

The Discovery Connections

A newsletter for parents of Discovery Elementary students

October 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Dr. Mathew Nelson

It is hard to believe that we have completed a month of school together! There continues to be such an awesome excitement in the air here, brought in by the students and staff as we start another school year together at Discovery! Seeing how happy our students and staff are to be back together, and their positive energy makes all the many

hours of planning and preparation that went into this school year well worth it. It goes without saying that this year is not going to be the same as previous school years, but our students have done an excellent job at adjusting to new routines and protocols. Thank you for your flexibility in these everchanging times. I have no doubt that together we will control everything we can control to make this school year great for our students at Discovery Elementary School!

Please continue to be safe and keep your child home if they are displaying any symptoms and communicate with our Health Office for any absences. Continue to follow our <u>BHM Decision Tree for</u> <u>Families</u> and don't hesitate to reach out to me or the health office if you have any questions regarding what steps you need to follow. Doing so will help ensure the safety of our students and keep us in school, together.

As I have said many times in the past and every year in this introduction newsletter, there is just something special about Discovery Elementary. When we are in the middle of the school year and working so hard for the students we serve, we do not often take time to reflect on and appreciate all the great things about our school family and culture, but we have a GREAT thing going here! I appreciate our amazing team and our strong commitment to doing what is best for our students. It is hard to pinpoint exactly what it is that makes us so different and special, however I do believe the quote below really gets at the core of what we are all about in what we strive to do for kids every day.

They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

~Carl W. Buechner

We are proud of the way all of our students have adjusted to the new protocols and how serious they have controlled what they can to keep us set up to be safe! We are looking forward to a great school year together, if you ever have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

"Together We're Better!"



Community "C" for September CARE



Mrs. Grams Cass-K Crosby Schmid

Ms. Tacke Class-K Ryker Ball



Mr. Mueller Class Nora Linden Gr. 2

Mrs. Schroeder Class Ava Crone Gr. 2





Mrs. Ericson Class A.J. Henry Gr. 5



Mrs. Nelson Class Titan Nelson Gr. 4

Ms. Nelson Class Ralelah Schrick Gr. 4

Mrs. Samuelson Class Kinley Goudy Gr. 2



Mrs. Schrick Class Alice Lee Gr. 2







Mrs. Swedal Class Riley Kampschroer Gr. 5







DES recognizes students for the month of September for the Community C's-CARE Next month the Community C's is COOPERATE



A few reminders and updates from Heidi Gallart, District Elementary School Nurse

Mask request: As we get use to the new requirement of wearing masks at school, please remind your child to take them out of their backpack at home so that they can be washed routinely. It is easy for young children to get in the habit of taking them out of their backpack in the morning, putting them back at the end of the school day and forgetting about them until the next morning. It is important that these masks get washed regularly. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Medications: If you are sending any medication to the health office please remember that it must be in its original container. We cannot accept any medications in a baggie or envelope. All prescription medications need to come in a labeled pharmacy container. When you get the prescription filled, just request the pharmacy make a second bottle for school. The health care provider and parent signature must accompany all prescribed medications. Over the counter medications require parent signature only unless you are requesting a dosage outside of the package directions. A health care provider will then need to sign in that situation. **Medical Notes:** When your child is seen in clinic and there may be restrictions for school, please obtain a written note from the provider at the time of the visit. Many clinics no longer fax to the schools, so it is important for you to provide that information in order for us to provide ongoing accommodations. Students may be allowed to sit out of physical education for one class without medical verification. In that case, they will also remain indoors for recess on that day.

Life Touch Retake and Distance Learning Picture Day is coming



Picture retake day is Monday, Nov. 2. If you would like to have your child's picture retaken please send the packet back to school with a note on the envelope stating what you didn't like, so the photographer can be sure to make the correction. Any questions please call the Discovery office.



