



THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School

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Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!



October – November 2013

Dear Chávez Families;

We have had an amazing start to our school year. Our students are connecting with staff and they are settling into their routines, making friends, and focused on new learning. Our staff is involved in new learning and implementing the District's Strategic Framework. Committed to continuous improvement, Chávez Staff aspires to be a thriving school in which every student and adult is recognized for their strengths, challenged to do better and supported to succeed. Knowing that our families and community members are essential partners in our success, we would like to invite you to partake in our ongoing learning journey. As an educational community we will work collaboratively toward a common goal—to prepare students to be college, career, and community ready.

The Chávez Courier is one way we hope to maintain frequent, ongoing, and interactive communication. Please stay tuned to PTO meeting dates as we will be presenting information and soliciting areas of interest for new learning.

Thank you to the parents that came out to listen to the School Improvement Planning Session. We will continue to keep you informed of the action steps that will be taken to meet our goals as a school.

Sincerely,
Linda Allen – Principal
Becky Kundert – Assistant Principal

SCHOOL BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM (SBLT)

Every MMSD school has a school-based leadership team (SBLT). The purpose of the SBLT is to analyze data and determine areas in need of improvement. These areas are written in a School Improvement Plan (SIP). This plan must be measureable and monitored by the SBLT. The professional learning staff will receive on Mondays is centered around these areas of improvement. All schools, no matter how successful, are in need of improvement until EVERY student is proficient.

Chávez will spend the year focusing on improving our literacy instruction and the social and emotional learning of our students. We will focus on the Common Core State Standards in reading and implementing our new "Mondo" curriculum. To improve our instruction around social and emotional learning, we will implement the "Steps to Success" curriculum school wide and focus on positive behavior systems support by our Positive Behavior Support Team (PBST).

Our SBLT is made up of teachers from every level, specialists, and school leaders. However, we would love to hear from our parents, too. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

From the health office.....

It is MMSD policy that students who require medications at school will need to provide doctors order and parent permission forms to the health office. Until we have these things on file, we are unable to administer medications. Both forms are available on the MMSD website or from the health office. Please call our office with questions or concerns at 442-2010.

Health office staff schedules:

Lauri Ysen, RN, School Nurse: Mon, Tues, Thurs – 9:00- 3:15 p.m.

Diane Moungey, Nursing Assistant: Mon, Tues, Thurs -- 8:15-12:15 Wed and Fri 8:15-3:15 p.m.

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 or taking a family walk in the evening!

B-DAY PARTY INVITATIONS

Please do not have your child bring birthday party invitations to be passed out at school. This can cause hurt feelings among students who are not invited. It has also caused disruptions in the classrooms.

FMPS Sends Madison's Leaders Back to School

Since 2004, the Foundation for Madison's Public School's *A Principal Experience* (formerly Principal for a Day) has built relationships between Madison's community leaders and MMSD staff and students. This year, Tammy Jelinek from Wipfli LLP served as our school's "Principal Partner" during the event held on Tuesday, October 8. Principal Partners learned what it takes to be one of Madison's public education leaders, and also discovered just how much students and staff accomplish in a single day.

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 Foundation's Adopt-a-School program, visit www.fmeps.org, email mbartzen@fmeps.org or call any of the office staff at (608) 232-7820.

To Minimize Traffic Issues

Drop Off/Pick Up at school can be a hassle since our school is so big, but if we all follow some guidelines it can be less stressful:

1. Remember to keep moving your car as forward as possible in the drop off/pick up loop in the parking

lot as well as drop off/pick up areas on Maple Grove so that cars can fit in behind you.

2. Do not block parking spots in the parking lot. You can either keep driving around until spots in the drop off/pick up area open up or wait along the driveway before you get to the parking spots.

3. Do not get out of your car in the drop off/pick up area or allow children to get in on traffic side, they should enter car on sidewalk side only.

4. Make **RIGHT** turns only out of the parking lot to keep traffic moving (there is a sign there saying "Right Turns Only").

