

NEWS YOU COULD USE

August 20, 2015

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! As we have just begun school today, this week's Link is full of information.

REMINDERS

- Monday, Aug. 24: Hot Lunch begins.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25: **first day of preschool** (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Tues.-Thurs.)
- Wednesday, Aug. 26: Grades 6-8 Back to School night 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the gym.
- Friday, Aug. 28: 8:15 a.m. Opening School Liturgy. (All are welcome.)

SPANISH

As many of you are aware, we have had a great many transitions with Spanish teachers over the past four years. Beginning early this summer, I began looking for a new Spanish teacher. After contacting many individuals seeking employment, speaking to other principals to see if it would be possible to share a Spanish teacher and speaking with a third party contractor, I was unable to find a Spanish teacher. I know that part of the difficulty is that our position is only part-time and many applicants only wish to teach high school. The third party contractor I spoke with said he has had many requests for Spanish teachers and he just isn't able to provide possible candidates. With all of that in mind and having spoken to many principals, we have decided to go with the computer based program, Rosetta Stone. I'm sure many of you are familiar with it or have probably seen advertisements for it. As we get the program off the ground, we will first focus on grades 6-8. We will incorporate grades 2-5 after we have a firm handle on the program. At some point, it may be possible to even include kindergarten and first grade.

Below is an overview of the Rosetta Program. As I have more information about it, I will send it home.

Overview

“Rosetta Stone Inc. is dedicated to changing people’s lives through the power of language and literacy education. The company’s innovative, personalized language program drives positive learning outcomes in thousands of schools, businesses, government organizations and for millions of individual learners around the world.

Founded in 1982, Rosetta Stone pioneered the use of interactive software to accelerate language learning and is widely recognized today as the industry leader in providing effective language programs. The company's cloud-based program allows users to learn online or on-the-go via tablet or smartphone, whether in a classroom or in a personal learning environment.

With the Rosetta Stone® method, students will speak Spanish from the very first lesson. They will receive real-time feedback every time they speak. The proprietary speech recognition engine, the most advanced in the industry, compares the student's pronunciation to millions of native speakers 100 times per second. Instant feedback means that at every step, students will know exactly how they're doing."

Please look in next week's Link for more information regarding the program and how it will be implemented in our school.

Hat's off to...

...the Family School Association for providing lunch for the faculty and staff on our Faculty Orientation day. It was delicious and greatly appreciated.

TRANSPORTATION

Just a few reminders regarding transportation: Car riders may be dropped off on the back parking lot at 7:25 a.m. When students are getting out of the cars, they should exit the car door nearest the building. They should stay on the side of the orange cones near the playground. If you are the first in the car line, please pull all the way forward to the first orange cone. This allows more cars to unload their children at one time. School doors open at 7:30 a.m. Please make sure your child has his or her bookbag and lunch bag ready to go when you are stopped on the lot. As always, please use extreme caution when driving on the lot. Two adults will be on the lot in the morning to greet your children. Mrs. Wall will be at the doors by the gym to meet the children as they come into the school building. These doors will be locked at 7:45 a.m. Please do not drop your child off if there is no one on the parking lot. If you are late arriving to school, please use the front entrance. Otherwise the front drive should be left free for busses.

Afternoon car drivers, if you haven't had an opportunity to place your name in big letters on a sign for your car, please do so as soon as possible. This makes it so much easier at the time of dismissal. Also, please remember not get out of your cars to pick your children up. The teachers will bring the young ones to your cars. As cell phones are illegal while driving, I would ask that you not be on your cell phone during arrival and dismissal. This is for the safety of all.

DAVEY ROAD—Please use caution when driving on Davey Road. There is a stop sign at the end of Davey near our school. It is also important that you watch your speed around our school.

VERY IMPORTANT—Between the hours of 7:15-8:00 a.m., and 1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m., please do not park in the circle drive in front of school. Parking in the drive at those times does not allow the busses to have access.

For the safety of everyone and for the movement of the car lines, I have asked teachers not to engage in conversations with parents during arrival and dismissal. I would ask that all parents do the same.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

In a week or two we will have the Volunteer sign-up ready on-line. When it is ready, information will be sent home as to the opportunities available and directions on how to sign-up.

PAPERWORK

I know you have been inundated with paperwork. I would appreciate it if you could send in all the necessary forms and information as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping us to get off to a wonderful start this year. It was exciting to see all the happy (and maybe some not so happy—wishing summer would last longer) suntanned faces come in enthusiastic about the new school year. I know the teachers and I are excited to make this the best year ever. We know that you will join us in making this happen.

After being in a structured environment all day, please let your children run and play outside. The weather has been beautiful and our children need to get outside and enjoy the fresh air.

A PRAYER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of children. Please watch over our Celtics as they go back to school this year. Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms. Help them soak up good knowledge and to dismiss any negative or worldly messages they may hear. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts with the armor of Your Word. Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in you. Amen .