



Central Connection

Central Elementary School

Susan Roberts, Principal
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"Learning and Growing with Commitment and Peace"

WINTER

It's time to start thinking about COLD WEATHER!! Here are a few things we need to clarify for you.

SNOW DAY NOTIFICATION

When Portage Schools cancels or delays the start of school, the announcement will be made in time to make the 6 a.m. news on local television and radio stations. Parents may also check the District web site at www.portageps.org and click on the "Parents & Visitors" link for the WWMT-TV Channel 3 school closing announcements (you will see the link on the upper right, under the weather forecast). Portage Cable Access Channel 20 also carries school closing announcements.



SEVERE WEATHER

CONDITIONS DURING THE DAY:

Please stay tuned to the local radio stations, Channel 3 or Portage Cable Access (Channel 20) if you think the students may be sent home early. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO ASK ABOUT THIS. We are informed just before the message is called in to the stations. We need to keep



the lines open for emergencies.

STUDENT ILLNESS

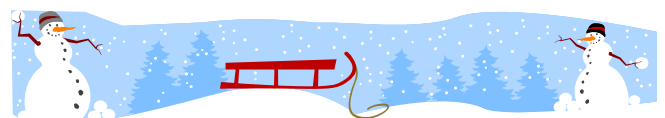
As winter weather descends upon us, so does the cold and flu season. With such a large concentration of people in an area, the "bugs" can spread very quickly.

For the health and wellness of all concerned (staff and students), please keep children who are ill at home where they can rest comfortably and recover without spreading the cold or flu to others. With your help we can have a healthier and therefore, more productive learning climate.

For children who are recovering from a cold or flu, an extra day of rest at home, to regain their strength may be helpful. Since all of our students go outside each day for a 30-minute recess, they must be healthy and ready to resume full activity. Our health room is not adequate to accommodate the many numbers of children who request to stay inside. If it is necessary that your child remain inside, please provide the office with a note from your physician stating the need.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for coming to Parent Teacher Conferences! Your interest and involvement at school shows your child that school is important to you and that you care about their progress. We appreciate all your support and your partnership!



WINTER BREAK

Students will have Winter break from December 21, 2009, through January 1, 2010. School will resume Monday, January 4, 2010. The staff at Central Elementary extends to you warm wishes for a very joyous and safe holiday season.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN DAILY RECESS

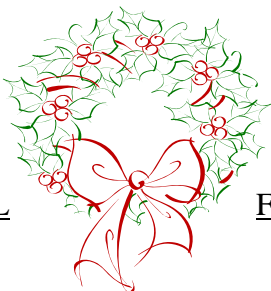
If the wind chill is above zero degrees, children have a thirty minute recess following lunch each day. It is more enjoyable for the children if they are properly clothed – hats, gloves, boots, etc. Your help is appreciated.

A REMINDER ABOUT THE FOOD DRIVE

The Student Council is sponsoring a Food Drive through Friday, December 12th and invites parents and students to donate a gift of non-perishable food items. With the tough economic times and layoffs in our community, we plan to lend a helping hand to families in our CEL community. The PTO and Student Council will be adding extras along with your donations to make sure the holiday and New Year are off to a great start. Thank you so much for your generosity. The Media Center is starting to get crowded with all the cans and boxes that have been donated so far!

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

Tutoring at no cost is available at the Portage Community Center for elementary through high school students who reside in the Portage Public School District. Tutoring is one-on-one and students are matched with volunteer tutors who are from local high schools, colleges, or adult professionals in the community. For more information, contact Tia for elementary students and Ruth for secondary students at 323-1942.



NO SCHOOL

FOR STUDENTS

Friday, January 29, is the end of the first semester. There is no school for students. Teachers will be working on records that day and preparing report cards.

BUS AND WALKING BEHAVIOR REVIEW

As we prepare for winter, we request that you review our shared expectations for bus and walking-to-school behaviors with your children. Please remind your children that while waiting for the school bus they are to arrive 5 minutes before the scheduled stop. Children are to wait in a group at least 10 feet away from the edge of a roadway.

Walkers need to stay on the designated route and be polite to the neighbors on their way to school. Children should not talk to strangers along the way. It is tempting when we are all gathered together to play and rough house but remind your children that not all drivers are watching for children. Encourage your son or daughter to create a safe environment by not running or chasing others. All elementary students know that snowballs are not permitted....not even at the bus stop or on the way to school.

Whenever possible we encourage parents to help at bus stops. Your presence helps to create a safer environment and is a great way for our children to start their day.

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Thank you to everyone for coming to the book fair! It was a great success. Winter Break is a great time to relax and read. Happy Holidays!

