



THE CHÁVEZ COURIER

A newsletter of César Chávez Elementary School

3502 Maple Grove Drive
Madison, WI 53719

Linda Allen, Principal
Pam Emmerich, Asst. Principal

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Safe Arrival Number 442-2085

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Home of the Chávez Cheetahs!



February/March 2007

Dear Chávez Families;

Yes, we actually had a snow day this year. Trust me, it doesn't happen very often, so I hope you enjoyed the day. We had a few students show up and their parents were able to take them back with them. In the event of school closings due to weather, there will always be staff members to greet the students and call parents or emergency contacts.

Please remember that it is very important that you pick up your children after school on time. If you are going to be late, please notify the office so we can set up a place for you to meet your child inside the office. Students are dismissed at 1:45 p.m. on Mondays and 3:17 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. We encourage students to go home **immediately** after dismissal because there is no supervision.

Students have been bringing electronic equipment, cell phones and money to school. Students must be responsible for the valuable items and money they bring to school, so it is recommended that these items be kept at home. If these items are lost, broken or stolen at school, we cannot replace them. Please review the school Code of Conduct with your child that is located in your Parent Handbook page 42, reference Code of Conduct #116 as it relates to bringing non-essential educationally related paraphernalia to school.

Traffic safety is an ongoing concern at Chávez. We strongly encourage parents to drop students off on Keswick Ct (across Maple Grove Dr) or on

Pinelake Dr (next to the Kindergarten entrance) -- this loops around to Pima Drive. East Pass is a parallel street to Pima with a "shortcut" to the sidewalk leading to the school -- about a 3 min walk.

To ensure safety and accessibility for our disabled students, please make sure that you do not park in the handicapped space or the fire lanes when dropping off or picking up your children from school. Also, do not drive or park in the bus lanes. You can receive a ticket from the police department. Your cooperation and support will significantly reduce the risk for our students.

Sincerely,


Linda Allen, Principal
Pam Emmerich, Assistant Principal

SAFE ARRIVAL/LUNCHES

If you are going to be late coming to school please remember to call the safe arrival number **442-2085** and leave a message or call the main office if your child has a morning appointment and will be returning to school in time for lunch. This helps ensure that we have an accurate lunch count.

Reminder: Please check to make sure you have your child's first and last name, along with **their ID#** on the lunch envelope.

2007-08 KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT



It's time to enroll incoming kindergarteners for next year! Families with children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2007 should enroll for next school year at Chávez on Monday, March 5th from 1-6 p.m. in the office. The kindergarten classrooms will be open for visits after enrollment.

Kindergarten screenings will be held April 17, 18, 19, 20 and 24 and will take about 30 minutes. You will sign up for a screening time when you register your child.

For those families that cannot attend registration on March 5, please notify the office at 442-2001. Please help get the message out to all children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2007.

CHILD FIND PRESCHOOL SCREENING

Child Find Preschool Screening is a free screening service to help answer questions or concerns about a child's development. Children who are screened must be between the ages of 3 and 5 and live within the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD).

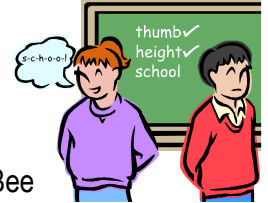
Do you have a preschooler between the ages of 3 and 5 that you have concerns about:

- How your child is learning?
- How your child's speech is developing?
- How your child sees and hears?
- How your child plays with other children?
- How your child walks, skips and jumps?
- How your child's cutting and coloring skills are developing?
- How your child behaves?

Child Find Preschool Screening can answer many questions about your preschool child's development. It is a program intended to identify 3 to 5 years olds who might need preschool special education services. If you have a child between the ages of 3 and 5 who is not yet enrolled in

kindergarten and lives in the MMSD, you may call 663-8471. The Child Find Preschool Screening team is available at no cost to you. Simply call Susan Friedman Hill at 663-8471 and speak to her about your questions or concerns.

SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS



The Chávez School Spelling Bee was Tuesday, January 25. Each 4th and 5th grade classroom was represented by three students, plus one or two alternates. Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Bee. You did a great job!

