February 2011

Spelling Bee Winners

On Friday, Jan. 20th, 20 fifth through eighth graders lined up in the activity center for a duel - - a duel of words. After 75 minutes and many hard to spell words, the top three spellers emerged from the group. The winning word was "harmonious." Congratulations to 1st place winner, Haley Dumancas, 2nd place , Chigozie Isichei, and third place, Joanne Martinez. Everyone did a great job!!!

It's Cold Outside!!

Just a quick reminder regarding student attire . . .
Please send your child dressed appropriately for our winter weather. Hats, gloves, scarves, snow pants or some type of leg covering and boots help keep the children warm and dry when they play outside at lunch recess each day. The younger children love to play in the snow but our rule is no one plays in the snow unless they have boots and snow pants on. Each morning please help them remember each item of warm clothing - - including shoes to change into once they arrive at school. Our school is reasonably warm but some children need an additional layer of clothing to stay warm in the classroom during the cold months. Solid navy blue and white sweaters are included in the dress code for that purpose. Jackets and hoodies (zip up or pull over sweatshirts with a hood) are not. Remind your child to bring their sweater to school each day or leave it in their classroom "just in case."

Also, please remember on days when there is inclement weather and your child's class is scheduled to play in the Activity Center, you will need to send their gym shoes. Students are not able to call you on those days for you to bring their gym shoes and parents are not permitted to bring the shoes to school.

Security

Everyone understands the need for security rules at school. When we follow the security rules, we have a much better chance of keeping our children safe while they are here

during the school day. The following are a reminder of some of the security rules that we follow:

- All parents must be "buzzed" into school through the main school door (located in the courtyard on the west side of the building). Please do not use any other building door as an entrance.

- All parents (delivery people, etc) must come directly to the school office, sign in and get a name badge before they proceed to their volunteer job. If you will be volunteering at various locations during the day, please note them on the sign in sheet. If you are volunteering in one area, please put that specific location on the sign in sheet. **Please stay in the area (s) that you indicated on the sign in sheet.**

- Parents are not allowed to go directly to their child's classroom. Birthday treats, forgotten items, etc. are to be brought to the school office. The office will deliver those items to your child. If you need to speak to your child, the office will call them down from their classroom.

- **If a child forgets a book, etc., at dismissal, they may not go directly back to their classroom to get the item. The child must either find their teacher (or another teacher willing to take them to the classroom) or get permission from the office to go back to the room.**

In addition to the above, there are several security drills the children practice each year. The most familiar of the drills are the fire drill and the tornado drill. One more drill we practice is our Lock Down/Lock In drill. Depending on the specific situation, the police department may call and tell us to Lock In. Children will be allowed to move in the building as necessary but may not leave the building without an adult (when it is deemed safe to exit). When we practice a Lock Down, all children gather in a safe area of the classroom, the door is locked and the lights are turned off. The purpose of this drill is to give the impression no one is in that particular area.

We want everyone to know and understand what to do in case of an emergency. Most importantly, we want the

children and you to know someone is watching over them and they are safe here at school.

Reminder
Mid-Winter Break

Mid winter break will be Monday, February 20th , through Friday, February 24th. Enjoy!!

Scholastic Book Fair

Many parents and students had an opportunity to experience our book fair this past week. Through the hard work of Mrs. Formella and the many parents who volunteered, it was a great success. Many thanks for all of your hard work.

Wayne/Westland School District Website

In addition to the St. Mary School website, the Wayne/ Westland School District website www.wwcsd.net is another resource to check on a regular basis to obtain information on school closings, etc.