

Marcellus Elementary Newsletter April 2017

Spring Break . . . No school March 31 – April 7

Preschool News . . . Round-Up for preschool will be on April 19th in their classroom at 6:00. They are looking for children that will be 4 years old by September 1, 2017. Please come to the informational meeting to learn more about PRESCHOOL!

Cookie Dough Fundraiser . . . We will be selling cookie dough from April 12th – April 26th. All orders will need to be turned in on Wednesday, April 26th – late orders will not be accepted. Please look for flyer and order form to come home on Wednesday the 12th.

Swim Camp . . . The Niles-Buchanan YMCA will be hosting a water safety/swim lessons for our 3rd graders in June this year. The Michigan Gateway Community Foundation is looking for donors to help support this great program. If you or someone you know would like to make a tax-deductible donation, you can send your check directly to the Foundation at 111 Days Avenue Buchanan, MI 49107 or you can drop it off at the Elementary Office. Please note on the memo line that your gift is to the Marcellus Swim Camp. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Administration Office at 646-7655 or the Elementary Office at 646-9209.

Vocabulary:

Each week students will be taught a new vocabulary word and its definition, for April they will learn the following words:

- Describe – give details about something
- Retell – tell a story or events again
- Identify – discover and point out

Parents, please help your child become familiar with these words, for example: use them in a sentence, quiz them about their meaning.

M-STEP TESTING WILL BEGIN THIS MONTH!

Standardized tests

Choose to do well

True or false: Standardized tests are tough. The answer depends on how prepared your youngster is. Consider these four steps to help him/her handle test week.

- 1) Explain that the tests will show how much he/she has learned. Encourage him/her to try their best, but don't put so much emphasis on the tests that they feel stressed.
- 2) Practice the test format. For example, your child might have to read a paragraph and answer questions. Using one of their textbooks, have him/her look at the questions at the end of the section first and then read the passage. That will help them know what to read for and how to find the answers.
- 3) Limit activities the night before tests. You may want to avoid having guests for dinner, or let him/her skip their sibling's sports game if it means being out late. Be sure your youngster gets to be on time and sets an alarm for the next morning.
- 4) On test days, give him/her an energy-boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein (eggs, yogurt, milk) and carbohydrates (fruit, oatmeal, toast).

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
3	4	5	6	7
No School	No School	No School	No School	No School
10	11	12	13	14
School Resumes	5 th Grade M-STEP Begins	Fundraiser Kick-Off		
17	18	19	20	21
		KDG Round-Up		
24	25	26	27	28
		Fundraiser Ends		

Does your child complain of stomach aches right before going to school? If your child stays home, do the symptoms vanish, only to reappear the next morning? Does your child have a tantrum when you try to make them go to school?

If so, your child may have what's known as school refusal. Children with school refusal have a difficult time getting to school and/or staying in school, usually due to some type of anxiety. School refusers more often than not are well-behaved and compliant kids, except for this particular circumstance. Parents of these children likely spent plenty of time and energy trying to get their child to school, but with no success.

- 1) **Check for physical causes.** If your child is complaining of physical symptoms, have them checked by a physician.
- 2) **Talk with your child.** Talk about what's bothering them, while at the same time making it clear that a plan will be made to return to school. Keep in mind, though, that some children can't describe what is bothering them. Don't force conversation if it doesn't seem, to be going anywhere. The most important message to convey is that you believe your child can conquer this problem, and you'll be there to help them through it.
- 3) **Don't lecture.** Avoid lengthy discussions and debates about the importance of going to school. Any attention, even negative attention, can reinforce and maintain a problem.
- 4) **Play detective.** Look for patterns of when your child complains of illness. Do they wake up with a stomach ache or headache? Do they complain of these things when they are busy and distracted? Do they feel ill on Saturdays?
- 5) **Set up a conference.** Both parents should meet with the teacher and/or the school counselor. This sends the message to the school that you're involved and committed to working on the problem.
- 6) **Keep an open mind.** Don't assume the teacher or the school has done something wrong.
- 7) **Do not make it appealing to stay home.** Let your child know that if they are truly ill, they will need to see a doctor, stay in bed and rest, keep the TV off and so on. Enforce rules about no TV or video games. If you stay home with your child, don't offer lots of extra attention and sympathy. It may sound cruel, but you don't want staying at home to be appealing.
- 8) **Simulate a learning environment.** If your child does end up staying home and is not ill, have them read, study, sit upright at a desk and so forth. For adolescents, you may also want to make sleeping off limits. As this is alluring for many in this age group.
- 9) **Make a sick policy ahead of time.** For example, you might make it a rule that unless your child has a fever, they go to school. If they are truly ill, the school can evaluate the situation and send them home if necessary. In the chaos of the morning—trying to get everyone ready for school and work—this removes the power struggle from the parent and child, which is a good thing. Too often, the struggle itself can be reinforcing for children because they are receiving so much extra attention. Along the same lines, don't spend much time, if any, discussing physical symptoms, especially if the doctor has already determined there is nothing medically wrong.
- 10) **Enlist Support.** Consider having someone else take your child to school until the situation is resolved. Because emotions are so charged during a time like this, it can be helpful to remove yourself from the job of having to force your child to go to school. If there is related separation anxiety with the mother, for example, have the father take the child to school. Or have a friend or another family member be in charge of these transition times until the child has made a successful reentry into school.

DonorsChoose.org

DonorsChoose is a wonderful organization that helps teachers get supplies and technology for their classrooms. Teachers have to set up projects on the website asking for what their classrooms need. It can be anything from weighted lap pads to Chromebooks. Individuals and companies can then make donations toward the projects. Some companies will even match donations made by individuals.

There are a couple of projects going on right now from teachers right here at Marcellus Elementary. Please go to www.DonorsChoose.org to check out what they are up to. Please pass this website address on to grandparents, friends, business individuals with power to donate, anyone willing to make a donation to a great school. It takes a village!

Kindergarten ROUND-UP

Registration for 2017-2018 School Year

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017

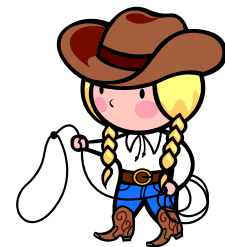
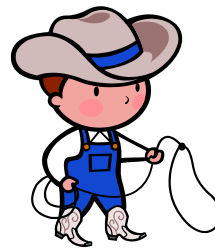
April 19, 2017

from

6:00— 7:00

Please bring the following:

- * certified birth certificate
- * immunization records
- * proof of residency
- * photo ID of the person registering the child



Join us for an evening of fun!

Come and meet our Kindergarten teachers, take a tour of our school and learn about all that Marcellus Elementary has to offer!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHOWING YOU THE ROPES!

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