



TELEPHONE NUMBER: 442-2000

PARA ESPAÑOL: 442-2050

SAFE ARRIVAL NUMBER: 442-2085

FAX NUMBER: 442-2100

## **CHÁVEZ COURIER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER2006**



Dear Chávez Families,

Chávez Elementary School aims to be a positive place where students, staff and parents feel good about school and where important learning occurs. We believe that all students and staff must be physically and emotionally safe to have an effective learning environment. We also believe that students can be responsible learners and contributing members to our school community. Further, we believe that staff, with the support of parents/guardians, should respond to help children develop self-discipline.

Our staff has been working on a system called "Above the Line Behaviors," along with teaching social skills such as Stop and Think Social Skills, to maintain high expectations for good behavior.

Our goal is to provide a system that helps children to effectively work through behavior situations in a positive and meaningful way. Part of the school-wide system will be positive recognition and celebrations for student behaviors that contribute to a sense of community. The other part of the system will be the consistent response to misbehaviors as

they occur. Also under the MMSD Code of Conduct misbehaviors are categorized by levels with an appropriate response for each of the levels. By adopting this system and putting it into practice, Chávez Staff hopes to communicate clear boundaries for behaviors and work in a coordinated way to help students make good decisions.

Please talk with your child about "Above the Line Behaviors." Each classroom has had important discussions around this topic and will continue to enhance their programs.

Teamwork on this project is very necessary and we appreciate all your support.

Sincerely,

Linda Allen, Principal

## EVER WONDER WHY WE ARE OFFERING A COLD SANDWICH FOR LUNCH?



Our elementary schools offer a Cold Sandwich as an alternative to the Hot Choice on the menu most days. Most of the children love having a choice at lunch time!

The down side is that we cannot accurately predict how many children will select each choice. The result is that we may run out of one choice before all the students have been served.

Each week as I gather more information, I make adjustments in my ordering. I order meals one week in advance, dividing my estimates between the Hot and Cold choices (generally I order between 20 and 40 of the Cold Choice, and the remainder would be the Hot Choice). After the teachers submit the lunch count for the day, I divide the number of Hot and Cold choices between each of the three lunch hours. Unfortunately, I may run out of one or the other before the end of the serving line. I cannot adjust the Cold Sandwich count on the day of delivery as only the Hot Choice lunch count is able to be adjusted.

Hopefully, as weeks go by and as I learn your children's preferences, this will happen less often, but it will never be an exact science. For this reason, we do not have children specify which lunch they would like because we cannot guarantee they will always get their first choice. It is my goal to be able to provide your child with the lunch of their choice each day.

Carolynn Menendez  
Chavez Food Service  
442-2025



## FUNDRAISER UPDATE

A great BIG thank you goes out to all the Chávez families who participated in the Geckler Fundraiser this fall! The exact totals aren't finalized but it looks like we made close to \$9,000. We also appreciate the moms who volunteered their time on delivery day to unload the truck and distribute the goods. Thanks to Peggy Christiansen, Leslie Doll, Annette



Fox, Armande Fruhling, Joanne Gabriel, Joy Jameson, Diane Tautges and Andrea Zani.

The PTO is also very grateful to the families who chose to give a direct donation in lieu of doing the sale. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

We still have lots of Bucky Books available. They make great holiday gifts! If you would like to purchase one (or more), contact Peggy 848-5180 or Rhonda 848-8011.

Thanks again for all your fundraising efforts. It's parents like you who make this PTO work!

Peggy Wirtzfeld and Rhonda James  
Fundraising Co-chairs

## NO PETS ALLOWED ON THE PLAYGROUND

The BOE has adopted a new "Animal Policy" this year. Details are available at [mmsd.org](http://mmsd.org) or from the school office. The policy states that to maintain the safety and health of all students and adults, dogs and other pets should not be brought into the school building or on school grounds without first providing the needed documentation as outlined in the policy.



Please do not bring your dog or other pet onto school property when picking up or dropping off your child. If you wish to obtain special permission for your family pet to visit your child's classroom during the school day, please speak to your child's teacher or the school office. We appreciate your help in maintaining school safety by complying with this policy.