5. Do not park on Pinelake Drive by where the buses turn in. There are signs saying, "No Standing, Stopping, Parking During School Hours", but many parents are parking there which leaves little/no room for the buses.

6. Do not park in the fire lane in the parking lot, which extends just past the playground all the way to the stop sign, you could get towed at your expense.

7. Please do not block our neighbor's driveways (Condos) and walk across their grass.

Please help traffic flow more smoothly and keep our school safer for the kids. Thank you for your patience and help.

Upcoming Events

1. **Friday, November 1, 2013 - School Dance**
(NEED 2 CO-CHAIRS AS WELL AS VOLUNTEERS FOR 6:15-7:20 SHIFT AND 7:15-8:00 SHIFT)

2. **Wednesday, November 6, 2013 - Culvers in Verona** will donate 10% from all sales between **5-8 pm** (NEED 2-4 VOLUNTEERS TO WALK ORDERS TO TABLES/CARS IN EITHER 1.5 OR 3 HOUR SHIFTS)

3. **Thursday, November 7, 2013 - Cookie Dough Distribution** (NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR 1-3PM SHIFT, 3-5PM SHIFT AND 5-7PM SHIFT)

5. **Saturday, November 9, 2013 - Craft Fair 9-3 pm** (NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR VARIOUS TASKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY)

6. **Tuesday, November 12 and Thursday, November 14 - Book Fair During Parent/Teacher Fall Conferences** (NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR BOTH EVENINGS)

7. **Friday, November 15** – No School due to conferences

Please email chavezvolunteer@gmail.com if you can help. Any amount helps greatly! Money raised goes to buy things at the school that the district isn't able to fund due to budget cuts -- so all students benefit!

Walking School Bus

We are excited that 34 families e-mailed/returned forms stating interest in participating in the walking school bus program. All addresses have been mapped and routes created. Those families will be emailed soon to hash out details of days/times of the walking school bus. **PLEASE E-MAIL IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING ONE OF THE CAREGIVER WALK LEADERS FOR THIS PROGRAM.**

We still need walking school bus leaders so we can get the program started. Let me know the day and am or pm you can do. You will have to do a criminal background check if not done so last year or this year at school, as well as a little training on how to conduct walks. You can volunteer as little as once per week. We would like to get enough volunteers so there is coverage as regulars and subs.

Walk or Wheel (WOW) Challenge

Thank you to all who participated in the Walk or Wheel Challenge October 7-18 sponsored by MMSD, WI Bicycle Fed, Safe Kids-Madison, Public Health and Dance County and Rideshare. The two schools who get the highest percentage of walkers or bikers will receive \$10,000, plus the winner gets an 18 bike fence rack.

The number of bikers and walkers to school greatly increased! Traffic congestion around school also decreased as a result! Keep it up because the punch card program for walking and biking will continue the whole school year. For each punch card filled, students will receive another foot charm (a key chain is given after the first punch card is complete).

Cards can be redeemed for key chains and foot charms on Mondays 8:00-8:30 a.m. at the front doors.

We want to thank Debby Gerhardstein, Executive Director of ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation in Chicago who brought a Jell-o brain and Alice Tillett, President of Pacific Cycle (Schwinn/Mongoose) a proud sponsor of Helmet on Heads for their presentation about helmet safety/bike fun. Even CC wore a helmet for safety.

Notes from the Music Room

As part of the MMSD Equitable Arts Grant, Chávez hosted Opera for the Young's production of "*The Barber of Seville*" on Wednesday, October 16. Fourth grade students were part of the performance, playing the roles of Rosina's high school friends. Although only 16 students were requested by OFY, Mrs. Magargal and Mrs. Rasmussen opted to have an additional 16 students participate as an "Offstage Chorus" on risers. Two students had speaking roles – Weston Rood as *Basil, the music teacher* and Ella Graper as *the Police Officer*. This madcap love story, with many disguises and goofy misunderstandings, was set originally in Seville, Spain. OFY re-worked the story to be in the fictional town of Seville, Ohio in the 1950's ... poodle skirts, letter jackets and even a motorcycle were part of the show! The entire school was invited to wear "50's" outfits and joined in a couple of songs.

