



Where Each Child's Life-long Learning Adventure Takes Flight

August 20, 2007

Dear Small School families,

It is time to get more focused on education, so I am taking a much needed break from weeding and reading to welcome everyone back. Returning families know that I spend a huge portion of my summer gardening. I was thrilled to find out that Garden Gate magazine reports that "woman over 50 (not me yet!) who garden at least once weekly had higher bone density than did woman who jogged, swam, walked, or did aerobics." You can imagine which pursuit I prefer!

This summer has been the season for pleasure reading as well. Yes, I enjoyed professional reading which entailed the teaching of early mathematics; however, there is nothing like a great novel to get lost in on a summer's day. My three absolute favorites included The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay about a young South African English boy's coming of age surrounded by intolerance and hatred, A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hossen which outlines three generations of different families and their survival through the many wars of Afghanistan, and the biography of Greg Mortenson in Three Cups of Tea that chronicles one man's mission to promote peace by building 55 schools, mostly for girls in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Amazingly, these three completely different stories each rely on hope, love, goodness of others in the strangest places and times, and perseverance. Perhaps you would be willing to submit your own book reviews into the PTA newsletter to broaden all of our reading repertoires.

The school office is open beginning August 20, 2007. Office hours are from 8:00am – 3:30pm. Please feel free to call with any questions, concerns or updated information. While the office is open, maintenance is still very busy cleaning for the upcoming school year, please be mindful of freshly washed and waxed floors and the need for teachers to set up their rooms. It is crunch time! But rest assured the building will be sparkling come September 4.

The lunch/recess hour remains as follows:

Grades K-2 Lunch 11:55 – 12:20 Recess 12:25 – 12:50
Grades 3-5 Recess 11:55 – 12:20 Lunch 12:25 – 12:50

Please note the anticipated increase in meal prices:

<u>Meal Prices</u>	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>			
Breakfast	\$1.25	\$6.25	Reduced Breakfast	\$.30	\$1.50
Lunch	\$2.00	\$10.00	Reduced Lunch	\$.40	\$2.00
White / Choc. Milk	.50	\$2.50			

We are anxious to hire new lunch/recess aides! It is an opportunity to be with your child as well as a chance to interact with and model appropriate behaviors for students. **We are looking for patient, kind, and fun individuals.** Pay is \$8.25 per hour and working hours are approximately 11:30am – 1:30pm week days. If interested, pick up an application at Central Office.

The transportation department is busy updating its bus schedule and should be available via website soon. Enclose you will find a letter from transportation outlining specific information for bussed students. Please note that we do not bus students to the Boys and Girls Club. Students who regularly take that bus run may be dropped off at the closest designated site given parent permission. We can not make exceptions given that our busses are at maximum capacity.

See back for important dates and the Small School staff listing.

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