## LOST AND FOUND



Please check for lost and found items while you are at school during parent teacher conferences! Items will be placed on a table in the front entryway.

During Thanksgiving break, any items remaining in the lost and found bins will be bagged and stored for three weeks. Anything unclaimed after the three weeks will then be donated.



**MMSD WELLNESS COMMITTEE**  
**2006-2007 RECOMMENDED SNACK LIST FOR**  
**CLASSROOM OR PROGRAM SNACKS**

Items on this list have been selected because they do not contain peanuts or nuts products and the fat content meets Board of Education Policy for the 2006-2007 school year. Brand names are indicated because at this time, these items are peanut and nut free. Snacks containing peanuts or other nuts should not be served at school. This includes snacks with almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts.

Food prepared at home to be served at school should be accompanied by a general list of ingredients or should be sent with a checklist indicating whether any of the following ingredients are included: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy. Along with peanuts and tree nuts, these ingredients are responsible for 90% of all food allergy reactions in children.

Cookies, cakes, chips, ice cream should be saved for occasional treats.

**Fruits/Vegetables**

- Any fresh fruit, including oranges, apples, bananas, grapes, pears, plums, tangerines that has been thoroughly washed
- Applesauce cups
- Raisins and other dried fruits – prepackaged (except Eileen’s brand)
- Fruit cups (canned)
- Any pre-packaged fresh vegetables (e.g. baby carrots) and low fat dips

**Juices**

- 100% fruit or vegetable juices

**Dairy**

- Yogurt in individual cups or tubes
- Pudding in individual cups, cans or tubes
- String cheese or other individually packaged cheeses (1 oz)
- Frozen yogurt bars

**Crackers/Snack items**

Nabisco/Kraft brand:

- Crackers (Wheat Thins, Triscuits or Vegetable Thins)
- Red Oval Farms Stoned Wheat Thins

- Honey Maid Graham crackers or sticks (honey, cinnamon or chocolate flavor)
- Ritz crackers (original flavor or wheat), dinosaurs or sticks (EXCEPT Ritz bits)
- Cheese Nips or Better Cheddars
- Teddy Grahams or Teddy Graham character brands
- Barnum’s Animal Crackers

Keebler brand:

- Wheatables (wheat or honey flavors)
- Club Crackers
- Town House Crackers
- Scooby Doo Graham Cracker Sticks
- Grahams
- Sunshine Cheez-Its
- Saltines and Oyster Crackers (any)
- Pepperidge Farm Goldfish Crackers (any EXCEPT Sandwich Snackers)

Brenton brand crackers

**Cereals**

- Cheerios (EXCEPT Honey Nut or Frosted Cheerios)
- Raisin bran
- Grape Nuts
- Frosted Mini-Wheats
- Wheaties
- Rice Chex, Corn Chex, Wheat Chex or Multigrain Chex
- Honey Maid Soft Baked Bars
- Kellogg’s Apple Jacks or Mini Wheats
- Cracklin’ Oat Bran
- Corn Bran

**Cereal Bars**

- Kellogg’s NutriGrain Bars
- Quaker Fruit and Oatmeal Bites

**Other**

- Small bagels (Lenders and Thomas brand) with cream cheese(no nut types)
- Popcorn (no or low fat)
- Baked Tortilla chips and salsa (Tostitos brand)
- Frozen treats such as 100% fruit/juice pops
- Jello snacks (individual cups)
- Popcorn (POP-Secret brand)
- New York bagel chips
- Handi Snacks with cheese and red sticks
- Pretzels – Rold Gold and most other brands are peanut free
- Quaker Crispins

**Please read labels carefully to make sure the products are nut free.**

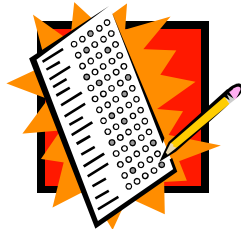
## WISCONSIN KNOWLEDGE AND CONCEPTS EXAMINATION (WKCE)

The purpose of the WKCE is to provide information about each student's knowledge in core academic areas and whether students can apply their knowledge.