Mr. Baloga's Room: Tommy Lancaster (5th) Brandon Mueller (5th) Alt. Sydney Moore (4th)

Mrs. Blessing's Room: Katie Alley (5th) Jade Vaughn (5th) Alt. Colin Pitman (4th) Alt. Emily Rubasch (4th)

Ms. Colbert's Room: Taylor Gray (4th) Zach Slinger (4th) Alt. Juanita Fenne (5th)

Mrs. Droessler's Room: Fletcher Rehbein (5th) Cassidy Slinger (5th) Alt. Brianna Overkamp (4th)

Ms. Ishikawa's Room: Randy Ta (4th) Jane Zhang (5th) Alt. Kimberly Chubaty (5th)

Ms. Johnson's Room: Nicole Dolezal (5th) Brandon Shemanski (4th) Alt. Anthony Phan (5th)

Mrs. Stiegert's Room: Ryan Menninga (4th) Andy (Andrea) Smith (4th) Alt. Heather Slawny (5th)

Mr. Wells's Room: Tianna Attaway (4th) Ogi Ifediora (4th) Alt. Jessica Dunkel (4th)

Congratulations to **Cassidy Slinger** who was the Chávez School Spelling Bee Champion this year. She will be at the city-wide competition at Monona Grove High School on Saturday, February 17. The alternate for Chávez was **Fletcher Rehbein**. The Spelling Bee was coordinated by Principal Allen.

TALENTED AND GIFTED CORNER

Thursday, March 22: Board of Education

Candidate Forum - Please join us for the upcoming 2007 Madison United for Academic Excellence (MUAE) parent meeting. It will be held in the Doyle Administration Building, Room 209, from 7 pm-8:30 pm on the date listed above.

SUMMER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT



The courses that will be offered this year for Summer School Enrichment for students entering grades 1-8 (in fall, 2007) will be listed again in the MSCR Summer Program Guide. This Guide will come out in the Sunday newspaper, March 4, or be sent to homes during that week. Courses will be offered at Hawthorne and Schenk/Whitehorse on the Eastside and Cherokee, Huegel, Leopold and Memorial on the Westside. New courses this year will include: Fun and Games, Spanish and Dancing, Extreme Physics, Math Magic, Math Mania and Science Wizards. The Summer Music Experience program will be held again at Cherokee Middle School during the weeks of July 16-July 27, in the afternoons. A separate flyer will be coming out in next month's newsletter for the Summer Music Experience program. Questions about Summer School Enrichment? Call Welda Simousek, 663-5245.

COLLEGE FOR KIDS FACILITATORS - AN INVITATION FOR INTERESTED PARENTS

4 Week Course, June 25-July 13, 2007

This graduate level seminar provides community members who have a college degree and at least minimal teaching experience with the opportunity to work with talented and gifted elementary students who have enrolled in **College for Kids**. As a teacher-facilitator, you will have the opportunity to try out new ideas with a group of 10-12 students, work with University faculty and academic staff, and use

the entire University campus as a classroom without grades or specific curriculum to follow.



The first 25 participants enrolling in this graduate level seminar will receive 3 credits and a fee for service. **Teacher facilitators that are enrolled in CFK are also given a student spot for their 5th grade son or daughter** or their school can send an additional two students to *College for Kids*. **For more information, contact Nancy Blake at the College for Kids office at (608) 262-4650.**

MATC MADISON AREA ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

New Spring 2007 Course Offering

Course Name:

Madison Public School Nursing Assistant

Class Number: 55217

Fee: \$43.15

\$30.00 Textbook [textbooks will be available from the instructor during the first class]

Instructor: Roberta Martin, R.N., M.S.

Schedule: Monday and

Thursday evenings for 4 weeks

Course Begins: Monday, April 30, 2007

Course Ends: Thursday, May 17, 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: MATC Downtown Education Center
211 N. Carroll Street Room D603

Registration:

Students may register in person at the Truax Campus or at the Downtown Education Center or call [608] 246-6220. (**must** be registered in MATC database).

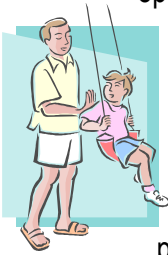
Information:

MATC Madison Area Adult Continuing Education
[608] 258-2301



MSCR NOW HIRING FOR SUMMER POSITIONS!

Looking for summer employment for yourself or a family member? You could find great summer jobs with the recreation department! MSCR (Madison School & Community Recreation) has many openings for both full and part-time positions.



