



THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School

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Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!



October – November 2012

Dear Chávez Parents and Community Members,

Our Patrols are very concerned about some of the adult behavior they see in the parking lot. They can't believe how the parents/guardians are not following the rules of the parking lot. They really get upset when people pull through the parking stalls and park on the cross walk waiting to pick up their passengers.

The rules in the parking lot have not changed, yet. We are looking to work with the Safe Routes to School Coordinator and the City of Madison Pedestrian-Bicycle Coordinator to see how we can make our parking lot a safer spot to be. They feel the number of vehicles at Chávez is the fundamental problem.

One of the ideas has been a walking school bus which is chaperoned by parents. More information will be coming.

As the weather is starting to change please make sure your child is dressed warmly for recess and for the trip home each day. You may want to check the lost and found bench in the side entryway of the front doors for your child's mittens, gloves, hats, and coats that haven't returned home. It would be wise to place your child's name on the inside of the items so we can quickly return them.

Sincerely,
Linda Allen and Becky Kundert

November Conferences

The Chávez staff is looking forward to meeting with our families on November 15, 2012 for our fall conferences. Please remember, there is **no** school that day. This is a good opportunity for parents and teachers to talk about academic achievement and behavioral expectations. We believe that you are the most integral part of your child's life and your involvement makes a difference in your child's learning.

Please...

- **Be on time.** Many parents are scheduled to meet with a given teacher during conference day.
- **Be Prepared.** Generate a list of questions that you might want to ask.
- **Go into the conference with an open mind.** Many misunderstandings can be easily and quickly cleared up.
- **Be willing to discuss your concerns.** Any problems that exist can only be solved when they are dealt with openly.
- **If you don't understand, ask.**
- **Listen.** The teacher wants the best for your child too.
- **Feel Free to take notes.** This will help prevent any misunderstandings that might arise.
- **Remember, that the number one goal of a good parent/teacher conference is to increase your child's success at school.**

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.

Student Pick Up Procedures

Every teacher will walk their children to the bus and the student's name will be checked off each day before boarding the school bus. If you change your child's transportation plan before the student gets on the bus the parent needs to notify the office or the classroom teacher so they can document it on the transportation log in the office.

Emergency Code Red Drill

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" drill, which is a lockdown procedure for the school. We had our first Code Red drill on November 9th.

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 had discussions with their class before the practice drills. We try to keep focus 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.

Fire Safety and Fire Prevention

The City of Madison Fire Department came to Chávez to share this theme "Be Rabbit Ready" with the Kindergartener through Second Grade students for Fire Prevention Month. The lessons included fire safety messages and learning with a video and interactive lecture. The following are some of the topics the students heard: *Have 2 Ways Out, Have an Escape Plan, Have a Meeting Place, Test Your Smoke Alarms, Practice Fire Drills, Call 911 for Help* to name a few. The firefighters left some fire safety storybooks for the teachers to read as a class. This will help reinforce the fire safety message

Bully Forms

The Madison Metropolitan School District strives to provide an environment where every student feels safe, respected and welcome and where every staff member can serve students in an atmosphere that is free from significant disruptions and obstacles that impede learning and performance.

Bullying can have a harmful social, physical, psychological and/or academic impact on students who are the victims of bullying behaviors, students who engage in bullying behaviors and bystanders that observe acts of bullying. The school District does not allow bullying behaviors toward or by students, school employees or volunteers on school/District grounds, at school/District-sponsored activities or on transportation to and from school or school/District-sponsored activities.

Bullying is the intentional action by an individual or group of individuals to inflict physical, emotional or mental harm or suffering on another individual or

group of individuals when there is an imbalance of real or perceived power. Harassment is defined as: Unwanted, deliberate, or repeated unsolicited comments (oral or written), gestures, graphic material, physical contacts, verbal/nonverbal or physical conduct directed to an individual because of his/her membership in a protected class

Students, parents or guardians, and other persons are encouraged to make a verbal or written report regarding conduct they consider to be bullying. Written reports may be made on the blue form entitled "Report of Bullying Incident" that are located outside the main office and on the second floor near the water fountain and can be turned into any teacher, Student Services staff or administrator. Verbal reports of bullying under this Policy should be clearly identified as reports of bullying and presented to a school-based administrator (such as a Principal or Assistant Principal), an Assistant Superintendent, or the head of any MMSD Department. The individual receiving a verbal report shall promptly document the complaint on the "Report of Bullying Incident" form. The written report shall be forwarded to the designated school administrator for investigation of the complaint.

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FMPS is sending Madison's Leaders Back to School

Since 2004, the Foundation for Madison's Public School's A Principal Experience (formerly known as Principal for a Day) has built relationships between Madison's community leaders and MMSD students and staff. This year, Dan Seeley from Steve Brown Apartments served as our school's "Principal Partner" during the event held on Tuesday, October 16. Principal Partners learn just how much students and staff accomplish in a single day and that the job of a Madison public school principal is both challenging and rewarding.