All 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Wisconsin will participate in the WKCE during the testing window of November 1 – 10<sup>th</sup>. Fourth grade students are assessed in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. There is also a required written language component.

Third and Fifth graders are assessed in reading and math only.

The results of these tests provide important feedback as we constantly seek ways to provide the best educational experience for our students.



## FIRE PREVENTION

The City of Madison Fire Department visited school in October for Fire Prevention month and spoke to students in grades K-3 about the dangers of playing with matches and lighters. The children learned that matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups only and should be kept out of the reach of children. The Fire Department reminds you that children learn how to use fire by watching the adults around them. If grown-ups don't show respect for fire, children most certainly won't.



Keep matches and lighters in a safe place, high and out of reach of children. Lock them up if necessary.

Don't ignore the obvious. If you need help with a child who is misusing fire, call the City of Madison Fire Department Community Education Unit at 266-4420.

## EMERGENCY CODE RED

Chávez students practice fire drills monthly and tornado drills once a year so they will know what to do in case the need arises. We have another drill to practice twice a year called a "Code Red," which is a lockdown procedure for the school. We had our first practice Code Red drill on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Code Red drill is a safety measure done to teach the students what to do in case there is an intruder in the building. We hope to learn as much as possible about keeping our students and staff safe by following these procedures during practice drills.

We are aware that for some students this may be a frightening experience. Students have discussions with their class before the practice drills. We try to keep focused on the reason for the lockdowns and evacuations so children can be at ease and feel safe.

We appreciate your follow-up conversations with your children.

## TALENTED & GIFTED CORNER

*"Most people think of success and failure as opposites, but they are actually both products of the same process"*

-- Roger von Oech

### ■ **Madison United for Academic Excellence (MUAE)**

Upcoming meetings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 209, of the Doyle Administration Building, 545 West Dayton St.:

**Tuesday, October 17** – "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Differentiation... Don't Be Afraid to Ask!" with MMSD TAG staff

**Wednesday, November 29** – Dialogue with MMSD Superintendent Art Rainwater

**Tuesday, December 12** – "Math, Math, Math!" with Lisa Wachtel (Director, MMSD Teaching and Learning Dept.)

■ **Monroe Street Fine Arts Center**

Classes are offered in the arts during the summer and the school year - great enrichment opportunity for kids. <http://www.msfac.org/>

■ **Kids Are Authors**

This is an annual competition that encourages teams of three or more students to use their reading, writing, and artistic skills to create a book. The creative process of working in teams helps provide a natural environment to practice editing, teamwork and communication skills necessary for future success. Due date: March 15, 2007. Visit [www.scholastic.com/kidsareauthors](http://www.scholastic.com/kidsareauthors) for more details. Open to grades K-8.

■ **Suggested TAG Books for Parents**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Guiding the Gifted Child</u><br>by Webb, Meckstroth, & Tolan | <u>Keys To Parenting The Gifted Child</u><br>by Sylvia Rimm |
| <u>Re-Forming Gifted Education</u><br>by Karen B. Rogers        | <u>Genius Denied</u><br>By Jan and Bob Davidson             |

■ **THE MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH**

There's still time to register for on-line for the Midwest Academic Talent Search at: <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats/index.html> If you have questions, you may call your TAG Resource Teacher , Barbie Klawikowski, at 608-663-5230 or email [bklawikowski@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:bklawikowski@madison.k12.wi.us).

Note: Tuesday, December 12, 7-8:30, Room 209 Doyle Administration Building - "Math, Math, Math!" with Lisa Wachtel (Director, MMSD Teaching and Learning Department)



**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**



It is already the second quarter of the school year! Parent-teacher conferences are coming up very soon on Thursday, November 17 at Chávez. They are truly one of the most positive steps to ensuring your child's success. This is a good opportunity for parents and teachers to talk about academic achievement and behavioral expectations.

