds or into the school building before or after school. If you are picking up or dropping off your child with an animal in tow, please arrange to have your child meet you on the sidewalk across or down the street. If you wish to obtain special permission for your pet to visit your child’s classroom during the school day, please speak to your child’s teacher or the school office. We appreciate your help in maintaining school safety by complying with this policy.

**STUDENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP**

Whenever possible, we encourage families that live within our walk zone to walk to help eliminate traffic congestion. Please observe the No Standing, Stopping or Parking signs in front of the school (little yellow guys). Also, please avoid using the back parking lot to drop off students behind school. It is essential that you do not stop in the middle of the road to drop off or pick up your child/ren. All children have been explicitly taught crosswalk safety. Especially during our peak traffic times, children have been encouraged to remind adults and other kids “it’s only safe to cross in the crosswalk.” Parents need to wait for their child outside at dismissal time. We are counting on all of you to obey established safety procedures and practices.

**FALL HARVEST PARTIES**

We will hold Fall Harvest Parties in place of Halloween theme parties. In accordance with district policy and due to the increasingly diverse population amongst the Elvehjem student population and community, parties **will not** include Halloween costumes. Your child’s classroom teacher will communicate with you about any activities that may be planned.

**NEWS ABOUT SAFETY PATROL**

What our Safety Patrols do:
- Safely cross students at intersections
- Help primary students at lunch walk to recess
- Set a good example for younger students
- Role models in the classroom
- Report unsafe behaviors to teachers/principal

Parents, please help our Safety Patrols by:
- Going to a Safety Patrol intersection to cross the street
- PLEASE help set the example for all by waiting with your child to be crossed by a safety patrol
- Safety Patrols are specifically trained NOT to stop traffic and wait for a safe opening to cross
- Only an adult crossing guard or police have that authority
PTO Corner—Building a Strong School Community

The LVM PTO meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the LMC from 6:30—8:00 pm. There is free child care provided in the Bobcat Gym. If you have questions, concerns, ideas or would just like to drop us a note please use the middle mailbox in the front hall. Again this year we have a WEBSITE and Facebook page, like us for updates:

http://lvmpto.digitalpto.com/
https://www.facebook.com/#!/lvmpto

This year we would like to continue to focus on families and building a strong school community. With that in mind we have planned family friendly events the school year. Many of these events are completely free, and others are free with the option to participate in a FUNdraiser based on the event (see our calendar of events).

Would you like to help out your school, but can’t make our meetings? We have many opportunities for volunteering. Join a committee, send in a dish to pass for Teacher Conference luncheon (Nov. 15), volunteer at one of our events, or chaperone a field trip. Every little bit helps our school and our children! Watch for information on these activities in your child’s backpack, visit our website or join our email list and get weekly updates from the LVM PTO in electronic form. Send us an email lvmpto@yahoo.com telling us you would like to be “IN THE KNOW” and we will add you to our listserv. We will not share your information with others, but will provide you information regarding events and activities by the PTO! If you have already signed up and have not received any emails, please contact us.

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

Box Tops for Education, General Mills box tops label—Goal $1250.
Labels for Education, Campbell’s labels—Goal 10,000 labels.
Tyson A+ Labels, labels from Tyson food products—Goal $250.
Contact person: Shelly Trowbridge, dmtrow@sbcglobal.net

Used Cell Phones and Ink Cartridges, recycle those old phones and used cartridges and earn money for our school.

Please place all of these items in a baggie or closed container. Leave them in the mailbox in the front hallway of the school. Thank you for your efforts!

In addition, we have added monthly Restaurant Nights. These take place the third Monday of the month.

NEW THIS YEAR! The LVM PTO will not be holding a large catalog sale this fall, instead students will be participating in an A-Thon fundraiser. This event will provide Curriculum Enrichment as well as 100% profit for the PTO to support all of our students and staff.

