



# THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

*A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School*

3502 Maple Grove Drive  
Madison, WI 53719

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**Becky Kundert**, Asst. Principal

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*Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!*



**November – December 2012**

Dear Chávez Parents and Community Members,

Winter is almost here and we are fast approaching 2013. Where did the time go?

Please keep in mind as the weather changes to make sure your child is bundled up and remind them that it is very important they bundle up for recess and for the trip home each day. Students should have a pair of shoes in their lockers to change out of their boots so their feet can stay dry. It would also be helpful if your child could have an extra change of clothes in his/her locker in case of any accidents.

May you have a relaxing and enjoyable vacation during winter break, which extends from December 24 through Sunday January 6, 2013.

Sincerely,

Linda Allen, Principal

Becky Kundert, Assistant Principal

## **Late to School**

Students are expected to be on time (here and ready to line up with their class to come inside when the bell rings at 8:25) at the start of the school day and for their classes throughout the school day. A student is considered tardy if they arrive at school up to 15 minutes after the

designated start time. In addition to missed learning opportunities for the tardy student, tardiness to class or to school causes disruption to the learning environment for all students. Patterns of severe tardiness call for intervention by the teacher, the principal, and/or the school's student services staff. Questions about your school's absence procedures can be directed to your school administrator(s).

### School Information:

- Students arriving to school up until 8:45 a.m. are tardy.
- When a student gets to school after 8:45 a.m. they are considered a third of a day unexcused absence.
- If your child is ill or is going to be late, please leave a message on the Safe Arrival line 442-2085 (a 24 hours a day, seven days a week answering machine). If a parent does not report an illness, an appointment or tardiness to the school, it will be recorded as an unexcused absence.

## **NOTE FROM THE NURSE:**

Winter is almost here!! Your children will be expected to come to school with snow pants, boots, gloves, and hats. If you are unable to provide these to your student please contact the nurse or social worker, and we will assist you in getting what you need.

## **Is Your Child Well Enough To Go To School?**

It is not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Children who come to school are expected, with few exceptions, to participate fully in school activities.

Here are some guidelines that might help in a parent's decision-making:

1. **Fever:** A fever of 100 degrees or more signals an illness that is probably going to make a student uncomfortable and unable to function well in class. Your child should stay home until he/she is feeling better.
2. **Vomiting, Diarrhea or Severe Nausea:** These are symptoms that require a student to remain at home until a normal diet is tolerated the night before and the morning of school.
3. **Infectious Diseases:** Diseases such as impetigo, pink eye with thick drainage, and strep throat require a doctor's examination and prescription for medication. Contacting the health care provider and using the medicine as directed for the full recommended length of time are necessary. Once medication has been started and the child is feeling well, he/she may return to school.

Students with chicken pox may return to school when all the scabs are completely dried and no new lesions are developing (usually 5-7 days).

4. **Rashes:** Rashes or patches of broken, itchy skin need to be examined by a health care provider if they appear to be spreading or not improving.

5. **Injuries:** If a student has an injury that causes continuous discomfort, the student should not attend school until the condition is checked by a health care provider or it improves. Injuries that interfere with class participation need a medical evaluation. If participation in physical education classes is not recommended, a medical excuse is required.

## **When is school closed due to weather?**

When the weather is bad, the Madison Metropolitan School District follows a set of guidelines for deciding if school will be open or closed. The district must make a decision that is the best for all students. We realize our decisions may create an inconvenience with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your child(ren). You are always the best judge of your child's health and safety.

### **The process for deciding when schools are open or closed due to snow and/or ice**

District staff members review the weather conditions beginning early in the morning. They talk with weather forecasters, the City Streets Department, Madison Police and Dane County Sheriff's Departments, and school district staff to see if all buildings are accessible for students and staff.

MMSD consults with bus companies to see if buses will be able to travel safely to and from school. MMSD administration makes the decision whether to close schools by 6:30 a.m. or earlier, and then communicates this decision to all local news outlets and to parents via email, phone and text message.

## **How you can find out if schools are closed?**

On days when the weather is bad, listen to any local radio or television station for information about school closing. **If during registration you have provided an email address and/or text message phone number in the parent portal to the Infinite Campus student information system, you will be contacted in the morning regarding a school closing.**

You may also check our website [www.mmsd.org](http://www.mmsd.org) or MMSD-TV Cable Channel 993.

## **When schools are closed because of extreme cold**

When the National Weather Service has a wind chill WARNING for Dane County in effect for the time just before the school day begins, we will make a decision if our schools should close. It is quite likely we will make this type of closing decision on the morning of the day in question. If there is a wind chill ADVISORY (and not a WARNING) for the county, schools will likely be open.

## **When schools are closed, all activities are canceled**

When Madison schools are closed for the day, it also means that all activities scheduled in school buildings for that day are canceled. This includes all MSCR programs and all after school programs.

## **Why schools are generally not dismissed early on days when the weather is bad**

In many of our families, adults work outside the home and they have no child care arrangements available before the end of the school day. However, if your schedule allows and if you feel your child(ren) will be safer at home, you can pick your child(ren) up before the end of the school day. If you

do, go to the school office and request that your child(ren) be dismissed to you.