Just visit the MSCR website at www.mscr.org and click on Employment. Applications are available to be copied off on the website or at the MSCR/Hoyt Building (3802 Regent Street). First application deadline is March 1, 2007. Second deadline (for remaining positions) is April 5, 2007. MSCR is a

department of the Madison Metropolitan School District, and Madison's recreation provider for over 80 years! For information on employment contact Sharon Neylon at 204-3036 or sneylon@madison.k12.wi.us

"We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing!"

BUDGET SEASON February, 2007 By Superintendent Art Rainwater

Our lives are defined by seasons. We are now in basketball season and we just finished the holiday season. Of course many look forward to hunting season and all children look forward to the summer season. However, for superintendents and Boards of Education across Wisconsin, their whole lives seem to be consumed by budget season.

Budget season is not as much fun as the other seasons. We approach budget season with anxiety because each new budget season means that we will again reduce the services that our students need. Under the current revenue cap law, yearly service reductions are a fact of life for most school districts in Wisconsin. The demands for students to gain more knowledge and skills increase every year while resources to meet their needs decrease every year.

Budget season creates intense concern among staff and parents and makes adversaries among friends. Priorities must be set, and when all of the input has been gathered and discussion completed, it is the responsibility of the elected Board of Education to make those final priority decisions.



The anguish of that decision-making process is heightened by the fact that all of the parents and community members who support maintaining one of the services being reduced are right. For their child or their neighborhood the cut is devastating. Their needs are real and their lives will be diminished by the reduction. We serve fewer children well every time we finish budget season.

Our state legislators continually remind us that we do not have to make the reductions. We can always go to the people in a referendum and make our case for more property tax. The school districts of Wisconsin have years of experience with asking the public for revenue cap relief through referenda. However, even the successful results are devastating to a community.

We know that without exception these votes and the accompanying campaign split communities. There are always good reasons to oppose a tax increase just as there are good reasons to support the education of children. The very nature of the request pits children against elderly citizens on fixed incomes, and many citizens against the schools. Support and trust erode and after each referendum we are all less for the experience.

There is no question that our school systems should be operated efficiently. In the early years of the revenue cap, all Wisconsin school districts had to examine very carefully what was necessary to efficiently operate in ways that allowed us to fulfill our legal and fiduciary responsibilities and yet make as many resources available for our children as possible. We are long past the point of gaining more efficiency. Prioritization of services has become making sure that we provide the best education

possible for the most children, not the best education possible for all children.

We as citizens of Wisconsin have to decide how important it is to meet the academic standards enacted by our legislature. If it is important to our future as a state then we have to provide the resources to make that possible. We know what those resources are and how they need to be used. If we can't afford to meet the standards we currently espouse for all of our students, then we need to say so and decide what standards we will meet.

Let's create a state that celebrates all those other seasons and bids farewell to the anxiety of budget season.

News from the PTO **FROM THE PTO PRESIDENT**

As I was looking for the 100th day of school collection that we use every year I came across some projects that my older children had done in kindergarten. It was touching to look over their misspellings and nibble handed artwork of days gone past. The many times people told me to really appreciate my children while they were young rang in my ears.

So, today when I had told my children that I would take them sledding after school, but I knew I needed to write this article, I thought back to my recent realization that my kids were growing up and decided to go sledding!



If you haven't made time to take your children sledding this year, I highly recommend it! We went to Elver Park, but there are other places such as Cherokee Middle School or your own back yard.

Take time this week to enjoy your child(ren). They are growing up before your eyes!

Angie Hubbard
Chávez PTO President
Make a Difference!
angiechavezpto@gmail.com

PTO Website Up and Running



The PTO has a new website with **lots** of information (and links) on what's happening at Chávez. Ongoing fundraising efforts and school news information is updated regularly. Prior editions of the Chavez Courier are available as well. There is a Blog. We hope to add information on specific classrooms or specials soon.

Please visit us at www.chavezschool.com.

Sign up for the PTO email list if you do not already receive it or haven't received it for awhile (some of the emails come back as undeliverable.)

3rd Annual PTO International Fair

Celebrate Our Diversity!

**César Chávez Elementary School
3rd Annual PTO International Fair**

**Friday evening, March 9th
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**



Everyone will have a great time learning about and celebrating our many cultural traditions, foods, music, dances, native dress, and more.