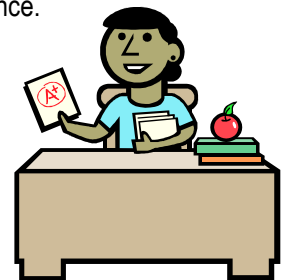
After the conferences are over, please do the following:

- Discuss the conference with your child. First, point out his/her strengths and then talk about the areas that need improvement.
- Start immediately any actions you have decided to take. Did the teacher recommend books for you and your child to read? Did he/she suggest a better arrangement for studying at home? Working on math facts or spelling words? Did he/she propose getting outside help in a special area?

Feel free to contact the teacher to follow up on your child's progress. Teachers value positive interest on the part of the parent.

Make certain your child understands that you and the teacher are in partnership with the same goal in mind.

Be sure to sign up for a conference.



## **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH KIDS?**



Are you or someone you know looking for a part-time job? The City of Madison is looking for interested people who enjoy working outdoors to provide safety for our school children for the 2006-2007 school year.

We currently have two West side locations available.

As a crossing guard, you work 10-13 hours per week and earn \$12.53 per hour plus retirement benefits. Health and life insurance are also available. Most shifts are 1 - 1 ¼ hours and fall between the hours of 7:00-8:45 a.m. and 2:30-4:00 p.m. with an earlier shift Monday afternoons.

For more information, please contact the City of Madison Police Dept. Traffic Bureau at 266-4703 (Patti Knoche or Bob Olson) or Human Resources at 266-4615. A job description and application is also available at: [ci.madison.wi.us/hr/jobopen.html](http://ci.madison.wi.us/hr/jobopen.html)



## **WEATHER C-, GARDEN CREW A+**

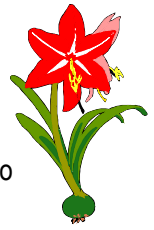
The Garden Crew weeded and shoveled 10 yards of mulch to ready our beds for winter and make the teacher's parking lot a welcome place to arrive. Special thanks go to Rhonda and Chris James, Andy and Scott Johnson and Angie Hubbard for enduring a soggy afternoon so that every student, parent, staff member and visitor can tell that We Support Chavez!

To my Bulb-Planting Crew, Cindy Sieloff and Annette Fox, a huge thank you. We planted over 100 bulbs to make springtime joyful for all who come to Chavez. We appreciated the donations of the PTO, Alicia Lundal, Ilia Buhtoiarova and Jung's to make this happen.

We are currently on the hunt for some plant material. We are looking for: coral bells, daylilies (red/yellow), forsythia, yucca, silvermound, creeping phlox, creeping sedum, russian sage, and yarrow.

If you have any to share, please call/email me. If you are interested in joining our Garden Team, we desperately need volunteers for next year. Even to come for 1 hour/1 time a year is so needed!

Laurel Thompson ([laurelthompy@hotmail.com](mailto:laurelthompy@hotmail.com))  
270.0173



## **CHAVEZ SELECTED AS A NUISI SCHOOL -**

Susan L. Abplanalp, Ph.D  
Assistant Superintendent – Elementary

Dear MMSD Staff and Families:

I am very pleased to announce that in March 2006 the Madison Metropolitan School District was invited by the National Institute for Urban School Improvement (NIUSI) to be one of eight school districts to partner with their initiative over a five-year period. The purpose of this partnership is to address issues related to the disproportional numbers of students of color in special education. This partnership will give the MMSD access to an expansive array of current research, technical assistance, and professional development designed to support ten MMSD schools with their improvement efforts to address disproportionality.

Your school will be one of the ten schools in MMSD exploring the disproportional number of students of color in special education with eight other districts across the nation. The issue of disproportionality is not unique to Madison and in recent years has been identified as a significant issue at both the federal and state levels.

The NIUSI mission is to develop powerful networks of urban districts and schools that embrace and implement a data-based, continuous improvement approach for inclusive practices. Participating in this project gives schools in Madison a unique and exceptional opportunity to join in a community of learning with colleagues, institutions of higher education, and the Department of Education. The NIUSI project is designed to foster individual growth, advance urban school research, and collaboratively develop a national model of best practices. It is a great honor to be part of this organization. Please join me in congratulating our ten NUISI schools in their efforts for improvement.

