

Central Jr. Raider Express

August 31, 2011

Kindergarten Parent Night

Kindergarten Parent Information Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 8 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. Upon arriving please meet in the cafeteria for short meeting with Principal Teri Dow and the reading teachers. **This meeting is for parents only.** There will be no child care provided.

School Picture Day

School pictures are scheduled for **Wednesday, October 12 for all students.** A picture packet will be coming home around the first of October. **Please watch for those packets in your child's backpack.**

Jr. Raider Newsletters

This August newsletter will be the only paper copy for 2011/2012 school year. As a way of saving money in our budget we will post the monthly newsletter on the district web site www.usd320.com. This will start with the September 28th newsletter. Those of you who do not have access to our web site will receive a paper copy in your child's backpack every month.

Central PTO & Site Council

The **Site Council** meetings here at Central are held on the third Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the library. The **PTO** meeting will follow the Site Council meeting and meet from 6:45-7:30. We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us on Monday, September 19 for our first meeting of the year.

Central Lunch Schedules

1st Grade – 11:05-11:35
Recess 11:35-11:50

Kindergarten – 11:35-12:05
Recess 12:05-12:20

2nd Grade – 12:05-12:35
Recess 12:35-12:50

A Word from the Principal

The beginning of school is a very exciting time for students, teachers, and parents. We have had such a busy summer with finishing up the renovation and construction work on the building. Right now we are putting the finishing touches on the building and working on the landscaping and outside grounds work. We hope to have everything complete by the end of September!

I encourage parents to stay involved in their child's education. Here are some ways to do this:

*You can help by working with your child on their homework and communicating with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns. Please check with your child's teacher if your child consistently says they have "no homework".

* Create a place in your home that is a quiet location for doing reading and other homework assignments. Help your child establish a routine of getting their learning materials (such as Kiwi reading bag, library books, homework, notes for the office or their teacher) back in their back pack and ready the night before so they are prepared for school the next day. This also helps the morning routine go more smoothly for both the parent and child.

*Check our website (www.usd320.com) often for information, such as school newsletters, PTO/Site Council news, Central event calendars, lunch calendars, and special events. Also posted is our Parent/Student Handbook so that you can reference it for answering school related questions.

*Attend your child's Parent Night and Parent Teacher Conferences. If you are unable to attend, please make an appointment with your child's teacher individually so that you have the same information as was shared at the meeting with the other parents.

* Read to or with your child for at least 15 minutes each evening. If your child is already reading, listen and encourage them. If your child is not reading or just beginning to read, read to them and talk about the book.

*USD 320 will no longer mail the district newsletter, "The Messenger". You can find this newsletter on line at usd320.com under district news.

I look forward to a great year with you and your child. Please know that you are welcome to visit your child's school whenever you have an opportunity.

Teri Dow, Principal

This and That Jr. Raider Shirts - Shirts and sweatshirts are sold at the school office. If we do not have the proper size, they may be ordered. The cost is **\$8.00 for T-shirts** and **\$14.00 for sweatshirts**. We will have “Jr. Raider” day the first and third Friday of each month. The children can wear their shirts if they wish on these days. For those of you who ordered T-shirts/Sweatshirts at enrollment, it will be at least two weeks before we get those back from the business printing them.

Sending Money To School - When sending money with your child, be sure to **always** put the **child’s name, teacher’s name, amount of money** and **what it is for** in a **sealed envelope**. This is a safe way to make sure your child gets credit for what’s in the envelope.

We remind you that **lunch and breakfast** money will need to be a **separate check** from all other monies. We would like for you to pay for semester milk if possible. We will be accepting only \$3.00 or more for milk money. **We will not accept daily milk money** for snack milk.

Please be extra careful when sending a check, as not all children have the same last name as the person sending that check. We appreciate your help with this. **Thanks!**

Jr. Raider Newsletter - Be sure to always check on the district web site (usd320.com) for the monthly newsletter. The newsletter will contain short notes from teachers, a calendar of events and the breakfast and lunch menu. Those of you who do not have access to our web site will receive a paper copy in your child’s back pack.

Review of Safety Rules - This is a good time to review all safety rules with your children. Please have your children **use the crosswalks** when you park on the opposite side of the street here at Central. Also, remind those students who shuttle to West Elementary and the Middle School to use the sidewalks there. Students at Central are **not** to ride their bikes. West Elementary and middle school students will not be able to park their bikes at Central as we do not have a bike rack.

