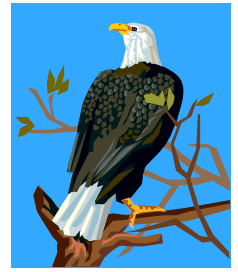




Dorn Dispatch

March, 2010



Home of Emma the Eagle

Principals Message: Mrs. Eileen McCaffrey

I don't know about any of you, but I am tired of the cold. I am tired of having to warm up the car. I am tired of indoor recess for the students. I am tired of sweatshirts and turtle necks. I am tired of curling up under my electric blanket.

My own three children are tired of it also. I can tell by their behavior. They need some things to do other than play Nintendo DS and listen to the iPods (and go on Face Book, because after all, I do have two teenagers!).

Below are some ideas of things you can do with your children (and I can do with mine) to fight off those winter blues:

Take a walk. This is a great way to connect with kids, especially older ones. Older children will open up and talk while younger ones will love to share what they discover (an ant hill, a curled up leaf...). I know that it is cold out, but just go around the block.

Watch a movie. Don't just pop in a DVD, make it an experience. Line up chairs in the family room and pass out popcorn and drinks. Talk about the movie while it is going on. Predict (guess) what is going to happen next. Each week, let a different person in the family pick the movie.

Have a picnic. Kids love spreading out a blanket and pulling the food out of a basket. Just because it has been so cold lately does not mean that you can not do this on your family room floor.

Camp out. If it is too cold outside (which it is), set up a tent in the family room (even use blankets and chairs). Start the fireplace (or burners on the stove) and make smores. Tell stories by flashlight.

Grow something. Plant a bean seed in a paper cup. Let them help you shop in the produce section of the grocery store.

Be spontaneous. Do something that was not planned. Wake up in the morning and just decide to do something special spur of the moment. Planning every little detail of an activity sometimes gets to be too boring and too routine.

Pull the car out of the garage and jump rope.

Cook up a craft. Make play dough with flour, salt, cream of tartar, vegetable oil, water and food coloring. Visit www.kidsturncentral.com/crafts/craftrecipes.htm for the recipe. This web site also has recipes for silly putty, goop and face paint. Make invisible ink. Find that recipe at <http://chemistry.about.com/cs/howtos/ht/invisibleink.htm>.

Create a tradition. The key here is continuity. Maybe the tradition is going out to breakfast on Saturday mornings. It does not matter what the tradition is, so long as children can count on it.

Curriculum Update:

Our first grade teachers have received on-going training during the last few years in the "4-Blocks" framework of teaching Language Arts. This framework for teaching allows for four "blocks" of learning each day: Writing, Guided Reading, SSR (self-selected reading) and Working with Words. The exciting thing about 4-Blocks is that it allows the teacher many opportunities to "tailor" instruction in order to teach/provide opportunities for each learner at his/her own level. Earlier this year, our kindergarten teachers received similar training, however their framework for teaching Language Arts is called "Building Blocks". The presenter for Building Blocks will be returning the week of March 15-19 and will be spending the entire week in and out of the kindergarten classrooms, meeting with kindergarten teachers as a group and meeting with individual kindergarten teachers. This in-service week will provide teachers with even more information in best practices for teaching kindergarten!

7840 W. 92nd Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-598-5509
District 117 Web Site
www.npd117.net
Attendance Line:
708-598-5743

Important Dates for March

- 1 Casmir Pulaski Day
NO SCHOOL
- 3 Team Day
- 4 SPRING PICTURE DAY
- 12 PTA Mother/Daughter Night
- 16 School Board Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 17 WEAR GREEN
- 16 Popcorn Day
- 17 Dr. Seuss Day
- 19 DISMISS FOR SPRING BREAK
- 29 School Resumes





St. Patrick's Day

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. People celebrate the day with parades and wearing of the green. One reason St. Patrick's Day might have become so popular is that it takes place just a few days before the first day of spring. One might say it has become the first green of spring!



Irish Poem

"May your thoughts be as glad as shamrocks, may your heart be as light as a song. May each day bring you bright, happy hours, that stay with you all the year long."

