



LAKE CENTER ELEMENTARY
"LEARNING CREATES SUCCESS"

**PARTNERS IN LEARNING
NEWSLETTER**

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Mark A. Root, Principal

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SCHOOL HOURS 8:43-3:42

YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN AM 8:43-11:44

YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN PM 12:40-3:42

JANUARY 2008

Dear Family,

Often times the new year is looked at as a time for new beginnings as well as a time to reflect on past practices. It's a time when people evaluate their goals and assess their needs. As you make your New Year's Resolutions, please consider the following tips:

AS A PARENT, TO START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT, I PLEDGE TO:

Participate in my children's education by supervising homework, talking with my children about school, and volunteering.

Acept my children for who they are. I will try to nurture those qualities that makes each of my children special.

Read to or with my children every day of the year.

Expect the very best from my children at all times.

Never let a day go by without telling my children that I love them.

Turn off the television for homework, reading time, and for special times with my children.

From our family to yours; have a safe and wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Root

END OF SEMESTER – There will be no school for students on Friday, January 25, which is the end of the semester. Teachers will be working on the first semester report cards that day.

REPORT CARDS – These will be sent home in February 4. Please do not seal the envelope when returning the signature card, as we will use these envelopes to send home report cards in April.

WEATHER AND RECESS – Children should come to school each day dressed appropriately for a thirty-minute outside recess. A decision is made each day concerning temperature, wind factor, dampness and playground conditions as to whether children go outside or stay inside at noon. We prefer that children do go outside whenever possible as we know they need the fresh air and opportunity for supervised physical activity in order to do their best work in the afternoon.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE – Our warmest thanks to Donna Bourbeau and Kim Bateman and the many parents who worked so hard to make the Boutique a success. Many hours of work on the part of many parents helped make this event a happy experience for the students to select their own Christmas gifts. Thanks for caring enough to give your time.

CLASSROOM VISITATIONS – you are always welcome to visit in your child’s classroom - however, we do ask that you let the teacher know in advance. Please be sure to sign in at the office when you do stop for a visit. Your continued support and cooperation is appreciated.

TOYS AT SCHOOL – Toys at school do cause considerable problems and classroom interruptions. Even with the best intentions, children find it hard to leave them in their desk or lockers until playtime. Therefore, teachers spend much time correcting and giving reminders. It is also difficult to keep other envious children from touching, and sometimes taking, desired items. We ask your cooperation in seeing that toys **are not** brought to school. Bringing balls and game equipment for the playground is acceptable. **Electronic games, radios, tape recorders, dolls, transformers, Beanie Babies, and other small games and toys are NOT ALLOWED.**

PROTECTIVE SERVICES INFORMATION – There are times when our staff members must make referrals to Protective Services. School staff members are required by law to make referrals to Protective Services if they suspect child abuse or neglect. Failure to report these acts is a misdemeanor and may result in civil liability. “Child abuse” as described in the law, means any harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare (including but not limited to parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child’s welfare), failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision or medical care. This includes students who are left unsupervised before and after school.

WHY IS THE BUS LATE? - As weather and road conditions challenge us at this time of year, our bus drivers are instructed to think safety before schedule. Therefore, some of

our routes may be delayed in picking up and/or dropping off students. We will continue on routes and service all accessible bus stops. Please have your students wait at their bus stops. For current information about your bus, call the transportation office at 323-5151. We are here until the last regularly scheduled student is delivered home safely every school day. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during inclement road and weather conditions.

LUNCH BALANCES NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH PIV - It is now easier to check to see if you need to send lunch money to school for your student! When you access your PIV account for your child, you can choose "MealTime Report" from the Pull down menu to see a report of the recent purchases and the current balance. This report is updated every night, so your report stays current. This report will tell you exactly what days the purchases were made, what item was purchased, the amount of the item purchase, and the remaining balance for the account. You may still contact the cashier for current balance or to have a printout sent home if you do not have access to a computer.

INPUT SOUGHT ON FACILITIES DESIGN

The District has been busy meeting with architects and construction management personnel since community approval on Nov. 6 of the \$119 million facility upgrades.

Programming, the initial phase involving input from a variety of constituents from each of the four locations – 12th Street Elementary, Northern High, Central High, and Lake Center – begins with the formation of steering committees. Focus groups may also be created as needed to work on special concerns and asset recycling teams will be formed to ensure efficient use of existing equipment in the projects.

The District Advisory Council, a districtwide think-tank of parents, faculty and staff, and community members, will also play a role in two-way communications on these projects.

Technology upgrades were approved for all schools within the District, and will begin during the second half of this school year.

Updates will be posted online at portageps.org and a listserv is being developed for interested citizens to receive e-mail updates.