Notes and Telephone Calls - Please send notes to school with your child to let the teacher know what is going on. We need to keep phone messages to a minimum. Any changes in dismissal need to be phoned in by 1:00 p.m. or a note brought in by your child from you in the morning.

Children Absent From School - If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the school office (456-7271) by 8:30 a.m. At that time you may also request assignments for your child.

Signing In and Out of the Office - When your child is late or needs to leave school early, they need to sign in or out of the office. As a reminder to parents, please remember that if you need to visit with your child, you will need to do so through the office. **Please do not go directly to the classroom.** All visitors to the building need to report to the office. After 8:10 please use the south entrance off of 7th Street and push the buzzer at the door and the office will let you in. Also, please do not try to visit with your student on the playground during the school day without checking with the office first. These rules are for the safety of the children.

Arrival/Dismissal - Please remember that your child **should not arrive at school before 7:45 a.m.** Entrance doors will unlock automatically at 7:45 a.m. and lock again automatically at 8:10. If they will be eating breakfast they need to be here no later 7:55 a.m., as we do not want them to be late to class. Students are dismissed from school at 3:30.

Girls Wearing Shorts - Please have all girls wear shorts under their skirts and dresses to school.

Shoes for Physical Education – Your child should wear (or bring) a pair of tennis shoes each day as they will be participating in PE in our gym.

Nurse's News

The sun is shining at 8:00 p.m., but its bedtime! Adequate hours of sleep are important for students to maintain their energy levels through the day for work and play. A tired child is more likely to become ill. Beat the clock, beat the virus, and stay well!

If your child is complaining of “not feeling well”, please take a few minutes to talk with them and find out what is bothering them. If the complaint is a headache, sore throat, earache, nausea, diarrhea or a persistent cough, you may need to take their temperature to see if their body is trying to fight infection. If their temperature is 99.6 or above, you need to keep your child home and have them rest. With the closeness of the students and easily spread viral and bacterial illnesses, it would be better to keep them at home so the other students aren't exposed. If you find your child needs medication at school, you will need to have a medication form signed by the doctor and parent along with the medication that is to be taken at home first.

Please be on the lookout for head lice. It is a good idea to check your child's hair weekly and be alerted if you have a child who is complaining about his/her head itching.

You can obtain treatment for head lice over the counter or with a prescription from your physician. It is important to follow the directions on the product that you use and to wash

the bedding and clothes at the time of treatment. Please notify the school when your child has head lice.

Vision and Hearing Screening at Central

One in four American school children have a problem with vision. Routine vision screening is done in schools to identify those children as soon as possible. The most important goal of vision screening is for a follow-up visit to be done with an eye doctor if a problem has been identified, so it can be corrected. Accurate vision is essential in a school setting. Vision screening is scheduled to start during September at Central for all first grade students, all new students and special education students. All preschool students will be screened at a later date.

Hearing Screenings are scheduled for September 26-28. All Central students will be screened at school.

Peanut Allergies at Central

Central Elementary School recognizes the growing number of students enrolling in schools with potentially life-threatening food allergies. As public educators we recognize our responsibility to develop appropriate health plans for students with food allergies which detail emergency treatment while proactively addressing conditions to prevent exposure to specific allergens. We believe a collaborative partnership between school and family is the best way to achieve this goal while thoughtfully increasing the student's independence to care for him/herself.

We are asking Central parents who typically send in snacks throughout the school year, to send in "peanut free" snacks. In addition to daily snack treats, we ask that you remember this when you send in birthday treats or holiday party treats. Your cooperation will help keep our school safe for all students.

Birthday Dinner

Parents are welcome to eat at the school. Please call the school office to let them know you would like to do so. All lunch reservations need to be called in by 8:30 a.m. every day. If you call in and did not make the deadline reservation time to eat a school lunch, you are welcome to sit with your child, but we would not be unable to offer you a school lunch. September birthdays will be celebrated at birthday dinner on Sept. 21.

Information about EZ School Pay

You can check your child's school meal account. Just visit www.EZSchoolPay.com. USD 320 offers an internet service to help parents better manage their child's school meal account. In addition to checking their child's school meal balance on line, parents may use their VISA or Master Card to enter a payment to their child's Meal Tracker food service account. If you have questions, please contact the Food Service Office at 456-

2214, x5020.

