

Rainbow Review

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2002

Dr. Michael Hertting
Principal
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608-204-2320

Safe Arrival: 204-2329

From the Principal:



Dear Parents:



Happy 2002! I hope that you had a great break with your children. Although there was no snow, I sure hope you were able to spend some quality time together.

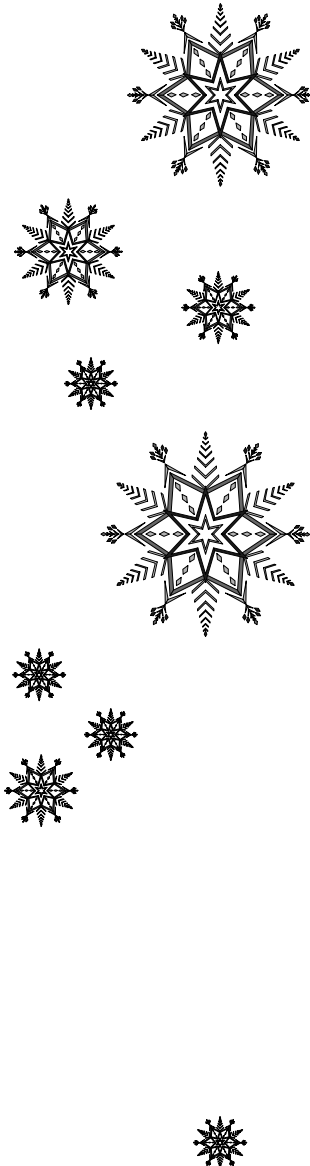
January has been a busy month here at ORE. We were fortunate to have had Opera for the Young last week. This was a great experience for our students. We also have had geography and spelling bees as well as our first experience with the new report card.

There are some great family events arranged by the PTO in the near . One is tonight, January 25th at Barnes and Noble. Another is next Friday night when we have the Winter Sock Hop. Our students really look forward to these special events. I look forward to talking with many parents at these events.

I hope to see you soon....your principal.....Mike Hertting

SCHOOL SPIRIT: Hat Day

Join in the Orchard Ridge School Spirit and wear a hat (the funnier the better) on Friday, February 8th. You can wear your hat in your classrooms all day!



News from the PTO

Happy New Year! It is a busy January.

We had a wonderful Family Fun Night last Tuesday. **Family Fun Nights** are an opportunity to use the school equipment to burn off some energy during the winter months. Depending on the attendance, there is indoor basketball, volleyball and soccer, as well as scooters and jump ropes. The purpose of these evenings is for families to spend time together, use some of the resources available and socialize with other ORE families. The library is also open, kids can show their families their favorite books and read together. There are two more evenings scheduled, Feb 5 and Feb 19, from 6 to 7:30. Family Fun Nights are free but children must be accompanied by an adult.

ORE is having a **Book Fair Night at Barnes and Noble** on Friday, January 25, from 5 to 8 pm. The Strings Group from ORE will play, there will be face painting and a book reading from Dr Hertting. The purpose of this event is to focus on reading and 15 to 20 % of purchases made that evening will go to ORE. Vouchers must be filled out with each purchase, they will be available at Barnes and Noble that night, and they have been on the reverse side of some of the recent notices. Thanks to Lisa Lord and Heather Renken for organizing this event.

Friday, February 1 is the **Winter Sock Hop** from 6 to 8 pm. Come dance with your family! The admission is \$1.00 and children must be accompanied by an adult. Thanks to Todd Boehm for organizing both sock hops, they are so much fun for the kids.

Orchard Ridge Elementary now has a **presence on the Internet** with its own webpage. The webpage address is <http://www.orchardridgemadison.com/ore.htm>. Please bookmark this page to stay up-to-date on activities at ORE. The purpose of the webpage is to supply information regarding ORE and make it available at any time during the day. Are you curious about the last PTO Board meeting? The PTO Board's meeting minutes are posted. What is happening on March 16? This information is also available. Where can you go for homework help? The ORE webpage has suggestions. Ralph Patterson and Michael Stone currently keep the ORE website up-to-date. Anyone interested in working on the webpage (whether designing or furnishing information for them) is invited to send Ralph an E-MAIL message at the website or rcpatterson@peoplepc.com.

The ORE webpage is actually part of the total webpage for the Orchard Ridge area. The Orchard Ridge Community Club and the Orchard Elementary PTO pay for this website. To obtain more information on the Orchard Ridge community start at <http://www.orchardridgemadison.com/index.htm>.

