



THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School

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Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!



March – April 2013

Dear Chávez Parents and Community Members,

Elementary students in MMSD will attend a full day of school for the final day on June 13th instead of the early release at 10:00 a.m. in order to make up instructional time lost due to school closing for two snow days in December. The last day for 4K will now also be on June 13th. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction requires schools to meet statewide standards for number of days and hours of instruction during the school year.

Now that we have our allocation for next year we are starting to plan our Instructional Design. Instructional Design refers to the way we organize our school to ensure that every child has an excellent educational opportunity. Our Instructional Design must include and support the following beliefs:

- All students deserve the necessary support and opportunities to reach their full potential/succeed.
- There should be shared responsibility for each child between classroom and support teachers.
- Everyone is responsible for all children.
- Classroom groupings are heterogeneous.

You will be receiving the Parent Information Form for your child and it is due back by April 22nd. Do not add teacher names on this form. It is against Board Policy to request specific teachers. Also, please do not solicit teachers for information about placements for next year or verbally request a specific teacher. There is a process that the staff goes through to help make the best decision they can for **all** students in

which we seriously consider each child's academic and interpersonal strengths and ensure that each child has academic peers. We are projected to have 643 students next fall with 30 classroom teachers allocated. We will have straight grades.

We appreciate your involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,
Linda Allen, Principal and Becky Kundert, Assistant Principal

CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Please welcome our new Superintendent **Jennifer Cheatham** to Madison. She has invited parents to join her in their area high school for a conversation about your hopes and aspirations for our school and your children. You can join her on Thursday, May 16th at Memorial High School from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Please make sure you put your child's first and last name on the lunch envelope. We want to make sure your account is credited correctly.

EXXON MOBIL GRANT

Through the efforts of a local Kelley Williamson Company Station, Chávez School has been awarded a \$500 Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance grant. The money was used to provide materials and supplies for student use.

Funded by the Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide local Exxon and Mobil dealers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their community through educational grants to neighborhood schools. We appreciate this generous support of our school community!

DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY/READ ACROSS AMERICA

We were excited to have Officer Krista Luedtke be our guest reader. She read ***"One Fish Two Fish"*** to our Chávez students on March 1st, Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

We also had ***Maynard the Duck*** who talked with students about the Mallards reading program, ***Bucky Badger***, and our very own CC the cheetah mascot.

We appreciate the following community members coming in to join in the fun of reading their favorite Dr. Seuss Book: Dave Dahmer – Editor of the Madison Times Newspaper, Brian Frisch – Dane County Sheriff, Chad Joswiak – MPD (New COP's Officer), Krista Luedtke and Haddie McLean – WISC, Andy Symanski – Jodi Zurbachen's dad (the Pirate), Cheryl Collins-Olson – Department of Financial Institutions, Dave Collins – Retired State Patrol, Arlene Silveira – School Board Member, Beth Zurbachen – Jodi Zurbachen's sister, Ben Boucher and Rob Verheist – Fire Fighters, UW Football, UW Women's Crew and Volleyball players.

SPANISH SPELLING BEE

This year Chávez held its first ever Spanish Spelling Bee in which native Spanish-speaking fourth and fifth grade students had the opportunity to participate.

Nine of our students chose to be a part of this exciting event in which they had the chance to display their Spanish spelling skills for their peers in Mr. Benish and Mrs. Bray's classrooms. **Yesenia Orozco** was the winner and **Melody Plata** was the runner up. They will have the opportunity to represent Chávez in a district-wide Spanish Spelling Bee coming up in May.

It was a pleasure to see a group of our students in a different light as they worked hard to prepare for this event and we look forward to it becoming a bigger event in future years as more students choose to participate.

~submitted by Emma McKeith



DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

The MMSD Board of Education has made the decision that next year we will continue with DLI in grades first and second. It was communicated that we will not be able to enroll kindergarteners. This will be a one way immersion program.

A thank you to the parents that represented our DLI parent populations who met to plan next steps and presented to the board members to advocate for their children.

The next DLI Parent Meeting is scheduled for April 30th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

CHÁVEZ CHOIR SINGS AT BARNES AND NOBLE

In celebration of “Music In Our Schools” month, Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Wisconsin held a book fair on March 14. A percentage of all purchases that day benefitted The Wisconsin School Music Association. Members of the Chávez Choir performed several songs under the direction of Mary Rasmussen and Mike Ross (artistic director of Madison Youth Choirs) at Barnes and Noble West. A big thank you to everyone who attended – the performance was a huge success!

Other news from the Music Room:

Spring concerts for students in Grades K-3 have come and gone, but there are more events coming up! **Grades 4/5** will present a program called “*Earth Day Every Day*” on Tuesday, April 23 (8:45 – Benish, Velden & Wells; 9:30 – Brand, Bray & Remiker).

The **Chávez Marimba Club** will go on tour on Wednesday, May 22. They will perform at Thoreau Elementary, All Saints Assisted Living, Falk Elementary and Oakwood Village.

Grade 5 Strings will present a concert on Thursday afternoon, May 23.

Chávez Choir and The Chávez Marimba Club will perform a joint concert on Tuesday, May 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Please contact Mary Rasmussen or Elizabeth Magargal if you have any questions.

READING MUSIC



Mike Ross, with Madison Youth Choirs, plays the piano Thursday as Chavez Elementary School fourth- and fifth-graders perform during the Barnes & Noble book fair at the store's West Side location. A portion of the proceeds of the store's sales on Thursdays go to the Wisconsin School Music Association.