Stay informed through many options:

http://lvmpto.digitalpto.com/
https://www.facebook.com/#!/lvmpto
lvmpto@yahoo.com
**POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS PROGRAM**

Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) is a nationally recognized program that has been adopted by Madison Metropolitan School District and that has been in place at Elvehjem Elementary since 2009. PBS programs help students learn behaviors that are expected of them at school. This is accomplished by purposely teaching school behaviors just like teaching academic skills. School wide behavioral expectations at Elvehjem revolve around being SAFE, RESPECTFUL, and RESPONSIBLE learners. Students are instructed in what safety, responsibility and respect looks like across all settings at school (i.e. classroom, hallways, lunchroom, playgrounds and bathrooms). School staff acknowledges positive student behaviors as they are observed at school with the use of specific praise and by using “PAWS”. PAWS are tickets that represent our school mascot, the Bobcat, and are given to individual students or classrooms that demonstrate appropriate school behaviors. Students and classrooms accumulate PAWS for individual privileges and classroom celebrations. Ask your child how PAWS work in their classroom. Outcomes for schools utilizing PBS practices include decreased discipline problems, increased academic achievement and improved school safety.

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**ELVEHJEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Our plan as members of the Caring Majority

- Respectful
- Responsible
- Safe
- Caring

Above the Line

- Disrespect
- Bullying
- Fighting

Below the Line

- SERIOUS behaviors that make Elvehjem unsafe

Bottom Line
What's new at LVM? Many new initiatives are being implemented at Elvehjem (and across the district) to improve the performance of our students. It is an exciting time in education as we move forward as a district.

- **New Standards** As you may have read in a letter in your registration packet, the new Common Core State Standards are in place this year across the state for literacy and math. These standards determine what is taught at each grade level and what is expected in order to be determined to be "proficient". These standards were adopted by 46 out of the 50 states across the country. Our statewide assessments (for instance, WKCE and MAP) will be aligned to the expectations of these standards. Given this, we are in a "transitional" phase as a district. Our data may decline as our assessments get more difficult. Students who previously were "advanced" may now be "proficient", etc. ALL staff are working tirelessly to become familiar with the new standards and align their instructional practices to meet the new expectations!

- **New Reading Curriculum** Our new MONDO reading curriculum is being implemented in all K-3 classes and two 4/5 classes (who are piloting it for the district at that level). This new curriculum is much more rigorous and is aligned with the new standards. This is a huge investment for our district as we look to improve the learning of ALL students!

- **New Assessments at LVM** New state mandates require that schools formally monitor literacy progress three times a year. Teachers have always monitored growth based on text reading levels and other assessments depending on their grade level. Those assessments will continue. However, additional screeners will be included to give us more information about each learner and their progress toward grade level benchmarks. These new benchmark assessments are:
  1. **K: Phonological Awareness Screening (PALS)**
  2. **1-2: AIMS web** (a letter went home about this new screener) This assessment took place one on one September 25-28.
  3. **3-5: Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)** (which measures math and language skills as well twice a year and was piloted last year) This assessment will take place Oct. 1-18.

- Teachers will be able to share the outcome of these assessments at the November conferences. Information from these screeners will impact student grades, however, more importantly that information will be used to make instructional decisions and groupings.

- **New Teaming Structures** Classrooms are working together in "teams" (two-three classrooms) to meet the needs of all our learners. Your child may be working with another teacher during a particular time of the day. This structure is in place to allow for varied groupings of students so that everyone gets more attention and focused instruction.

Please contact Amy Kane, LVM Instructional Resource Teacher (akanemadison.k12.wi.us or 204-1461) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the new developments at Elvehjem!
What can I do if my child is being bullied at school?

Parents/guardians can access “Report of Bullying/Harassment Incident” forms in their school’s main office or online at: [www.madison.k12.wi.us/node/925](http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/node/925). The forms can be submitted to any staff member at your school and they will turn it in to the principal.

Parents/guardians can also verbally communicate concerns about bullying incidences to any staff member, who will then complete a “Report of Bullying/Harassment Incident.” If you’d like your child to receive support form a Student Services professional at school, contact your school’s Social Worker or Psychologist.

Parents/guardians of students that are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning can seek additional support through MMSD’s GLBTQ Coordinator, Liz Lusk at 663-8449.

If my child is being bullied outside of school and/or cyber-bullied via computer or cell phone, what is the school’s responsibility?

MMSD’s Anti-Bullying Policy prohibits bullying on “all school and district grounds and in all school and district buildings; at all school and district-sponsored activities; and on all vehicles used for transportation to and from school and school sponsored/district-sponsored activities.”