A Principal Experience forges relationships between school and community leaders, laying the basis for

new partnerships that support and strengthen Madison's public schools. It is our hope that Principal Partners take their experiences back to their businesses and adopt the school they visited. The Foundation's Adopt-a-School program cultivates, nurtures, and sustains partnerships between schools and the Madison community. Adopt-a-School partners provide a combination of volunteer time, in-kind contributions, and financial resources to meet the needs of students. In return, businesses receive a multitude of benefits including an increased sense of pride and involvement in Madison's public schools and the awareness that they are contributing to the success of our next generation of leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a Principal Partner next year or would like more information about the Adopt-a-School program, visit www.fmps.org <<http://www.fmps.org/>>, email mbartzen@fmps.org, or call any of the office staff at (608) 232-7820.

Fall Farm Days

Food & Nutrition offered a "Fall Farm Days" promotion to Chávez school during the month of October. The students were offered a variety of fruits and vegetables in a salad bar format for three consecutive days. MMSD worked with a local farm to provide as many of the vegetables as possible. We appreciated having REAP and the Americorp volunteers partner with us.



All School Election

The third grade classes organized an All School Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The ballots had the candidate's picture on them and they handed out "I Voted" badges to every student that voted.

585 students voted and there were 3 absentee ballots. Obama got 500 votes. Romney got 88 votes.



Volunteer Disclosure Forms

If you are new at volunteering in a classroom, please make sure you've completed a Volunteer Disclosure Statement. You may obtain this form from the school office, or ask the teacher to provide you with one. Completed forms should be given to office staff. Once approved, you will be given a name tag to wear during your visits.

If you are a continuing volunteer, you do not need to complete the disclosure form each year.

Opera For the Young

Last May, many of our students submitted drawings of design ideas to the Opera for the Young. The opera company was looking for ideas for the Fairy Godmother's costume and for the carriage. Congratulations to Jamie Bowser in Mrs. Bray's

classroom and to three of our Chávez graduates whose ideas were selected by the opera: Samantha Roberts, Thavida Johnston and Hailey Collins. Jamie also played one of the horses in "Cinderella".



MMSD Wellness Committee 2012-2013 Recommended Snack List for Classroom or Program Snacks

Snacks containing peanuts or other nuts may not be served at school. This includes snacks with almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts. Items on this list have been selected because, at this time, they do not contain peanuts or nut products and the fat content meets the standard set by the Board of Education Policy. The intention of this list is to provide guidance to parents about snacks that are peanut and nut free. Parents whose children have peanut or nut allergies should check product labels **every time** to be sure that the products are peanut and nut free, free from cross contamination during processing and safe for their child to eat. Checking manufacturer web sites may also provide helpful information.

Food prepared at home to be served at school should be accompanied by a general list of ingredients or 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.

Fruits/Vegetables

- ▮ Fresh fruit (any, such as oranges, apples, bananas, grapes, pears, plums, tangerines) that has been thoroughly washed
- ▮ Sun-Maid Raisins, and other dried fruits – prepackaged (except Eileen's brand)
- ▮ Fruit in individual cups (applesauce, pears, peaches, etc.)
- ▮ Fresh vegetables that have been thoroughly washed, with low fat dips
- ▮ Ocean Spray Craisins

Fruit Snacks

- ▮ Betty Crocker Fruit Roll Ups , Fruit Snacks, Fruit by the Foot, Fruit Gushers
- ▮ Kellogs Fruit Streamers, Fruit Twistables, Fruit Snacks
- ▮ Nabisco Fruit Snacks
- ▮ Welches Fruit Chews

Juices

- ▮ 100% fruit or vegetable juices
- ▮ Frozen 100% juice pops

Dairy

- ▮ Yogurt in individual cups or tubes
- ▮ Jello brand pudding in individual cups or tubes
- ▮ Hunts Snack Pack Puddings (vanilla, chocolate)
- ▮ String cheese or other individually packaged cheeses (1 oz)
- ▮ Frozen yogurt bars
- ▮ Wal-Mart "Great Value" brand pudding and gelatin cups
- ▮ Kelloggs Yogos

Crackers/Snack items

▮ Nabisco/Kraft:

- o Crackers (Wheat Thins, Triscuits or Vegetable Thins)
- o Honey Maid Graham crackers or sticks (Dora Explorer, honey, cinnamon, apple cinnamon, chocolate chip, chocolate flavor)
- o Ritz (original, whole wheat, roasted vegetable, honey butter, Sticks) Ritz Mini Smilin' Snack Saks (**NO Ritz bits/sandwiches**)
- o Cheese Nips or Better Cheddars
- o Teddy Grahams or Teddy Graham character brands
- o Nilla Wafers, Barnum's Animal Crackers
- o Nabisco Bug Bites Graham Crackers
- o Nabisco Twigs