From the health office.....

The Many Benefits of Exercise

Everyone can benefit from regular exercise. Kids who are active will:

- have stronger muscles and bones
- have a leaner body because exercise helps control body fat
- be less likely to become overweight
- decrease the risk of developing type 2 diabetes
- possibly lower blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels
- have a better outlook on life

Besides enjoying the health benefits of regular exercise, kids who are physically fit **sleep better** and are better able to handle physical and emotional challenges — from running to catch a bus to studying for a test. Consider walking or biking to school now that spring has arrived.

SCHOOL GARDEN NEEDS NEW LEADER

With the retirement of Dan Slick, the school garden, especially the vegetable garden, needs a new leader. With planting season upcoming, we need someone soon: not to do the initial planting, but to make that planting worthwhile by taking over in June, leading a group of kids in tending it, doing mid and late season plantings, and delivering the produce.

If we can go forward with the planting, this will be our third season. The first year we planted just before school got out and I mostly tended it myself. Last summer there was a group of about 6 kids who worked together twice a week and shared watering chores between times. The 20 x 20 foot garden produced about 250 pounds of produce each season which was delivered to the Second Harvest food bank. I've been told there is a food bank in Verona that will take our produce, so that might be a lot easier for delivery.

Is there an individual or group among staff or parents interested in taking on this project? Anyone who has gardened knows how satisfying it can be. If you've gardened with kids, you know that, too, is a good experience.

Please think it over. If you have interest, please contact Dan Slick at dslick@madison.k12.wi.us or call and leave a message at 442-2067.

LEARN 2 RIDE

Is it time for your child to break up with their training wheels? Learn easy, innovative techniques to get your child riding solo on two wheels! This approach teaches youth ages 4+ how to balance, pedal, stop and steer on a closed course. Each participant will receive a free bike helmet and should bring their bike. Call us if you need to reserve one of our practice bikes (limited supply). All participants must be accompanied by a companion 16+ years. Being offered in collaboration with MSCR and Madison

Department of Transportation. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. MMSD resident/non-resident: \$7/\$10.50 per child. www.mschr.org 608-204-3000. Find a location near you. Everyone welcome!

School	Date	Time
Course #		
Elvehjem 42343	Sun. 5/5	10am-12pm
Olson 42338	Sat. 5/11	10am-12pm
Falk 42340	Tue. 6/18	5:30-7:30pm
Mendota 42341	Thu. 6/20	5:30-7:30pm
*Leopold 42342	Wed. 7/10	5:30-7:30pm

*Spanish speaking staff available

TOKI 5th Grade Parents

Start middle school off right and stay connected! Toki parents are trying to get together parents from the incoming Elementary schools. They are looking for a parent liaison of sorts to help the parents of 6th graders to stay informed and connected. If you are interested in becoming involved please connect with the Chavez PTO Volunteer Coordinator at chavezvolunteer@gmail.com.



Don't forget to sign up

MMSD Summer School Enrichment

Registration Deadline
May 24, 2013

June 24 - August 2

mmsd.org/summerenrichment

MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

The poster features a blue background with a white musical note, a magnifying glass over the word 'Enrichment', and a photo of children in a field. A yellow starburst contains the registration deadline.

SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY (SLA)

This six week full day summer program is from June 24 through August 2 (No classes on July 4th). If you sign up you are expected to commit to the whole six weeks. Students that qualify for summer school will receive an enrollment packet (invitation letter and enrollment form) sent from the Summer School Office to your home. Summer school on-line enrollment will be due by May 7th.

Fourth grade students who do not meet the promotion requirements must attend this program to enter fifth grade.

Programs offered at Chávez Elementary School will be K-Ready – Grade 5, Bilingual K-Ready – 2nd Grade and Enrichment Program. Feeder schools attending will be Falk, Lincoln, Midvale, Huegel and Lincoln 4K Bilingual.

SLA program runs from 8:00 – 12:00 and MSCR program runs from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all students and families that donated to the coin drive for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. The generous donations added up to \$1,164.54! With this money, Chávez Elementary School will be able to sponsor a resident cheetah, named Harry. We are also able to put money toward saving wild cheetahs. With our contribution, we are saving a female and two cubs, and a group of six wild cheetahs!

To visit the website for the Cheetah Conservation Fund to read more about the organization, and to read about Harry, please go to www.cheetah.org. There are many wonderful photos and video clips so you can view cheetahs in action. Thank you, on behalf of the cheetahs in Africa!



PTO NEWS

The PTO would like to thank all the parents and teachers who have volunteered at school events and donated food for staff meals this year! Your help and dedication to the school is greatly appreciated and helps make Chávez Elementary a wonderful environment.

The PTO Board has a couple openings for the upcoming school year. Open positions: **web manager** (post all upcoming events and news on the PTO website and facebook page) and **co-president** (assist other co-president with running monthly board meetings, assist with budget decisions, plan school events and help foster communication among event co-chairs and volunteers). If you are interested in either of these positions, please email Corrina Frye at thefryes@tds.net.

Let's communicate!

Help us improve district communication by taking a short (5 minute) survey regarding effective communication strategies. We are conducting the survey Wednesday, April 24th through Wednesday, May 15th. Watch your email for an invitation to take the survey. For those who don't frequently check or use email, don't worry! We will also have paper copies available at your school's main office or you can take the survey over the phone by calling 663-1879 between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm Monday-Friday. We look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions.