



12th Street Times

October 2011

Dear 12th Street Families,

We are indeed "off and running" at a terrific pace. During September we have focused on building community in our classrooms and in the larger school community, teaching procedures and expectations while completing beginning of the year benchmark testing to set our learning goals for grade levels, classrooms and individual students.

During this month 3rd - 5th grade students will complete the MEAP test beginning on Tuesday, October 11th, please make sure your students are well rested and have a healthy breakfast prior to testing. This will give us feedback with how we are doing teaching State of Michigan curriculum.

PTO had a great turnout at our September meeting. Please mark your calendar for October 18th at 7:00p.m. and join us for further planning of great activities for our school. In addition to PTO meetings, I continue to offer Parent Forum meetings this year. The Parent Forum is an opportunity to learn about our school's vision and goals and discuss celebrations and concerns about our community. The October Forum meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00p.m. In November we will meet on Wednesday, November 30th at 7:00p.m. Meetings are held in the Activity Room on the second floor. In October I will share information about building Family and Community connections at our school based on training that we are attending at KRESA on Friday, October 7th.

Thanks to everyone who is doing their part to make arrival and dismissal a safe, smooth process each day. Several staff members have stepped up to be present both inside and outside the building. Let's continue to follow traffic guidelines in the drop off circle and utilize the parking lots if you are coming into the building.

Please contact me via email or phone anytime you have a question or concern.

Beth Green, principal
12th Street Elementary
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October, 2011

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Beth Green
Principal

Melanie Sage
Lynn Daniel
Administrative Assistants



Absences

12th Street Elementary now has an attendance line that may be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 323-6900 and follow the prompts to report an absence. We need the student's name, reason for the absence and the teacher's name. We ask that you call the office before 9:00 am on the date of the absence. All absences are recorded as unexcused until we hear from a parent or guardian. You must leave a message with the office even if you have already informed the teacher. We CANNOT accept emails for absences. We also appreciate a call if a student will be late due to an appointment.

MEAP

MEAP Testing begins the week of October 10th for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders and continues until the 19th. Make-up dates begin October 20. Please be sure your child is well rested and has a nutritious breakfast on the days they are testing. Breakfast is served here at school every day. If your child would like to eat breakfast at school, they may arrive at 8:15 and report to the cafeteria.



Food Allergies At 12th Street

Severe food allergies are becoming more and more prevalent in children. Eight foods account for 90% of all food-allergic reactions

(milk, egg, peanut, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat and soy).

Severe reactions can occur due to contact, inhalation and/or Ingestion of the allergen. Reactions to specific foods can range from rashes & hives to anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a reaction that leads to difficulty breathing, a drop in blood pressure and shock which are potentially fatal. ***At least 400 deaths per year occur from food anaphylaxis, mostly from peanut and tree nut allergies.***

At 12th Street Elementary we have a number of children with life-threatening food allergies. If exposed, these students may develop a life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate medical treatment. ***There is no cure for food allergies and strict avoidance is the only way to prevent a reaction.***

To assist these students in being safe at school, we have developed specific procedures, including having students wash their hands regularly and the establishment of an "allergy free" table in the cafeteria. ***In some classrooms, we are also providing specific snack lists to avoid introducing allergens and protect our food allergic students.***

We appreciate your support of these procedures and understanding of the challenges these students and their families have in dealing with extreme food allergies. ***Thank you for your cooperation and feel free to contact Principal Beth Green with any questions you may have.***

Note from the Music Room



12TH STREET ORFF ENSEMBLE!



The 12th Street Orff Ensemble is a before school Orff ensemble, using classroom instruments, recorders, movement and song. The ensemble will perform on March 15th during the school day and at 6:30 in the evening for family and friends.

What is "Orff" anyway?

Carl Orff was a famous composer and music educator who developed a hands on, interactive approach to teaching music and movement. He created the student friendly xylophones and glockenspiels that are used in our music classroom. These instruments are called "Orff instruments." Teachers who use this hands on discovery process with students are often called "Orff Teachers." There are three levels of certification for Orff instructors. I have completed my Level III Orff Certification at Anderson University in Indiana and am now a Certified Orff Educator.

Orff Ensemble is a group that will be made up of fourth and fifth grade students who are dedicated enough to get up early on Wednesday morning to come to a 7:45 rehearsal in the music room. We will have rehearsals from 7:45 to 8:25 (when the bell rings) each Wednesday morning beginning October 12. Fifth Grade students who are involved with Morning Safety Patrol will be excused from rehearsal early to attend to these duties.