This website will be a valuable communication tool and it is very important that it is maintained and upgraded when necessary. To accommodate this, the PTO sees the need to add a website administrator to the PTO board. As per the bylaws of the PTO, outlined below is an amendment to the PTO Bylaws to accommodate the addition of a website administrator. Please feel free to

contact the PTO if you have any comments on this change. The addition will be voted on at the February business meeting and written into the bylaws assuming there are no objections.

Article VI A – Officers and Their Duties

3. Web Site Administrator:

The Web Site Administrator is responsible for keeping the ORE website current and correct, according to the guidelines set by the ORE PTO, the ORE Staff and MMSD. The website is associated with the Orchard Ridge Community Club and communication between the groups should be maintained with respect to this website.

A copy of the PTO Bylaws will be available shortly on the website, as well as the ORE website guidelines. The ORE website is linked to the MMSD site, so district information is also a click away.

Other happenings include a **4/5 Destination Imagination team**. Another team of younger kids will be organized soon. MSCR classes should begin in Feb, offerings will most likely include chess, stamping, a book club and a book cook club. Registration notices will be sent home shortly.

Nanci Kopecky and Mike Walsh are keeping track of what our legislature is up to with regard to the state budget and how funding for schools may be affected. The PTO will continue to keep parents updated, we are concerned about cuts to staff for next year.

Stay warm!

Lisa Stec
Nanci Kopecky

Reminder:

To find out if school is cancelled because of the weather tune to local TV/Radio stations. Also, please remember that MMSD **does not** close school early in case of bad weather! Please do not call school to ask about school closings!

MMSD Cable Presents:
Issues Update with Mike McKinney
 Safe Schools Healthy Students
 An update on the District's three-year
 multimillion dollar grant.



Great strides have been made in the areas of early childhood, safety, mental health, alcohol and drug prevention and educational reform.

Hear from District administrators, teachers, community partners and families on the services made possible by this grant.

Issues Update: Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant Update

MMSD Channel 10 Wednesdays at 8:00 pm

February :

2/6, 2/13,

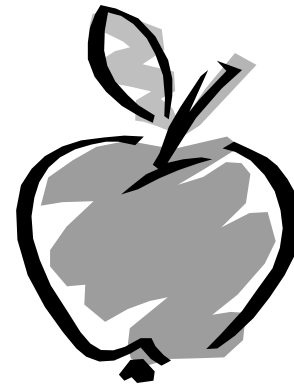
2/20, 2/27



Safe Schools
 Healthy Students

REMEMBER MARKET DAY PICKUP!

January 23rd

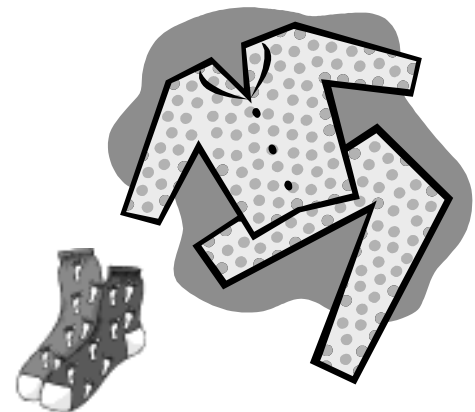


From the Health Office

Parents:

Since the wet winter months are upon us, it is suggested that each child bring a spare pair of pants and socks to keep in his/her locker. That will ensure dry clothes and no need for parents making an extra trip to school.

Thank you.



Introducing Kristi Kloos

My name is Kristi Kloos and I will be the administrative intern at Orchard Ridge second semester. I have taught fourth and fifth at Glendale Elementary for five years. I was highly involved in climate issues, community building, balanced literacy, and math reform. For the first semester, I was at Hamilton Middle school learning the nuances of middle school leadership. In my free time my husband, daughter and I look for new adventures and take advantage of all of the wonderful things Madison has for families. I love to hike, bike, sing, watch and play football, travel, scuba dive and take kick-boxing classes. I am anxious to get to know all of you at Orchard Ridge and am looking forward to the new challenges this experience Administrative Intern at ORE Second Semester will bring.

Hats Off to the Student Council

The ORE student council coordinated a very successful food drive prior to Winter Break. Over 1400 items were brought in for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Currently they are planning spirit days for ORE. The first one will be on Friday, February 8th where all students will be encouraged to wear their favorite hat. The student council is also planning a trip for all students to Fast Forward. The school store will also open again second semester.

Welcome to Our Second Semester Student Teachers:

Sonya McMeen	Room 3
Shanna Dressler	Room 13
Thomas Peterson	Speech/Language
Anna Bikowski	Room 107

New Report Cards

All parents should have received their child's report card along with this newsletter. As you will notice, this is a new report card. It is being used by all MMSD elementary schools.

