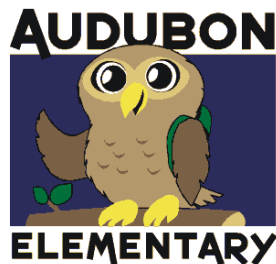


The Owl's Nest



August 27, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

Our first communication of the new school year! Welcome! Please watch the Owl's Nest link for important information and messages from school each week. We try to communicate information in a variety of ways to keep you informed: Owl's Nest news, classroom news, school website, PTSA news and website. If there is something you would like to see in this newsletter, your feedback is welcome. See you at the Meet and Greet!

Karen Dickens

Tips for a happy, fun and successful first day of school:

- If your child is excited, but a bit nervous for the first day, this is perfectly normal. Anticipation for a new class, new teacher and all the other "firsts" that come along with a new school year has built over the summer. It is normal for children to be excited, yet nervous and perhaps even a bit reluctant. The best thing you can do is let your child express their fears and concerns, validate them, and reassure him/her by being positive and encouraging. Your children look to you for how to respond to something new...so you need to appear relaxed and positive (even if you too are a bit nervous ☺).
- If your child will ride the bus to and from school each day, it is best if they ride it the first day of school. As students come off the bus in the morning of the first day, we have teachers and adults available to mark the bus color on their hand to make school dismissal less confusing for them.
- Many parents of bus riders want to escort their child to school on the first day. We recommend placing your child on the bus at the bus stop, then meeting him/her at school to escort to class. That way they will know their bus when they take it in the afternoon. It creates less confusion and more familiarity for the child.
- If you do escort your child to school on the first day please have your child stand in line with the other children. When the teacher comes to get the class give a quick so-long wave or hug. Remaining in the classroom is not recommended, as this usually creates more anticipation of the good-bye and more anxiety. Rest assured that once you leave most children get so involved with the other students that they relax immediately. Our teachers are trained experts at helping students feel welcome, comfortable and safe on their first day of school.

Don't forget these important dates!

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| 8/26 | Class assignments are in the mail! |
| 9/1/11 | Meet and Greet, 12:00-1:00 pm (all classrooms open) |
| 9/1/11 | Kindergarten Orientation, 6:30-7:30 pm |
| 9/6/11 | First Day of School, first bell at 8:25 am |
| 9/9/11 | Welcome Back to School Assembly, 8:45 am |
| 9/22/11 | Curriculum Night |
| | 6:00-6:45 pm Primary classrooms open (1-3) |
| | 6:45-7:15 pm Meeting in the Cafeteria |
| | 7:15-8:00 pm Intermediate classrooms open (4-6) |

Parking Lot and School Safety:

We work hard to keep our children, families and staff safe in and around our school:

- Our Staff and Student Patrol (in the bright vests) monitor the cross walks at three different locations to assist our walking children and families by stopping the traffic at appropriate crossings. Please only use, and allow your children to use, these cross walks when walking to and from school. Be sure to obey the crossing guards when driving to and from our school during these arrival and dismissal times. Failure to stop for a crossing guard is a violation of the law and will be reported to the Redmond Police.
- Our fabulous volunteer Parking Lot Valets direct traffic each morning to keep the flow moving. Please drive slowly, avoid using a cell phone, and obey the Valet’s directions (also on the signs). Please allow plenty of time for picking up and dropping off in our busy lot so that you have time to be patient.
- Adults and children should walk bikes once on school campus, and skateboards and scooters are never allowed on school property.
- We are dog lovers at Audubon, but please remember that dogs are not allowed on campus when children are present.

New Prices for 2011-2012 School Year:

Meal price will change for the 2011-2012 school year. The cost increase was necessary to maintain a high quality, self-supporting food service program. Fees for the lunch program and breakfast program were last increased in 2006-07 school year. Fees for the adult breakfast program were last increased in 2007-08 school year.

The cost of implementing the changes required by the federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization, ongoing efforts to increase whole grains and fresh produce, along with the impact of inflation to food and labor made a fee increase necessary.

Food Service Meal Prices for 2011-2012 School Year:

<u>Current Meal Prices [since 2006-07]:</u>	Elementary	Secondary	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.00	\$1.35	\$1.75
Lunch	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$3.00

<u>New Meal Prices [Board approved]:</u>	Elementary	Secondary	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$2.00
Lunch	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.25

Lake Washington School District **will still have the lowest meal prices** of all surrounding school districts with the exception of Northshore which are the same.

IMPORTANT! NEW IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION LAW:

Parents should read the attached news release from the Washington Department of Health regarding changes to the immunization exemption law. In Washington State we have the highest exemption rate in the country. In response, Governor Gregoire signed a law that changes the process for getting an immunization exemption. This new law goes into effect on July 22, 2011 and will affect our families and school. Please read the attached news release, and/or find the report at

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6021a4.htm.