

JLE News Flash

Notes from the principal # 1

September 17, 2009

Back on Track

We did it! We have completed the first week of the 2009-2010 school year! Despite all of the last minute rushing, we were able to open with relative calm.

We are still working on helping the kindergarten children line up by their floor, and expect that by next week, students will be able to find their appropriate space. It has been helpful to staff to have kindergarten parents place the "I am eating breakfast" tags on their child so that we can be sure they get in the breakfast line.

Dismissal has posed a new set of problems as we try to get children to the after school program, in the bus room for late busses, and to their appropriate bus for home amid the many parents who want to pick their child up from school. Because of the small waiting space, and a child's inclination to pull away from their teacher when they see a parent or someone they know, parents are asked to wait inside the fenced in area for their child. We are now opening an additional area for pick up. Parents who have parked on the west side (river side) should wait in the fenced in area. Parents who have parked on the east side (Carroll St. side) may choose to wait on the wide sidewalk area at the end of the bus line. When teachers come through with their class, they will pass off your child to you.

Parents are asked to wait outside.

Parents who have children in pre-k and k-2, may wait in the lobby until busses are called and then are asked to wait in the appropriate space outside.

The weather held for the first day, and by the second day, we were better able to cope with the downpour, which miraculously let up as we loaded the busses. Now that bus drivers know their position in line and how to space themselves, at the end of the day, each child is placed on their bus by their own teacher. So far, this system works very well.

We are still figuring out how to help parents pass in front of the busses rather than through the line of busses at dismissal. We have asked that another cross walk be installed that will pass in front of the gate.

We appreciate all of you who have understood our parking problem. Please do not park in our lots, but there may be space in the fenced in lot across from the library. The exit for this is off the alley between Columbia and State St. There is a gate near the cross walk.

We also remind you that the kindergarten parent pass is no longer valid and everyone must now sign in,

leave collateral, get a pass, and sign out when you leave, returning your pass and receiving your collateral.

If your pass is not visible, you will be asked for it.

Entrance and exit from the building by all visitors is only by the front door.

School Banking Starts This Friday September 18th

Any student who currently has an account with First Niagara may start school banking on Friday. A receipt will be sent home with your child. Please do not send in your child's pass book.

Kindergarten and other new students who are interested in banking, may pick up an application in the school office or on Friday from the banking program. As a number of volunteers from previous years no longer have children at JLE, we could use some more volunteers to help on Fridays. If you are interested, please call Michelle Bowes, our banking coordinator.

School banking is a good way to help children begin a savings account, and it pays a higher rate of interest. There is no minimum deposit.

Field Trip Starts Year

JLE first and second graders were the first to participate in a very special field

trip as part of the Quadricentennial Celebration. Lehigh Barge No. 79, docked on the river front Tuesday and Wednesday and was open for student visitations.

Through a donation from the Rhinestrom Hill Foundation and First Niagara Bank, arranged by central administration, students in grades one through five were able to visit this historic vessel. We were so proud of our students! They were absolutely awesome and received many accolades regarding not only their behavior, but their ability to work through the questions posed to them. Students were told the history of the barge and learned about the progression of water transport. With a little help, they were able to work their way from canoes to sails and wind power, to steam, and then to barges, and rail and road systems carrying "containers" of goods. (That one was tough). The barge, usually docked in Brooklyn, has now been designated as a waterfront museum, is on the historic register, and has been put into use as a traveling museum during the quadricentennial. It is often used as a showboat, and students had a glimpse of such a show, as they witnessed a Rue Goldberg type contraption and juggling show.

While this trip had no direct cost to school or our students, other designated trips will cost. Due to the state of the economy, field trips were not able to be

Girl Scout Information Night

All girls kindergarten age and above

John L Edwards

Tonight, September 17th 6:30 - 8:00

Help your daughter become involved

Volunteer to help!

included as part of this year's budget, and the main costs will be incurred by PTA and families. Each classroom will have a field trip jar and will start collecting pennies and change to help defray the costs. Field trips are an integral part of our curriculum and provide children with opportunities they may not otherwise have. Your child's teacher will provide you with more information.

Lunch Applications Due Now

An application for lunch assistance was mailed out prior to the start of the school year. An application is also included in the school district calendar. If you feel you may qualify for lunch assistance, please fill out this form and return it to school as soon as possible. Our lunch price is \$1.65, reduced lunch is \$.25, and some will qualify for free lunch. This is an opportunity for your child to receive two balanced meals a day. If your economic situation changes, you may reapply.

Students receiving lunch will be charged full price until their lunch status is determined. Accrued charges are not forgiven and you are responsible for them. Our lunch program must support itself. While we do not deny a child a meal, we cannot provide free lunch to those who do not qualify. If you need assistance with your application, please stop at school or call our district lunch office at 828-4360, ext 2105 or 2104.

Menus are sent home monthly and include all offerings. Please review the menu with your child, and if you prefer, pack a lunch. We do not have the capacity to refrigerate or heat lunches,

so if you do send a lunch, please be sure it is able to be eaten as is. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Someone from the food service staff will also be here on Tuesday during open house to answer questions or help with your forms.

Tools for Schools

Price Chopper once again offers its "Tools for Schools" program. By registering your Price Chopper Advantage Card, we will receive a point for every dollar spent between now and February 13, 2010.

Our school code is 16143. If you are already registered, it will roll over. To verify your enrollment you may go to www.pricechopper.com.

Points earned in the past have enabled us to acquire av equipment, cd players for classrooms and dies for our Ellison letter machine. There is absolutely no additional cost to you.

Box Tops for Education

We are always collecting Box Tops from General Mills' Products. Each box top is worth \$.10. Please look for the following label on your grocery products. Labels submitted must be complete with a visible, current submission date. Expired or torn dates will not count. We submit these twice a year. We appreciate your support! Money supports our programming, feeds our

fish and helps replace classroom
carpets.

Tuesday, September 22
6:00 PTA Meeting
6:30 - 7:30
Meet Your Child's
Teachers

Students are invited to show their parents their classrooms and special subject teachers. Your child's teacher will send you more information specific to their classroom. Childcare will be available for younger children, but please call school 828-9493, extension 4300 so we can plan for the right number of children.

Campbell's UPCs

We also collect the UPC from Campbell's products. While sometimes referring to their "Labels for Education" program, they really mean "UPCs for Education." It takes a lot to get anywhere with these, but every little bit helps, and in the past, they've gotten cd players for staff.

A celebration for the health and safety of children. Call 828-8013 for information.

(This event was postponed in the spring and will now be held in the fall of each year.)

Saturday
September 26, 2009
9 am until 11:30 p.m.
Columbia Memorial
Hospital

Volunteers Needed

Our recent addition and renovations have enabled us to move our “book room” to our newly created teacher work room. Our book room contains collections of readers at specific reading levels. With a large selection of books at each level, your child can be exposed to several hundred books a year. Teachers borrow collections that are appropriate for their students’ interest and reading level at a particular time, and then exchange these for new collections as needed. This “book

room” is a vital part of our reading program.

We are in need of a few volunteers who like methodical work and are willing to help us inventory, check reading levels, mark and relocate books. If this is something that might appeal to you, please jot me a note, give me a call, or stop in and see me. We can then arrange a mutual time to get together. And think of all the books you can read while you’re doing it!