March Team Day

TEAM DAY FOR STAFF

Once a month, our teachers spend time together, in teams, reviewing assessment data, aligning curriculum with state standards and brainstorming effective teaching strategies with each other. On these days students have early dismissal. Included is the schedule for this day.

Team Day is , **Wednesday, March 3, 2010**. Below is the schedule for students for this day.

1st Grade/Full Day Kindergarten

9:00AM-2:00PM Busses will depart and children will arrive home between 2:00-2:45PM

Lunch will be served on this day.

Kindergarten AM (**9:00-11:00AM**) Busses will depart and children will arrive home between 11:00-11:45AM

Kindergarten PM/EC (**12:00-2:00PM**) Students who take the bus will be picked up at approximately 11:00AM. Busses depart and will arrive home between 2:00-2:45PM.

SPRING PICTURE DAY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010



Van Gogh Photographers will be here taking photos of all Dorn Students on March 3rd. You will receive a proof picture along with the package choices available. If you wish to order pictures, please return the proof and order form with the payment enclosed to the school office within 7 days. If you wish your children photographed together please fill out the form that is being sent home and return it to the school office before March 3rd.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SMILE!

Dr. Seuss Day, March 19th

On Friday, March 19th, Dorn will be holding an all school Dr. Seuss Day. On this day, all students in the building will participate in academic activities that are based on a Dr. Seuss

theme. Students will move from activity to activity (with their teachers) and from location to location throughout the day. It should be a very fun yet educational day!



THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and the thanks of the Dorn Community to the PTA Board and Volunteers that helped to make the 2010 Annual Fun Fair and Spaghetti Dinner so successful and enjoyable for everyone. Truly a great time was had by everyone!!



On Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins in the United States.

PTA NEWS by Diane Cooper, President

The PTA board would like to thank everyone who participated in the Spaghetti Dinner with a special thanks to Tammy Tsiones for all her hard work in making it a great evening.

I would like to remind you that our PTA meeting will be Monday, March 8th in the media center at 3:30pm. The PTA board is in need of officers for the next year. If you or anyone you know is interested please let your child's teacher or the PTA know.

Our Mother/ Daughter night is Friday, March 12th at 6:30pm. Come and learn how to make some delicious treats. More information will be sent home with your child.

Coming up in May we will be having our 1st Grade Olympics on the 13th and the Kindergarten picnic on the 27th. We will need parent volunteers for both events. More information will be sent home closer to these events.

Thanks again and have a great month.

Diane Cooper



IMPORTANT CHANGE!

School Lunch

Program

Effective immediately, Friday will no longer be Dorn Pizza Day, please make sure to check the menu for your child's selections.

PASTA FOR PENNIES

Dorn Primary Center's staff and students participated in the Pasta for Pennies fundraiser benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. **We raised 5,500.00!!!!**

Pasta for Pennies supports the fight against blood-related cancers, helps fund important life-saving initiatives and provides critical services to patients and their families.

THANK YOU ALL!

IMPORTANT!

Kindergarten Registration 2010-2011

This years Kindergarten Registration will take place at the North Palos School District 117 Administrative Center, 7825 W. 103rd Street, Palos Hills, Illinois.

Registration hours are Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Registration will be ongoing from Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Please remember your child **MUST** be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2010. You must also provide proof of residency at registration.

STUDENTS THAT CURRENTLY ATTEND QUIN SCHOOL DO NOT NEED TO RE-REGISTER

Important Information for Parents

Phone Number Changes:

You must remember to contact the school office with any changes to your home, cell, work and emergency numbers.

Bus Changes

Any change to your child's transportation to/from school must be done with the school office and the transportation office.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFO.

- WGN-720 AM Radio (announced by District Number)
- District Web Page - www.npd117.net
- District Automated Phone Calling System. (make sure you keep up to date phone information with your child's school)



WEARING OF THE GREEN!

On Wednesday, March 17th students and staff are encouraged to wear green. Help us celebrate the first green of spring as well as the popular St. Patrick's Day.