The new report card is based on standards where students should be by the end of the year. We do not expect all of our children to have mastered these standards by the first semester marking period.

We expect there will be some revisions after using it for one year. Any time there is change, there is often questions. The same is true for this new report card. Our staff is also using it for the first time. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Attendance

If you visit Orchard Ridge, you will see three different lists recognizing the attendance of our kids so far this year:

Excellent and Perfect Attendance for 1st semester
Excellent and Perfect Attendance for 2nd quarter
Students meeting the 94% Attendance Goal

Please take time to visit these lists with your child. Attendance is one of the biggest factors to success in school. It really is important for kids not to miss school.

Questions & Answers



What is the progress of the new telephone system? We are still having problems with our new telephone system, especially voice mail. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have not received a response to your message. Once all of the bugs get worked out, this new system will be great!


My child was disappointed that he was not listed as having perfect attendance when he only was late for a dental appointment. Why is this? The MMSD policy is that when a student is late more than one hour of school they are marked absent for one-half day. We do recognize students who have excellent and perfect attendance and our very proud of these students.

What is your policy on boots? We expect all of our students to have boots now that there is finally snow on the ground. We also want our younger students to wear snowpants. Students have restricted recesses if they are not dressed appropriately. We do not want to have wet students!


My child wants me to come for lunch. Is that ok? YES, we love it when parents join their child for lunch. We will have another day in February where we invite all parents, however other days are just fine, too!

Last year at a PTO meeting there was some discussion about various doors being locked during the day. Is this still going to happen? Yes, the locks have been installed. We are waiting for keys and need to fine-tune some of the details. Parents will receive advance notice. Once this starts, parents will have to enter using the main doors near the middle school office. This safety measure is being implemented at all MMSD elementary schools.

January 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 School Reopens	8 PTO Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Family Fun Night 6-7:30pm	16	17	18 School Closed PM for Grade Reporting	19
20	21 School Closed-Martin Luther King Day	22	23 Market Day Pick-Up 5-6pm 	24	25 Book Fair Night at Barnes & Noble 5-8pm	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Winter Sock Hop 6-8pm	2
3	4	5 Family Fun Night 6-7:30pm	6	7	8 Spirit Day Wear a hat!	9
10	11	12 PTO Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Family Fun Night 6-7:30pm	20 Market Day Pick-Up 5-6pm 	21	22 School Closed for SWEIO Convention	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Madison Metropolitan School District
Department of Educational Services

Parent Bulletin

Changes in Eligibility for Special Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal special education law which guides our school district's policies and procedures for identifying children with disabilities who need individualized education programs. State laws and administrative guidelines from the Department of Public Instruction are periodically updated to ensure compliance with the law and encourage the use of current best practices in education.

Under the direction of former State Superintendent John Benson, new rules for the identification of children with disabilities went into effect on July 1, 2001. The new rules address the eligibility criteria for determining the need for special education relating to:

- Cognitive Disabilities
- Visual Impairments
- Hearing Impairments
- Speech and Language Impairments
- Specific Learning Disabilities (formerly Learning Disabilities)
- Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (formerly Emotional Disturbance)

The new eligibility criteria change the way IEP (Individualized Education Program) teams collect and interpret evaluation data when children are referred for special education. In addition, the new criteria require that before children are identified as needing special education services, all necessary and appropriate modifications have been made to the regular education curriculum and instruction. Finally, the revised criteria include updated terminology which helps to clarify the intent of the law.

Given these changes, what possible benefits might result from the use of the revised eligibility criteria? First, the use of updated evaluation practices and clearer guidelines may result in the more accurate identification of children with disabilities. In addition, a wider and more flexible range of services may now be made available to address the learning and behavioral needs of all children.

For more information about the revised eligibility criteria, you may contact the psychologist at your school or review the Department of Public Instruction website at:

<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/een/eliginthro.html>

Parents of children with disabilities may also wish to contact their child's special education case manager for additional details.

Jack Jorgensen, Director
Department of Educational Services
September, 2001

Come One, Come All!

BOOK FAIR NIGHT AT BARNES AND NOBLE

Friday, January 25th from 5 to 8 p.m.

*Special Appearance by:
The Strings Group from ORE*



The purpose of this event is to focus on reading and 15 to 20 % of purchases made that evening will go to ORE. Vouchers must be filled out with each purchase and will be available at Barnes and Noble that night.

Face Painting



*Book Reading
by Dr. Hertting*



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