

# The Twelfth St. Times

12<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary  
6501 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Portage, MI 49024

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## From Our Principal:

### DEAR PARENTS & STUDENTS:

Conference time is a busy time for parents and teachers. Parental support is so important to the education of our students. November conferences are on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks for taking the time to come to your child's conference. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of home/school communication. Please feel free to call us at any time.

### **Mission Statement:**

**Our mission is to provide opportunities for children to reach their potential in a safe, nurturing and challenging learning environment. Through the cooperative efforts of staff and parents, students will develop the knowledge, responsibility and positive self – concept needed to become citizens in our ever changing global world.**

### **Vision Statement:**

**The staff and parents at 12<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School work cooperatively to develop the whole child in an atmosphere of respect and dignity.**

Ron Jones, Principal

\*\*\*It's time to start thinking about COLD WEATHER!! A couple of things we want to discuss with you are:

### EARLY MORNING SCHOOL CLOSINGS.

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 CALL OUR "SCHOOL CLOSING HOTLINE" AT 323-6800** or check the District Web Site at [www.portageps.org](http://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.

If Portage is not among those names as closed, please assume we are **OPEN!**

**No snowballs!** Please remind your children that the 12<sup>th</sup> Street policy is **NO SNOWBALL THROWING AT ANY TIME: AT SCHOOL, AT THE BUS STOP, OR ON THE WAY TO AND FROM SCHOOL.** This is for the safety of all students. All of our students have been informed and will be frequently reminded. Thanks for your help.

### WARM KIDS...

We don't want any of our 12<sup>th</sup> Street Students to go without a coat this winter. We have some donations in the office, so please, if your child needs a winter coat, have them stop by and we will try to hook them up. Don't be bashful...just ask, we are there to help.



## Accelerated Reader

12<sup>th</sup> Street has a marvelous program called Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is a program designed to create a motivational environment in which students are encouraged to read as much as possible. When students read more they become even better readers.

Students are given a brief computerized assessment to determine the level of books that would best support their growth in reading. Then students simply select a book, read the book and take a computerized quiz. The quiz results allow students and teachers to monitor reading comprehension closely. Students are awarded points on the length and difficulty of the book AND how well they answer the quiz questions.

Please encourage your children to read. Ask about the Accelerated Reader book your child is reading and about the reading report.

If you have any questions you may ask Mrs. Shook, the Media Specialist, Mrs. Hinze, our Reading Consultant or your child's classroom teacher.

## SAFETY PATROL INFORMATION

We thought we would remind you of our most important safety rules.

1. Safeties are on duty from 8:30-8:40 a.m. and from 3:30-3:45 p.m.
2. Children should cross streets **ONLY WHERE THERE IS A SAFETY ON DUTY.**
3. Bicyclists are required to cross at safety posts also and must walk their bikes while crossing roads. Because of the danger of running into walkers, we are asking bikers to **WALK** their bikes on the sidewalk in front of the school.
4. Parents, Children should exit your car from the **passenger side**...not on the traffic side.
5. If you drive your children to school, they must be dropped off in front of the building (preferably in our turn-around traffic loop).

Mrs. Lefaive and the Safety Patrol

## ESTABLISH FAIR & CONSISTANT FAMILY RULES

Before playing a game, children discuss the rules. That's because kids appreciate

rules – even when fun isn't involved. Rules work best when parents:

- **Discuss possible rules.** Consider your child's opinions, but make final decisions yourself. As your child matures, review rules to make sure they're appropriate.
- **Enforce rules consistently.** Always enforce rules, even if your child whines about them.
- **Don't go overboard.** If you make too many rules, no one can keep track of them. Post a few key rules with related consequences (and rewards).

**Idle threats make discipline difficult.** What's the easiest way to lose the upper hand when it comes to discipline? Make idle threats or comments. If you regularly threaten your child with penalties you obviously can't enforce – "If you're late for school again, you'll be grounded forever!" – he'll begin to see that you don't really mean what you say. Instead, use threats only when necessary, and follow through on them.

## **MAKE THE MOST OF PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Come prepared.

Use positive communication techniques.

Ask key questions.

"What are my child's special interests and strengths?"

"What are the goals you'd like to see my child reach this year?"

Look for ways to work together.

## **TIP...**

Does your family eat dinner together most nights? Most families don't. Yet sharing meals usually involves sharing a lot more – such as encouragement and love. If dinner doesn't work for your family, try breakfast. You'll like the togetherness as much as the food!



## **PICTURE RETAKES**

Picture retakes will be held on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Please bring back the old packet to exchange for a new packet. If your child was absent on October 8th, the first picture day, just send in the envelope with your check made out to "SchoolPictures.com". You may also buy them on line within 48 hours if you forget to send the money in with your child(ren).

## **LIFE SKILLS**

Our Life Skills Spell: **R-E-S-P-E-C-T**

**R-ESPONSIBILITY**

**E-FFORT**

**S-OLVING PROBLEMS**

**P-ERSERVERANCE**

**E-MPATHY**

**C-ONFIDENCE**

**T-EAMWORK**



## **DELIVERY OF MESSAGES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ONLY AT THE END OF THE DAY:**

In an effort to provide the least disruptive learning environment for students and teachers, messages regarding changes in end of the day routines, after school information and/or other communication, will be given to students at 3:30 p.m. each school day. If your child's after school routine will change, please be sure to communicate this to your child and to your child's teacher **in writing prior** to sending your child to school. The secretaries are overwhelmed by parental phone calls at the end of the school day requesting changes in student schedules. These last minute changes can result in confusion and mistakes for all involved – students, teachers, bus drivers and parents. **Please take the time to write a note before school!** The office staff will not disrupt classes on a case by case basis, but instead will hold messages until 3:30 p.m. \*We understand that emergencies come up and we will do the best we can in those situations.

## **ATTENTION 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS:**

We must have your child's immunization update before he/she can go to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All of our students are up to date when they enter kindergarten or enter from another school district. Sometimes there are changes in the laws so it's good to check with your doctor every now and then. For Example: it's a state law that all children must have three Hepatitis B shots to enter Michigan Schools. Since your child is going to be moving into another school (Middle School) they must have these shots. The Varicella immunization or proof of chickenpox disease will also be required for all children. Before they required only one Varicella shot, but now are requesting children have two doses. Forms will be sent home with all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Please don't wait until next fall to take care of this. The doctors will be busy trying to get everyone's updates so we are telling you in advance. This way you can ask for these immunizations at your child's next well child exam. Thanks in advance for taking care of this early.

## **Know the Facts to Attack Asthma**

As a parent, it's important to know if your child's cough is part of a cold or the start of an asthma attack. Knowing the difference between the two and identifying the triggers of an attack can help your child stay active and healthy.

Asthma is a disease that causes the airways of the lungs to tighten. An attack results when your lungs don't get enough air and breathing becomes difficult. Asthma is very common among children and teens affecting nearly nine million children in the United States.

### **Asthma Signs and Symptoms**

"Common asthma symptoms include a whistling or wheezing sound when breathing, rapid breathing, or difficulty breathing, and sometimes chest tightness," explains Kelli Dodson, DO, a pediatrician at Bronson Rambling Road Pediatrics.

"A child who is coughing up mucous and has other symptoms such as a runny nose, fever, or upset stomach usually has a cold. A child with a recurrent dry-sounding cough that worsens with activity should be evaluated for asthma," Dr. Dodson says.

### **Asthma Triggers**

"Stimulus or things in the environment called triggers cause asthma attacks," remarks Dr. Dodson. "Avoiding or eliminating these triggers can help minimize attacks."

#### **•Exercise**

Running can trigger an attack in more than 80 percent of children with asthma. Medications used before exercise can prevent most of these episodes.

#### **•Allergies and Irritants**

Indoor allergens such as dust mites, molds, and pets and outdoor allergens such as molds and pollens, and certain foods can cause an attack. Cigarette smoke, air pollution, and strong odors can irritate the lungs and upper airways and lead to an attack.

#### **•Weather**

Cold air often provokes attacks. A heavy scarf, worn loosely over the nose and mouth, will help avoid cold-air induced asthma.

### **How You Can Help**

You can help your child by recognizing his asthma symptoms and which triggers might lead to an attack. "It's important to know your treatment options and which asthma medications may be the right option for your child," Dr. Dodson comments. The more you know about asthma, the better you can manage your child's condition.

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. Dodson, call (269) 372-1000.