



## Moorsbridge Elementary

Dear Parent,

We hope that you are enjoying this holiday season and all the traditional ways your family celebrates this wonderful time of year. Our thanks to you and your family for helping with all the holiday parties and events these last few weeks! We could not do all the projects and fun activities for the students without YOU!

Congratulations to the Heerlyn family on the birth of their son Joshua Todd! Mr. Heerlyn is home taking care of everyone and will be back with us when school resumes in January.

You may have heard in the news about the wage concessions Portage staff have taken to keep our teachers and programs in place for our students. In another cost saving measure, the school year will be shortened by adding minutes to each school day. Starting January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 our school day will begin at 8:30 am and end at 3:47 pm. AM Kindergarten will end at the same time (11:44) and PM Kindergarten will still start at 12:35. Our school year will end on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. A copy of our school year and important dates went home earlier this week. We also have this information up on our website and it has been included with this flyer.

### 2010/2011 Kindergarten/Young Fives Enrollment

Do you have a child that will be five years old on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010?

Any child who will be five on or before December 1, 2010 is eligible to start school in the fall. Don't delay, registration starts January 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have a neighbor who has a child coming next year, please have them call our office at 323-6400.

On behalf of the Moorsbridge Staff, we wish you a healthy, happy and restful winter break. May the joy and peace of the season remain with you throughout the coming New Year!

Sincerely,

Nancy Haas

Principal

December, 2009

### Moorsbridge Mission Statement

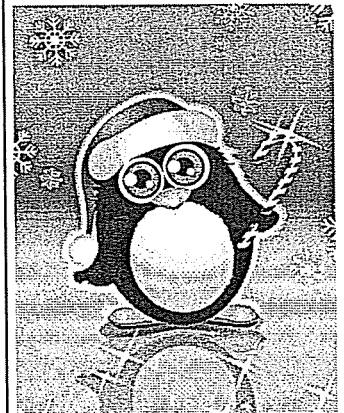
A community of active learners dedicated to instilling life skills while building a foundation for academic achievement.

7361 Moorsbridge Road  
323-6400  
FAX 323-6490

Nancy Haas,  
Principal

Cathy Hull &  
Lynn Daniel

Administrative Assistants



## How to Handle Absences

If your child will be late or absent, please call 323-6400 to let the office know before 9:00 am. Our answering machine is always on when the office is closed, so you may also leave a message. E-mailing the teacher is not always an effective means of letting the office know of an absence. We do not always get the e-mail forwarded on to us in a timely manner. If we do

not receive a call, we will do our best to contact a parent or guardian. Absences are only "excused" if we have heard from a parent or guardian regarding the absence. If we do not hear from anyone, the absence will be marked as "unexcused". If your child is dropped off late for school, please be sure to have him/her sign in on the pink sign-in sheet in the office. This

is the only way he or she will receive an excused "Tardy" on their attendance record and the only way we'll know they are in the building. If you know about a vacation or absence coming up in the future, feel free to let the office know ahead of time. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

## Snow Days

When Portage Public Schools cancels school due to weather conditions or other emergencies, news media is notified by 6:00 a.m. School cancellation information is also available online and via the phone. To access school cancellation information online, visit the Portage Public Schools webpage at [www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org), click on the "Parents & Visitors" box and then on

the next page look for the school-closing link on the right hand side. This link will take you to the WWMT-TV website that posts school closings. District officials have found linking to the WWMT-TV website is the fastest method for families. *Families may also call the Portage Public Schools "School Closing Hotline" at 323-6800 for updates on school closure informa-*

tion. A message is recorded and updated at the same time news media is notified of closures.

**Please note:** Anytime the district cancels classes due to severe weather, all afternoon and evening activities in all Portage Public School buildings are also canceled.

## 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 con-

tinue 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 sched-

uled student is delivered home safely every school day. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding

### NEW MATH UPDATE

Early math literacy is critical to success at the next level and, ultimately, for post-secondary educational opportunities. This year Portage Public Schools implemented a new elementary mathematics curriculum supported by the program, Scott Foresman. As you know, whenever we are learning new skills in a different context, there is an adjustment period.

Teachers have been reflecting on the success of the implementation, as well as areas that students are struggling with relative to the new learning expectations and materials. We are very pleased with the success of our implementation and our students' reactions to the new learning context.

If you would like to know more about the program and how you can help your child in mathematics at home, you can contact your child's teacher.

# Thank You Volunteers!

All the teachers and staff members at Moorsbridge would like to thank all the volunteers that worked so hard on the Conference night dinner. The food was delicious and we appreciate all your hard work. The staff here at MBE is very lucky to have such wonderful volunteers. Special thanks goes

out to the members of the Hospitality Committee: Patti Chen, Gail Krisitn, Rick Goodman, Manda Lewis, Michele Schwartz, Deb Hemenway, Nicole Colosky, Missy Nash, Katie Williams, Kirk Payne, Nancy Roorda, Tonia Lindsay, Brenda Welling, Kara St. Clair, Sarah Kominek, Julie Mellor,

Norma Sullivan-Thornton, Barbara Arango, Summer Grannan, Amy Wytko, Marianne Walsh, Stacy Burton, Jennifer Schaefer, and Tanya Greffe.