## **We try to keep schools open**

When schools close, many families have issues with child care. As a result, we try to keep schools open if it's safe to do so. However, as we stated at the top of this letter, parents can always make the decision to keep their child(ren) at home in bad weather.

## **Why school starts are not delayed on days when the weather is bad but will improve during the day**

In many of our families, adults working outside the home are not able to adjust their work schedules or find child care to accommodate a later start. If your family transports your child(ren) to school, we appreciate the extra effort it takes on severe weather days and we acknowledge that the students' arrival might be somewhat delayed.

## **When schools are closed for other reasons**

If you have a question about whether schools or a particular school will be closed for reasons other than severe weather, we will communicate via email to those parents/guardians who have provided their email address to us via Infinite Campus – the online student information system. You can also listen to local radio or television stations, go to the school's Web site or watch MMSD-TV.

## **Thank you for your understanding and cooperation**

For every family which is happy that school is in session on days when the weather is bad, there is another family that feels schools should be closed. The decision to open or close schools during inclement weather brings out some of the strongest

community reactions – no matter which way we go with our weather decisions.

We appreciate your understanding of the difficulties in making this decision, and your support in helping your child get to school safely on winter days. Please know that we will use safety considerations in making all of our weather decisions.

Sincerely,



Jane Belmore  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

## **Foundation for Madison Schools**

The Chávez Endowment Fund generates income annually which is available to use to make grants for creative and innovative projects and programs at Chávez.

We were awarded a grant for \$932.00 to purchase two iPads for the school. They will be distributed to the Cross Categorical and English As A Second Language departments.

## **To Be a Successful Chávez Volunteer**

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Be sure to sign in at the main office each day you volunteer and wear a name tag.

Notify the school if you cannot come in as scheduled.

Teachers are asked to notify you of any changes.

### **Awareness**

You may, or may not, work directly with your own child or in your child's classroom.

There are a variety of tasks and jobs for volunteers. Some tasks can be accomplished at your home.

### **School Support**

Provide adult support for students when working in the classroom.

Share your talents, interests, and cultural background.

Volunteers are welcome in "Specials" classes.

Give students feedback and encourage them to do their best.

Help students focus their attention to the tasks at hand.

Ask children open-ended questions to help them solve problems and tasks –avoid doing the work for them.

### **Respect**

Be respectful of all children's abilities and learning styles.

Avoid making judgments and comparisons between or among students and/or classrooms.

Leave younger children at home so that you can give your task undivided attention.

Please put your cell phone on vibrate or turn it off.

### **Discipline**

Follow the teacher's lead and let the teacher handle disciplinary actions.

You are in a position of trust when working with children.

Maintain open communication with your teacher at all times.

## **Confidentiality**

Remember, when you are volunteering at Chávez Elementary School you are seen as a professional.

You must follow the policies of the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Each student has the right to privacy.

At no time should you share any student information outside the classroom.

## **We Welcome You To Be A:**

Listener, Advocate, Friend, Role Model and Coach

We appreciate your interest in supporting our students and staff at Chávez.

## **Welcome New Staff Members**

Hello, my name is Meghan Caylor. I am the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Instructional Resource Teacher (IRT) for your child's school for the 2012-2013 school year. We are really moving toward a Response to Intervention (RtI) model within TAG, where we consistently look at data in order to find students or groups of students who may be outliers from their peer group. Rather than a "program", TAG is a continuum of services based upon how far a child is beyond core. Interventions, then, include supplemental and replacement curriculum to keep students challenged.

Another focus in TAG this year is short-term enrichment to help further develop talent. These groups are not interventions, but rather opportunities for growth and continued interest.

If you have any questions about TAG services, please e-mail me at [mwcaylor@gmail.com](mailto:mwcaylor@gmail.com).

We also welcome Matt Crane to our building coming from New York. He is a Cross Categorical Teacher and a gifted musician.

## **Board Policy on Gifts for Staff**

Board of Education Policy (8254A) states, "The acceptance of gifts of commercial value from pupils or parents by any employee of the Board is prohibited." (The Superintendent may make exceptions in case of bereavement, prolonged illness, or death).

We know many children enjoy giving something to their teacher(s). If your child feels this way, perhaps a book, game, tape, etc. could be given to the classroom, Library (LMC) or another school program. In this way, all Chávez students will benefit. The classroom teachers would be happy to offer suggestions and ideas if you wish.

You may also make a contribution to the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools in honor of a special educator.

## **PTO NEWS**

In just the first two quarters of school, we have had amazing fundraising support for our Chávez community. We started off the school year having a fundraiser night at Buffalo Wild Wings which raised \$200 for our school.

From the sale of the Madison Original restaurant tins, we raised \$500. The sale of cookie dough and gift items from Great American raised \$13,450! And lastly, items from Reap raised \$353.

We would like to thank all those who participated in these fundraising efforts as well as those who volunteered their time to make them a success!