PTO News

Thanks to everyone that supported the Central Elementary Spring Festival last year, we were able to purchase the following items for the teachers:

Preschool-3 digital cameras, I-pod touch with accessories

Kindergarten-5 document cameras, 6 digital cameras with accessories and 2 electric pencil sharpeners

1st Grade-3 I-pads with accessories and warranty

2nd Grade-1 electric pencil sharpener, 4 document cameras and 2 I-pads with accessories and warranty

Specials Teachers-6 digital cameras & 3 flip video cameras

Resource room-2 digital cameras

Reading Recovery Teachers-2 flip video cameras & Reading Recovery books

Office -2 end tables for the office

The remaining balance per grade level will be set aside for technology purchases that the teachers can request throughout the year or next year.

Gambino's Nights: This year Gambino's is graciously donating back to the school 25% of their sales for the following six nights: September 26, 27, and 28 and October 17, 18, and 19. Watch for fliers to come home as they are also sponsoring a class competition. The class with the most participation will receive a pizza party.

Label Saving at Central: To help us earn extra money for our school remember to save your Box Tops for Education and Campbell's soup labels. Drop off location for these items are in the school office.

Wanting to help keep the landfills clean? We are currently involved with three brigades: Frito lay chip bags, foil juice pouches, and empty Elmer's glue sticks/bottles. These items have designated areas in the multi-purpose room. Please help us out by taking the straws out of the juice pouches. For more information contact Angie Matthews at angieben@wamego.net or 785-456-7527.

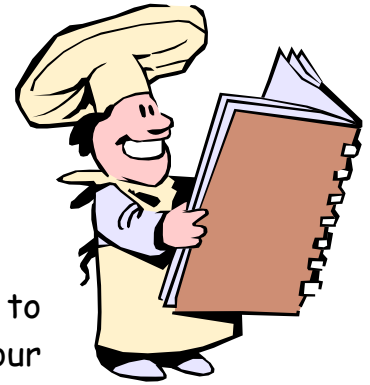
First Meeting Date: Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting September 19 at 6:45pm to plan a wonderful year for our students and teachers. Remember to check the PTO blog at <http://centralpto.wordpress.com/>

All the News That's Fit to Eat!

Brought to you by USD 320 Food Service

Food Service Welcomes Jr. Raiders!

Our Food Service Staff Brenda Brazzle, Brenda Anderson, Rosanne Allenbrand, Robin Perkins and Dawn Vontz are excited to be serving all the Jr. Raiders breakfast and lunch this year in our **BRAND NEW LUNCHROOM!** It's a wonderful space for our students and staff to enjoy at meal times.



Guests are always welcome to join their student at lunch. You are required to call by 8:30am the day you plan to eat with us so that we can provide you will an adult meal. If you have not called in to reserve your meal, you may still sit with your child but we will be unable to offer you a lunch. If you have questions about this policy, please contact Mrs. Dow.



See the insert in this newsletter for the opportunity for your Kindergarten student to join the **Nutrition Advisory Committee (NAC)**. Meetings will be held once a month during breakfast to discuss school meals and nutrition. 1st & 2nd graders are also welcome to join NAC - please use the same sign up form.

School menus can be found on the web at www.usd320.com. Click on the link for Menus by School and then select Central Elementary. If you have any questions regarding Food Service, please call me at 456-2214 during the school day.

Central Food Service provides an "Offer" option for school meals. Students are offered at least five menu components: Meat/Meat Alternate, Grain/Starch, Vegetable and/or Fruit, & Milk. Students must choose at least three different components in order for the meal to count as a school meal. Some items will be self serve (packaged snacks, fresh fruit, cupped pudding, etc.) and students can always let the cooks know if they would like to decline other menu items.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Laura Fails, Food Service Director
456-2214 ext. 5020 or failsl@usd320.com

School Food Service Needs Kindergarten NAC MEMBERS

Interested in learning more about nutrition? Want to have a voice in what's served for breakfast or lunch? Here's your chance!! Join NAC (Nutrition Advisory Committee) today!

The new NAC members will join returning members at monthly breakfast time meetings.

Parents are welcome to attend!

If you are interested, please complete the following and return it by Friday, September 2nd to the school office.



_____ (STUDENT NAME) would like to become a member of NAC. Please include his/her name on the list of interested students.

_____ Teacher

Parent Signature

For more info: Laura Fails, Food Service Director 456-2214 or failsl@usd320.com