Several members of the Chávez student cast will perform the opera again on September 24 at Oakwood Village at 6:30 p.m., at the invitation of Opera for the Young!

The following students participated in "*The Barber of Seville*":

Robby Erickson, Emily Finkelmeyer, Payton Fritsch, Ella Graper, Noah Hook, Aaron Jungers, Kamryn Lovenberg, Gavin Morgan, Lauren Obright, Izzy Oebser, Weston Rood, Elena Schmit, Olivia Virgin, Olivia Wendler, Merit Williams, Madelyn Wimmer, April Albarran, Jack Barden, Elena Behdad, Nyree Braxton, Grace Ferstl, Edgar Flores, Laura

Gacharna, Lydia Lenz, Diana Schwichtenberg, Maya Severson, Sydney Weier, Maesa Werkheiser, Genesis Woodards, Omar Zegzouti, Robin Zillmer.

Volunteers Welcome at the Chávez Elementary Library

Chávez students love to read. During the first month of school, our students have checked out nearly 4,000 books!! We welcome volunteers to assist with shelving and pulling books for staff and students, no experience necessary.

Please stop by the Chávez Library, email Librarian Dan Huebsch djhuebsch@madison.k12.wi.us or phone 608-442-2054. We will get the necessary forms to you to get started!!

The Madison Metropolitan School District purchases subscriptions to databases for families to have access to at home and school. These are great opportunities for students to learn through interactive educational books and activities and are available at this site
<http://madison.campusguides.com/chavezlmc>

Below are the names of the databases and the username and password that work for all of them:

Tumblebooks
Pebblego
Bookflix
Truflux
Brainpop
Culturegrams

username: chavez052
password: qwerty

FIT2GO Van

The FIT2GO Van stopped by Chavez on October 9th carrying activities like hula hoops, a large-scale building block set, ball-tunneling game and more.

The FIT2GO Van takes fitness and movement to neighborhoods in Madison that need a more active approach to youth programming.

The FIT2GO Van is an excellent tool in fighting the national obesity crisis and getting kids in Madison more active.

Fire Safety and Fire Prevention

The City of Madison Fire Department came to Chávez to share this theme “Prevent Kitchen Fires” with the Kindergartener through Second Grade students for Fire Prevention Month. The lessons included fire safety messages, an interactive lecture and a short obstacle course. 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 recipe cards with Sparky the Dog for the teachers to hand out to the class. Have fun with them!

Schools of Hope Tutors Needed!

The Schools of Hope Project works with school staff to strengthen the literacy and math skills of students in kindergarten through 5th grade. We are currently looking for caring adults who can tutor at least one hour per week at Chávez. Volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Friday during school hours. No prior experience is necessary and training is provided.

If you or someone that you know is interested in volunteering please contact Rachel Sanabria, AmeriCorps tutor coordinator at 608-442-2045 or chavez@schoolsofhope.org for more information.

Helping Your Child Read

Find time to read aloud with your child every day.

Before reading:

- Look at the title and illustrations together.
- Predict what the story will be about.
- Discuss what you already know about the topic of the story.
- Read the first page and then ask your child to predict what might happen next.

During Reading:

- Encourage your child to picture in his or her mind what is happening in the story.
- Ask what might happen next in the story.
- Have your child change his or her predictions as the story provides new information.
- Ask how the characters might feel.
- Talk about the illustrations.

After Reading:

- Have your child retell the story and create a new ending together.
- Retell the story from another character's point of view.
- Let your child illustrate his or her favorite part of the story.
- Think about the story together

Parents play a crucial role in developing this skill by **reading to** children and showing how important reading is to their daily life.

Topic next month: Read Aloud Techniques