- o Nabisco Premium Saltines
- o Ritz Dinosaurs
- o Newtons and Newtons Minis (Fig, Strawberry, Raspberry, Apple)
- ▮ **Red Oval Farms** Stoned Wheat Thins
- ▮ **Keebler:**
 - o Wheatables (wheat or honey flavors)
 - o Club Crackers Original
 - o Town House Crackers Original
 - o Scooby Doo Cheddar Crackers and Graham Cracker Sticks
 - o Grahams (original, honey and chocolate)
 - o Golden Vanilla Wafers(regular and mini)
 - o Saltines (Zesta Originals)
 - o Toasted Crackers
 - o Cheddar Sandwich Crackers
 - o Munch'ems Baked Snacks (original and cheddar)
- ▮ **Sunshine**
 - o Cheez-It (Original, Sponge Bob, Cheddar Jack, Twisterz Cheddar)
 - o Cheez-It Paryt Mix
 - o Saltine Crackers (Krispy Originals)
- ▮ **Shur Fine at Woodman's**
 - o Graham (honey or cinnamon)
 - o Woven Wheats
 - o Wheat Snacks
 - o Cheese Cracker
- ▮ **Great Value** (Wal-Mart)
 - o Animal Crackers (Original)
 - o Double Cross Snacks (like triscuits)
 - o Cheese Crackers
 - o Crackles butter crackers
 - o Snack Crackers
 - o Cinnamon Grahams

▮ Pepperidge Farm

- o Goldfish and Giant Goldfish Crackers (NO Sandwich Snackers, party mix or peanut butter flavor)
- o Goldfish Crisps
- ▮ **Rold Gold Pretzels** (NO Bucky Badger, Schultz, Snyder's or Great Value as they are no longer nut free)
 - o Rold Gold Cheddar Tiny Twists
 - o Rold Gold Honey Mustard Tiny Twists
 - o Rold Gold Braided Twist
 - o Rold Gold Butter Checkers
 - o Rold Gold Snack Mix and Munchies

Aldi's Store Brands

▮ Cambridge Brand

- o Wheat Crackers (look just like Triscuits)
- o Cheese Crackers (like Cheeze its)
- o Gourmet Crackers (like Club Crackers)
- o Saltines
- o Cinnamon Grahams
- o Snack crackers (like Ritz Crackers)

▮ Mercer Brand

- o Animal crackers
- o Vanilla wafers

▮ Clancy's Brand

- o Pretzel Rods

Cereals

▮ General Mills

- o Cheerios (EXCEPT Honey Nut)
- o Trix, Lucky Charms or Kix
- o Rice Chex, Corn Chex, Wheat Chex or Multigrain Chex

▮ Malt-o-Meal

- o Apple Zings
- o Frosted Mini Spooners
- o Honey Buzzers
- o Cinnamon Toasters
- o Colossal Crunch (regular or berry)
- o Tootie Fruities
- o Coco Roos
- o Marshmallow Mateys

▮ Kellogg's

- o Apple Jacks
- o Fruit Loops
- o Mini Wheats
- o Crispix

▮ Mom's Best Naturals (at Woodmans)

- o Toasted Wheat-fuls
- o Mallow Oats
- o Honey Grahams
- o Honey-ful Wheats

▮ Great Value (Wal-Mart)

- o Toasted Rice
- o Corn or wheat squares (like Chex)

▮ Shur Fine

- o Toasted Oats
- o Crunchy Corn Cereal
- o Crunchy Corn and Rice

▮ Value Time at Woodman's

- o Toasted Oats Original (not Honey Nut)
- o Corn Flakes

- o Frosted Fruit

- o Crisp Rice

Cereal Bars

- ▮ Kellogg's Nutri grain Bars

- ▮ Kellogg's All Bran Honey Oat Bars

- ▮ Kellogg's Special K Bars (strawberry, blueberry, vanilla or chocolate)

- ▮ Rice Krispies Treats (original)

- ▮ Rice Krippies Treats Split Stix

- ▮ Nabisco Honey Maid Soft Baked Bars

Other

- ▮ Small bagels (Lenders and Thomas brand) with cream cheese(no nut types)

- ▮ Popcorn (no or low fat, plain white with no added flavorings)

- ▮ Baked Tortilla chips and salsa (Tostitos brand) with no added flavorings

- ▮ Jello snacks (individual cups)

- ▮ Popcorn (POP-Secret brand)

- ▮ New York Bagel Chips

- ▮ Slim Jim beef jerky

Please remember that in order to be candy and nut-free, these items are not acceptable as daily classroom snacks:

- ▮ Peanut butter, nuts or other nut butters

- ▮ Candy

- ▮ Bakery items

- ▮ Bulk bin items

- ▮ Granola or granola bars

- ▮ Chex or other party snack mixes

****Please read labels carefully to make sure products are nut free. Some manufacturers have discontinued labeling products that may have nuts or are produced on equipment also used for products with nuts.**

Important Dates:

November 13 – PTO Meeting: Topic: Chávez Assessment/Toki Middle School – Expeditionary Learning

November 15 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (No school)

November 22 – Thanksgiving (No School)

November 23 – No School

November 27 – PTO Board Meeting