Your family will embark upon a "world tour" of country booths and additional displays to learn more about the featured countries.

Performers representing various countries and cultures will entertain you. You will be treated to international fashions on parade.



If you would like to get involved or need additional information, please call Joanne Gabriel at 845-1602.

Market Day

Market Day is a fundraising food cooperative that provides opportunities for schools to raise money by selling food products. We are going to be using Market Day to help raise funds for our PTO sponsored events. Our first Market Day opportunity is this month! Orders are due to Chavez by February 21st or you can log onto www.marketday.com and place your order on the

internet by February 24th. (Internet ordering is preferred.) Orders will be delivered, to Chavez, on Wednesday, February 28th with pick-up time being between 3:30 and 4:30. If anyone is interested in helping on delivery day, or if you have any questions, please call Armande Fruhling at 848-7537.

Special Thanks



A special thanks to Carrie Smith and Alicia Lundal for their spectacular job with this year's book fair and to Jane McKeon and Teri Kelliher for organizing the hugely successful Pizza Fest on February 2. The place was rocking with hula clad children singing the latest in Disney preteen karaoke!

Also thanks to Tim Cartwright for organizing the PTO After-School Spanish Club and to Pam Emmerich for getting the Homework Club off the ground. Both clubs are in full swing. Look for more information on a few more six week clubs coming soon!

WISH LIST GRANTS AWARDED

The PTO Executive Board and the Fundraising Committee met at the end of January to go over this school year's requests for money from our "Wish List" fund. We took into consideration the recommendations of the entire staff and the PTO's objectives of providing funding and support to Chávez staff over and above school district funding for programs beneficial to Chávez students. Below is a list of the awarded grants for this year.

2006-07 CHÁVEZ PTO WISH LIST GRANTS

1. K-1 Wright Group Early Emergent Leveled Library, 16 sets

Cost: \$1,974

Reasoning: This was the most favored pick of the entire Chávez staff as well as the PTO. We believe that allowing children more access to reading leveled books in the early grades indirectly benefits everyone in the school by increasing the fluency of readers in later grade levels. Alternative forms of funding were not available for comparable book sets.

2. Fifty pairs of Rollerblades. Partial Funding

Cost: up to \$1,500

Reasoning: Another top pick of the entire staff and PTO, we believe that the Rollerblade unit is one of the most favored physical education units of Chávez students. This grant benefits all students at Chávez. Due to the high cost of Rollerblades, the PTO is funding this request by matching profits from the first month of Market Day sales up to \$1,500.

3. Year-end mentor trip.

Cost: \$600

Reasoning: We believe the Mentor Program has been noticeably beneficial to those directly involved in the program and indirectly to the Chávez community as a whole. Although the percentage of people allowed to participate in this trip is small, the cost per estimated person was deemed reasonable.

4. LMC Materials:

Vistafoil Laminate

Cost: \$94.69

Book Tape

Cost: \$60.54

Posters

"Celebrate African American History"

Cost: \$13.81

"A Reading Wonderland"

Cost: \$11.60

Reasoning: These items are used to prolong the life of our LMC materials. Although budgeted in LMC funding, we do not receive enough of these materials to repair/protect the amount of resources that need it. The posters are appreciated by all who enter the Library.



*The awarded dollar amounts for these items include shipping and handling fees as per the application request. If the price has increased since the time of application, it will be the responsibility of the awardee to finance the difference or reduce the number of the item(s) requested.

FUNDRAISING



Silent Auction

We will be conducting a new and exciting fundraiser during this year's school dance! During the next two months, we will be putting together a **SILENT AUCTION** to run in conjunction with dance on May 11th. It is our goal to use the funds we earn to go toward our School Endowment Fund. Watch future backpack mail for information on how you can help!

Simplified SCRIP

Simplified SCRIP helps our students and staff – it is a year round fundraiser. This is the easiest fundraiser we have ever introduced. When you use the simplified SCRIP program to buy items or services that you would be purchasing anyway, our school earns a percentage of the purchase. For instance, if your family spends an average of \$100 per week at Woodman's, **you could be donating \$156 to Chavez over the course of a year at no additional cost to you!** Please visit www.schooltimesnet.com for more information on what types of gift cards are available for you to purchase. Our goal is to try to have people make at least one Simplified Scrip purchase per month. If you have questions, please contact Becky Christy @ 271-2180.