Dress for the Weather

It seems our Fall weather has arrived! With the cooler weather upon us, students should wear long sleeves and/or sweatshirts for outdoor recess, phy-ed and periodic stretch breaks. The health office has very limited supplies of cold weather clothing, so



plan ahead and make sure your child has their cool/cold weather clothing ready to go. If you or someone you know is in need of cold weather clothing, please contact Heidi Gallart, RN and District Nurse at 763-682-8514 or hgallart@bhmschools.org or ask any school staff member. We are willing to help!



Art Adventure

2019-20 we concluded another great, but odd, year for Art Adventure! Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the March 2020 schedule due to the COVID-19 quarantine, but the students did have a great learning experience in November 2019. Our theme for November was <u>How People Lived</u> and we started <u>Let's Celebrate</u> <u>Life</u> in March 2020. We had three volunteers who helped present the posters of artwork from the Minneapolis Institute of Art to the students in grades K-5. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to those who volunteered as "picture people" in the classrooms: Amy Field Blake, Crystal Hipple, and myself, Dana Botz. Without the volunteers this program would not happen and the students are always excited to see what each theme has in store. We are always looking for new volunteers and welcome you to speak with any of these parents about their experience. If you (or your child's aunt/uncle/grandparent) are interested in becoming a "picture person", please contact the Art Adventure Coordinator, Dana Botz at <u>dmbotz@gmail.com</u> or 612-716-4582.

Would you like more information about becoming an Art Adventure volunteer?

Art Adventure is a program that engages students with artworks from the Minneapolis Institute of Art's collection through the support of thousands of trained school volunteers just like yourself. **Art Adventure** sends visual arts into K-6 class-rooms across Minnesota and beyond. **Art Adventure** for Discovery Elementary usually runs in November and March. Training for November is done in September or October and training for March is done in January or February. Training will take place <u>virtually</u> through the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. For more information, contact: Dana Botz, <u>dmbotz@gmail.com</u> or 612-716-4582.

We need you!

Annual Notifications from Buildings and Grounds

Asbestos: Annual Notification of Availability of the Management Plan and Related Activities

The Management Plan is available for viewing by interested parties, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Principal's Office at each school site. Copies of the management plan are available from the District for nominal cost. The Asbestos Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires that each school district notify parents, guardians, and staff annually regarding asbestos-related activities. All of the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District buildings have been inspected for asbestos-containing materials according to AHERA protocol, using accredited inspectors.

As required by Federal law, the condition of asbestos in our school is surveyed every six months as part of an ongoing operations and maintenance program. The most recent survey was completed in June 2017. A comprehensive inspection is conducted every three years. The latest three-year inspection was completed in December 2014. Concerns identified from these inspections are remedied by professional asbestos abatement contractors in a timely manner. The remaining asbestos in the district buildings will remain unless its condition deteriorates, or it becomes necessary due to renovation. ISD 877 has on file a complete and updated management plan dealing with asbestos containing building material (ACBM) within the School District's Buildings. The management plan is available for viewing by interested parties, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Principal's office at each school site. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to the District "Designated Person" for asbestos management, John Heltunen, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at 763.682.8773.

Janet B. Johnson, Parents Right-To-Know Act, August 2003

A Minnesota state law went into effect in the year 2000 that requires schools to inform school employees and parents if they apply pesticides on school property.

Specifically, this law requires schools that apply these pesticides to maintain an estimated schedule of pesticide applications and to make the schedule available to employees and parents for review or copy at each school's office. If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the estimated schedule (excluding emergency applications), please contact John Heltunen at 763.682.8773.

The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pesticides or the class of chemicals to which they belong may not be fully understood.

ISD 877 is continuing to work closely with its health and safety resources to comply with integrated pest management guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to John Heltunen, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

As an additional requirement by the Department of Education, ISD 877 has developed and implemented an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan that addresses indoor air quality issues throughout the District. Walkthroughs and inspections of the buildings are performed annually to detect current problems and prevent future problems from occurring. Information is also available from the Minnesota Department of Health at <u>http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/schools/index.html</u>. If you have any questions or concerns regarding indoor air quality, please contact the District's IAQ Coordinator, John Heltunen.