**CHANGING OUR HIGH SCHOOLS**  
SUPERINTENDENT ART RAINWATER

The purpose of high school is to ensure that all of our students leave ready for college, jobs and civic involvement. Our traditional, comprehensive high schools today look and feel much like they have for generations. However, the world our students will live and work in has changed dramatically.

The structure of high schools has served society well by preparing young people for the world they were entering. There were good, family supporting jobs that didn't require a high school diploma. The type of classroom teaching strategies that were employed worked well for the post high school plans of our students.

It is becoming increasingly clear however, that not only four year colleges, but also any post secondary education or job training program requires a substantial background in mathematics, science, social studies and language arts.

We need to dramatically change our high schools. This is not a reflection of current high school teachers or their teaching methods. It is a reflection of a changing society. The needed reforms at high school have to be concentrated on making a high level of demanding coursework accessible to all students. To accomplish this goal requires that we change the way we relate to students and that we implement a wide variety of teaching strategies in every class.

The education world has not been oblivious to this need for change. There have been many efforts, across the country, to change high schools, including in our own district. However, high school reform has rarely

addressed the underlying problem -- the high school classroom.

To meet the needs of every student, the student, not the content of the course, must be at the center of our work. It's obvious that the content is critical, for that is what will prepare students for adult success. But first, everything from our teaching methods to the way we inculcate positive behaviors must begin with the student and not the textbook. We have to use our knowledge of how children learn to create classroom strategies that connect with students' own experiences and relate what we want them to learn to its use in the real world.

Regardless of how our high schools look there must always be three goals for our students: ensure that every student gains the knowledge and skills to be a successful adult, provide the opportunity for every student to grow academically and socially, and to learn to be an active participant in the society in which they live.

To reach these three goals we must continue to foster high academic achievement; we must close the achievement gap among different groups of students and we must promote civic and personal growth among our students.

We are beginning the journey of redesigning our high schools. This will take creativity, commitment and our best thinking. It will take all of us, collectively, having the will to find the way so that a diploma from our high schools can provide a ticket to the future for all of our students.

## News from the PTO FROM THE PTO PRESIDENT

The other night the phone rang at our house at 10:00pm.

When your children are in elementary school you wonder, "Who is calling at this time of the night?"

"Do you know how well we're doing?" asked the voice on the other end. It was Marisue Horton from CAST (Communities and Schools Together) and she was at the Election Day party for the Board of Education.

"We're at 68% and counting! It passed!"

Of course she was talking about the School Referendum.

Since our last PTO meeting in October, where we learned of the effects the Referendum would have on our children's future, many Chávez parents went to great lengths to get the word out to vote for this very important cause.

Thank you to all those people! You made a difference!

Now what will happen?

This is what's anticipated based on the data from the MMSD website:

The new "Linden Park" school will be built west of HWY M about 5 miles northwest of Chávez. It is scheduled to open in September 2008.

Many of the children leaving Chávez will be going to the new school. Children going to the new school are from the Park Ridge Drive and "Channel 3" areas.

Children from the High Ridge Trail area will be moving to Thoreau.

Chávez will gain the children presently attending Huegel that live in the Tucson Trails area.

In all, our school's population will decrease to a projected 77% of capacity verses the 109% we are at this year. This will give us a nice cushion to accommodate the probable 100 new students Chávez will gain from new development by 2011.

That's in two years. Next year things will still be tight. We will have much of the same situation as this year with over-capacity. Let's work together knowing it is temporary and relief and better times are in sight!

Angie Hubbard  
[angiechavezpto@gmail.com](mailto:angiechavezpto@gmail.com)  
Make a Difference!

## WE'RE ON LINE!

The Chávez PTO website is up and running at [www.chavezschool.com](http://www.chavezschool.com).

Thanks to Mitch Kite for all his work to make this possible!



## WISH LIST NOT JUST FOR TEACHERS

Did you know that parents, students, and classrooms can request Wish List funds?

If there is something you or your child have been "wishing" for, please fill out a Wish List application available in the office. Applications must be returned to Linda Allen no later than December 23, 2006.

To summarize the intentions of the PTO's Wish List policy, items/projects requested must benefit Chávez students and not already have provided funding through the school's own budget.

Please ask Angie Hubbard for more information.