## Get Your MBE News in Your Inbox

By going to the MBE website and signing up for our mailing list, you will be emailed important events sent through iContact. iContact's role is to allow you to easily view a message, email newsletter, survey, or any other school update. This would also help to cut down on the number of paper copies being sent home. Look for the mailing list sign-up on the main MBE page, by simply entering your email address you will be contacted with any messages sent through iContact.



### MOORSBRIDGE, 2010 Teachers Instructional Calendar

December 21 – January 1	Winter Recess	
Monday, January 4	School Resumes	
Monday-Thursday, January 25-28	High School Exams	
Friday, January 29	Eod 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester - No School for Students Records Day	MP #2- 46 days of instruction Sem. #1 - 95 teacher days
Monday, February 1	First Day, Second Semester	
Tuesday, February 23	Conferences Y5s-12 Evening**+ (Students Attend All Day)	
Thursday, February 25	Confereoces Y5s-12 Evening**+ (Students Attend All Day)	
Friday, February 26	Mid-Winter Break – No School for Students and Staff**	
Friday, March 26	Spring Friday – No School for Students and Staff	
March 29 – April 2	Spring Recess	
Monday, April 5	School Resumes	
Friday, April 16	No School for Students Elementary Teachers Records Secondary ½ day records, ½ PD Records Day	MP #3 - 47 days of instruction MP #3 - 48 teacher days
Thursday, May 27	Accelerated Reader Awards During Lunches	
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day	
Wednesday-Friday, June 2, 3 & 4	High School Graduations	
Tuesday-Friday, June 1 – 4	High School Exams	
Wednesday, June 3	Kindergarten Graduation	
Thursday, June 4	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation	
Friday, June 4	End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester – Full Day for Students**	MP #4 - 38 days of instructioo Sem. #2 - 87 teacher days
	Last Day for Teachers**	Total Student Days 170 Total Teacher Days 181***

\*By agreement of 80% of a building's determined by a PEA run election, conferences may be held within a week before or after the suggested date.  
 +All teachers will be responsible for up to three (3) additional hours of conference time in order to accommodate any parent-teacher conferences that could not be accomplished during the times designated on the school calendar.  
 \*\*Cancellations beyond what the law allows will extend the final day of school beyond Friday, June 4, 2010.  
 \*\*\*181 contract days includes vacation days for Labor Day (1), Thanksgiving (1), and Memorial Day (1) and a compensatory day for spring conferences.  
 (12/14/09)



## Making Sense of Over-the-Counter Medicine

It can often be confusing for parents to know when and even if to use over-the-counter (OTC) medicines for runny noses, cough, or fever. Doctors voice concern over the effectiveness of many OTC drugs and the potential for parents to accidentally give their child an overdose.

“It is critical for parents to use a child’s weight, not age, to determine the correct dose. They also need to make sure they are carefully measuring out the recommended dose,” advises Sara Ehlke-Bejcek, MD, a pediatrician with Bronson Rambling Road Pediatrics.

### Cold and Cough Medicines

“I seldom recommend the use of (OTC) cold medicines because they just are not effective,” Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek comments. Instead she suggests using a humidifier and nasal saline drops, as well as drinking plenty of fluids and getting rest as ways to treat cold symptoms.

“The average cold or upper respiratory infection lasts between 10 to 14 days with the worst symptoms appearing between days three and six. If symptoms don’t seem to be resolving or are getting worse by seven or eight days into the cold or if your child’s behavior is not normal, then your child should be seen by a doctor,” explains Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek.

Cough medicines can be used with children six years of age and older; however, they should be restricted to nighttime use only to help with sleep. “If your child’s cough is productive and it isn’t interfering with sleep, then there is no need to use cough medicine,” Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek says.

### Fever and Pain Reducing Medicines

Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek strongly urges parents to use *only* ibuprofen or acetaminophen when managing a fever or pain. “When parents alternate between ibuprofen and acetaminophen there is an increased risk for overdose,” warns Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek. She suggests using whichever medicine works best and sticking with that medication.

She also cautions parents to pay attention to the strength of the medicine they are giving their child. She explains, “Ibuprofen and acetaminophen come in liquid and chewable forms as well as infant and children’s strength. These are concentrated differently so it is crucial to know what you are giving.”

To help avoid an accidental overdose, Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek also recommends writing down the time and amount of medicine given.

Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek concludes, “Use common sense and follow the guidelines when giving children (OTC) medicine. If you have doubts about whether a medicine is safe or how much to give, call your doctor.”

This article is provided by the Children’s Hospital at Bronson, southwest Michigan’s only children’s hospital, and Kohl’s. For more information about children’s health services, visit [bronsonhealth.com/children](http://bronsonhealth.com/children). To schedule an appointment with Dr. Ehlke-Bejcek, call (269) 324-2400.