Volunteers **are** needed for the following upcoming events:  
Book Fair during the last week of January/Book Fair and Pizza Fest on Friday, February 1, 2013  
5th Grade Celebration Committee - Celebration on Wednesday, June 12, 2013.  
Next open PTO Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 in school library. Free childcare provided.  
The next Dual Language Parent Night is December 18, 2012.

### **Spring Harbor Middle School**

Spring Harbor Middle School is an environmental science magnet school located in the Memorial attendance area. Any student who lives in the Memorial area is eligible to apply for Spring Harbor's lottery. Priority in enrollment will be given to students living in the former Spring Harbor Elementary School attendance area and to siblings of students currently attending Spring Harbor who will continue to attend as 7th or 8th graders next year. Fifty percent of the students will come from Jefferson attendance area and 50% will come from the Toki attendance area. Each year 90 students are selected to attend.

At 6:00 p.m. on January 10, 2013 and 7:00 p.m. on January 16, 2013 Principal Leia Esser and her staff will be conducting parent informational meetings in the Spring Harbor library. In addition, a member of Spring Harbor staff will be visiting with our fifth grade students on January 9, 2013.

Anyone interested in attending Spring Harbor **MUST** submit an application. These applications will be mailed to you the week of December 10, 2012 and can also be obtained on the Spring Harbor website after December 3.

Applications are due on Friday, February 1 by 4:00 p.m. and **MUST** be submitted to

the MMSD Student Enrollment Office, 545 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703. No other MMSD employee besides enrollment office employees may accept an application.

### **Akira Toki Middle School**

Toki Middle School will be having a Parent/Guardian Orientation "*A Day in the Life of a 6<sup>th</sup> Grader*" Meeting for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade families on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Toki Cafeteria.

## **\*\*\*Special Notice\*\*\***

### **MMSD Summer School Enrichment 2013**

Beginning in 2013, information about the MMSD Summer School Enrichment program, including registration information, will come to families directly from the District's Department of Early and Extended Learning. This is a change as information for MMSD Summer School Enrichment classes will no longer be included in the District's MSCR summer program guide as it has in the past.

Watch for more information about MMSD Summer School Enrichment 2013 to come to you in the US mail, in school/family newsletters, brochures, and on the District's web page. For more information, please call Barbie Klawikowski at (608) 663-5941.



## After School Back-Up Plans?

What would happen if your child got off the bus and no one was there to greet him/her? Would your child know what to do? Where would you want your child to go? Do you have a backup plan? ***We strongly encourage parents to develop safety plans with their children.***

Here are some things to think about:

- how your child can get into your house or apartment
- how parent(s) or caregivers can be reached
- where to go if parent(s) are not home
- other children who get off at your child's bus stop
- whether your child knows how to cross streets safely
- whether your child knows how to walk home

Everyone knows how scary it is when a young child is lost, even for a few minutes. Having safety plans helps empower your child and helps everyone to have a better sense of safety. Additional safety information can be found at <https://pubinfoweb.madison.k12.wi.us/node/2310>

## Madison Area Technical College Continuing Education New spring 2013 Course Offering

**Course Name:** Madison Metropolitan School District School Nurse's Assistant Course **Class Number:** 62193 **Fee:** \$229.00 (Fee Includes \$30 Textbook) **Instructor:** Dawn Sebranek, RN, MS **Schedule:** Every Wednesday evening for 8 weeks (No class 3/27/13) from 5 – 8 p.m. **Course Begins and Ends:** 2/27/13 – 4/24/13 **Location:** Downtown Education Center 211 N. Carroll Street Room TBD **Registration:** Students may register in person at at the Truax Campus or at the Downtown Education Center or call [608] 246-6240. Prior

students may register via InsideMadison College at [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu)

**Information:** Madison College Continuing Education (608) 258-2301



## MSCR Winter 2013 Programs For Youth [www.mscr.org](http://www.mscr.org) or 204-3000

MSCR offers a variety of recreation programs for all ages at affordable prices. Programs include arts and enrichment, fitness, skiing, recreational and league sports, swimming and much more. Please check the MSCR Winter Program Guide for more information or go to [www.mscr.org](http://www.mscr.org). Scholarships are available. Sessions begin in January.

### Winter Program Highlights:

- Arts & Enrichment Classes including Spanish, Drawing, Show Stoppers (an introduction to musical theater), Dance, Pottery and more for children in grades K - 5
- Basketball Clinics for children in grades 3-5 begins Saturday, February 2 at Toki Middle School
- Cross Country & Downhill Skiing Lessons for youth and families
- Indoor Soccer begins January
- Fit Family Classes – enjoy fun fitness activities together! Monday nights at Lussier Community Education Center and Sundays at MSCR Odana
- Punk Rope Kids – Learn jump rope skills, tricks and routines – Sundays at MSCR Odana, and Monday nights at Emerson Elementary. For children in grades 3-5. Session begins February 4
- Swimming Lessons begin February 4 at MMSD High Schools – evenings and weekends