While it is not the responsibility of school staff to respond to incidences of bullying that occur outside of district grounds and during activities not sponsored by the district, these incidences often can carry over and have an impact at school. Student Services staff are available at each school to assist individual students with challenges outside the school environment and provide conflict mediation.

If I file a “Report of Bullying/Harassment Incident” with the school, what follow-up communication can I expect?

You will be notified following the investigation of the determination that was made – meaning, whether the report was determined to be unfounded or founded and, if founded, whether the incident was determined to be bullying or bullying/harassment.

You will be notified of the possible interventions available to your child and provided with a description of steps taken to assist your child including a safety plan, if appropriate. The school can NOT share information regarding disciplinary action and/or intervention implemented with other students (i.e. the student engaging in the bullying behavior) due to policies around confidentiality.

If I am not satisfied with the school’s response after filing a “Report of Bullying/Harassment Incident,” what next steps can I take?

Students and/or parents/guardians can appeal the determination made regarding the incident. To make an appeal, file a written letter of complaint, including the date and a signature, with MMSD’s Affirmative Action Office, District Administration Building, 545 West Dayton Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. For more information call Amos Anderson, 663-1530.
The Madison Metropolitan School District strives to provide an environment where every student feels safe, respected, and welcomed. Bullying can have harmful social, physical, psychological and/or academic impact on students who engage in bullying behaviors and bystanders that observe acts of bullying.

The 2010-2011 school year marked the first year of implementing the district’s Anti-Bullying Policy. The start of the 2011-2012 school year comes with renewed energy to ensure students and parents are aware of effective, more thorough bullying reporting procedures as well as enhanced anti-bullying practices in our schools.

District policy defines bullying as: “the intentional action by an individual or group of individuals to inflict harm when there is an imbalance of real or perceived power.”

Schools have outlined procedures for...
- Reporting bullying behavior
- Investigating the incident
- Determining whether acts of bullying were verified
- Carrying out interventions, and disciplinary action if appropriate.

How Families Can Report Bullying

In the event that your child shares that bullying has taken place, families are encouraged to access:

“Report of Bullying/Harassment Incident”

The one-page form is available in your school office and online at:

www.madison.k12.wi.us/node/925

Anti-bullying practices are part of each school’s system of Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and include:

- Training staff to prevent and intervene in bullying behavior
- Building community in classrooms and schools
- Teaching students strategies to intervene in bullying behavior
- Preventing bullying behavior through enhancing social and emotional capacities of students
- Group and individual interventions for students in need of more support
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
WHO: All 3rd – 8th grade students and their parents who are interested in Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search
WHAT: Informational Meeting
WHERE: Doyle Administration Building, 545 West Dayton St., McDaniel’s Auditorium
WHEN: October 13, 2011 6:00-7:00

WHAT IS NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY’S MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH? (NUMATS)
Each year The Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL, conducts the Midwest Academic Talent Search. Participation in this assessment is voluntary and at parent/guardian discretion. Students in grades 3-6 may take the EXPLORE test, a test designed for 8th grade students. Students who are in grades 6-9 may choose between the ACT and SAT tests, which are designed for high school juniors or seniors.

WHY MIGHT A STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN THIS TESTING OPPORTUNITY?
Reasons include:
• The testing process offers parents a way to learn more about their child’s academic ability. This may be the first testing experience a student has in which s/he does not know all of the answers, or is even able to complete the entire test. Therefore, information is gained regarding a student’s relative strengths. This information may be used to help inform instruction in the student’s school.
Students will gain information about other academic opportunities around the state and nation through the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY), Northwestern University, and other national organizations.

Students who typically score at the top (“ceiling”) of standardized testing may need this out of grade level assessment to measure their growth. It is recommended that students score at least in the 90th percentile in some area of their state tests or other standardized tests.

HOW CAN STUDENTS REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN NUMATS?
It is easiest to register on-line at http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats/index.html
You may also register by mail. Registration materials will soon be available and paper registration continues through October. Please contact Kerry Berns, by phone, 663-5230 or by email, kberns@madison.k12.wi.us, if you prefer to register by mail.

IS THERE ANY FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE?
There is a registration fee in addition to a testing fee to participate in NUMATS. Some fee waivers are available from Northwestern and WCATY for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Please contact Kerry Berns (see above) if you qualify for financial aid.