The group's size will be limited to around 30 students. If need be, I will hold auditions to narrow down the numbers on October 12. Students who turn in their permission slips by October 10 will receive **first** priority. Those who are cut from the program will be put on a waiting list should openings occur during the year.

If you have any questions regarding the 12th Street Orff Ensemble, please email or call me at school.

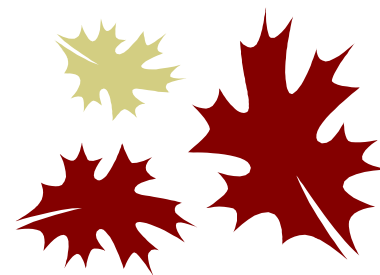
Marcia Working

Music Specialist

Twelfth Street Elementary School

REMINDER: If you would like your student to participate in the 12th Street Orff Ensemble, please return the permission slip to Mrs. Working by Monday, October 10. Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, October 12 starting at 7:45.

PTO Meeting 10/18 at 7:00 pm
10/11-10/19 MEAP Testing
10/20-10/28 MEAP Make-Ups
10/25 Parent Forum at 7:00 pm
10/31 Costume Parade at 2:45
11/4 No School for Students, Records Day





Help Your Kids Have a Fun and Safe Halloween

Halloween can be a fun night for kids. However, it can also be scary – and not in a good way. According to safekids.org, a child is twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween than any other night of the year.

“Simply talking to your children before they go trick or treating can go a long way in preventing accidents. Parents should remind them to be extra alert – especially on Halloween. Children should know to wait for the traffic light, to look both ways and to walk, not run, before crossing the street,” says Deb Carpenter, coordinator of Safe Kids Kalamazoo County and the Childhood Injury Prevention Program at The Children’s Hospital at Bronson. She continues, “It’s also a good idea to use reflective tape on the costumes so that drivers are able to see them better.”

When trick or treating, ALWAYS:

- Make sure children under age 12 are accompanied by an adult. Older children should go out in a group.

- Plan your route in advance. Stick to known houses and well-lit areas.

- Walk on the sidewalks, if available.

- Cross the streets at the corner or use the crosswalk.

- Carry a flashlight.

- Use reflective tape on treat bags as well as costumes.

- Use common sense when choosing a costume. Lighter costumes are more easily seen by drivers.

- Make sure there are no tripping hazards and wear comfortable shoes.

NEVER:

- Cut through someone’s yard. There could be a clothesline, landscaping or other obstacles not easily seen at night.

- Walk in between parked cars because drivers may not see the child or be able to stop quickly.

- Wear a mask that makes it harder to see. Whenever possible, choose non-toxic face paint rather than a mask.

- Approach a house with the lights turned off.

If you’re driving on Halloween, remember to:

- Be very alert; watch for children.

- Drive slowly through all residential areas, especially between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. when most children will be out.

- Reduce distractions in the car. Turn the music off and let voicemail answer any calls.

- Back out of driveways slowly and carefully.

By following these simple tips, you can help your child have a fun, safe and happy Halloween experience.

FALL CONFERENCES - As we begin to lay the groundwork for conferences, we ask your cooperation with the following:

- We are happy to send a second copy of conference reports and report cards to parents not living in the home. However, it is extremely difficult for us to schedule double conferences. If at all possible, we ask that you arrange to conference jointly or consider alternately attending Fall and Winter Conferences.
- Please make every effort to keep your scheduled conference time. It is very difficult to make up missed appointments.
- If something unexpected comes up and you are unable to make your conference, please notify the teacher as soon as possible so your conference can be rescheduled.

CONFERENCES DATES:

Wednesday, November 16th: 4:30-8:15 LAST CONFERENCE is scheduled at 8:00

Thursday, November 17th: DISMISSAL at 2:16p.m. (90 minutes early)

Conferences: 2:30-4:00 NO conferences scheduled at 4:00 or 4:15, 4:30-8:15 LAST CONFERENCE is scheduled at 8:00

Conferences are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have not returned your conference request form, please do so as soon as possible.

Halloween Parade is October 31 at 2:45

Students are not to bring any look-alike or toy weapons as part of their costume or dress in a manner depicting or promoting violent themes. No blood, scary masks, or bare mid-riffs. Please do not send children to school in their costume. Students will be given time to put their costume on prior to the parade (no make-up that needs to be put on).

