



January, 2012

Willow Glen Primary School

Principal's Corner

Dear Willow Glen Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the long holiday break with your families. It is always nice to have time to step away from the routine and busy pace of everyday life and have those days where we can make our own schedule and let the day just fall into place.

As we begin the new calendar year, our students are entering a time when they start to display significant academic and social growth. At this point in the year, students have mastered routines of the classroom and are fully aware of the expectations their teachers have for them in demonstrating quality work and good citizenship. Students are also becoming more adept at defining their own personal best and will learn to set individual learning goals through the implementation of MAP Assessment.

Now that the hustle and bustle of celebrating the holidays is past, the school calendar allows for large sections of uninterrupted time where students have the opportunity to apply and fine tune the learning strategies their teachers have equipped them with earlier in the year. As the second half of the school year draws near, the teachers have a solid understanding of the learning strengths and challenges of each individual student in their classroom, and find ways to meet them at their next level of learning.

In this "New Year", the Willow Glen teachers and staff look forward to continuing to work with your family to do our best to meet the individual needs of your child(ren). We recognize that your support is the KEY to the success of your child's school experience! On behalf of the Willow Glen teachers and staff, may 2012 bring only the best to you and your family!

Warmly,
Laurie Pogorzelski
Principal





ALL STUDENTS WILL BECOME GREAT READERS!

Each month, you will receive an article that relates to our school wide goal. The articles selected will offer suggestions regarding how parents/caregivers can support their child at home.

This month's article is titled, Writing Activities for Young Readers
Enjoy!

READ, READ, READ!

"No Subject is more important than reading...all other intellectual powers depend on it." Jacques Barzun

Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing

Prior to the holiday break, you received a letter describing a new assessment tool that our district will be utilizing beginning January 9th. As you may recall, we will be giving students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. Your child will take the tests on a computer.

These MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. During the testing windows in January (9-27), and again in April/May, your child will spend a total of about 2 hours each session completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades K5-8, along with selected high school students, will take the tests in Reading and Mathematics. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. **Partnering to help all kids learn**, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, download the **Parent Toolkit** at www.nwea.org.

Parent Information Sessions will be held on the following date/times. If you would like to learn more about MAP Assessment, please consider joining us!

Thursday, January 5 – Willow Glen Library 8:30am

Thursday, January 5 – Deer Creek Library 5:30pm

RECESS



Each year questions are raised about those cold days and how we determine if the weather is conducive to students being outside. We use local weather sites, and anything above 10 degrees (including wind chill) means that we go outside. If it is below 10 degrees with either the wind chill or simply the temperature, we stay inside. We depend on parents to ensure that students leave the house with all their winter gear for cold days. Please help us prepare for the impending cold weather recesses by checking your students cold weather attire each day as they get ready.

It is also important that students are able to dress themselves. If you have a kindergartener or first grader, please have them show you that they can dress without assistance. They are expected to do it here, at school! (Of course we will help if needed!)

Attendance

As we enter a new calendar year, please continue to enforce the habit of going to school each day, and coming on time. Research shows that missing school regularly can hurt both the students (who miss their class) and their peers. When students miss school, even for short appointments, they are missing learning. When they return, they have to work harder to catch up.

As a result, students who miss school have lower levels of achievement throughout their school careers. By sixth grade, research shows that students who have excessive absences are more likely to drop out of high school.

The students who do come every day also miss out when their peers have excessive absences. They miss out on the collective intelligences shared by their classmates. When teachers have to repeat material or spend extra time with students who have large numbers of absences, everyone suffers.

With this being said, however...

We understand that flu season is knocking at our door, and some absences cannot be avoided. While we stress the importance of regular attendance, it is vital that your child receives the proper rest and care to quickly heal from any illness. If flu-like symptoms are present, please use the following guidelines to determine whether to send your child to school. Children should be kept home whenever they have:

- A temperature of 100 degrees or higher.
- Vomiting or diarrhea.

Children should stay home until they are symptom free for 24 hours. When your child is ill, provide plenty of rest and fluids. Teach them to use tissues and dispose of them immediately. Remind children to keep their hands away from their faces. Hand washing is the single most important method of preventing the spread of illness.

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment Application Period February 6 - 24, 2012

The Public School Open Enrollment Program is a statewide program that allows students grades K-12 to attend a public school in a district other than the one in which they reside, if space is available.

Parents/guardians must submit an application to the non-resident district of their choice during the three week period of **Monday, February 6 through Friday, February 24, 2012**. Applications will not be accepted after the 4:00 p.m. deadline on February 24, 2012. Once the application period begins, you can apply online through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>.

Existing Open Enrollment Families: Please be aware that **if you have a child enrolled through Open Enrollment, there is no need to reapply**. However, **if you have another child who you wish to attend St. Francis Schools, you must go through the application process**. Siblings of currently enrolled students are given preference in the selection process.

Important Dates

Jan. 3 – School Resumes

Jan. 5 – MAP Information Meetings

- WG Library at 8:30am
- DC Library at 5:30pm

Jan. 9 – BOE Meeting

Jan. 9 – 27 MAP Assessment Window

Jan. 13 - Market Day Pick-up

Jan. 23 – BOE Meeting

Feb. 6 – Open Enrollment Application Process Begins

Feb. 24 – Open Enrollment Application Processes Closes