



School District of Clear Lake

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Clear Lake Elementary Notes – January 2019

From Principal Chris Petersen:

Teamwork and partnership are the cornerstones of most any successful organization or effort. I am constantly reminded of this. Our staff does an amazing job working together to deal with challenges and to help our students prepare for success.

Yesterday's holiday programs (and this past week in general) brought this in to focus again. A lot goes in to it, and it was a true team effort to make it go so well. The tremendous crowd sizes at the programs also illustrate what strong support and teamwork we get from our parents and community. This is a true asset for Clear Lake – thank you! We look forward to continuing to partner with you for the second half of our school year as we ring in 2019.

Important Date Reminders

Jan. 2 School resumes
Jan. 15 PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Elementary Library
Jan. 18 2nd Quarter ends
Jan. 21 No School – Teacher Inservice
Feb. 6 Vision Screening
Feb. 7-8 Jr. Kindergarten Screening – NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten and Jr. Kindergarten students
Feb. 15 No School – Teacher Inservice
Feb. 18 No School – Vacation Day
Feb. 19 PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 25-Mar.1 Read Across America Week

Parking Lot Gate Change

A quick reminder on a recent change: At the end of school days, we now open the parking lot gate near the main office entrance. The intent is to alleviate crowding and provide additional space for parking. Feel free to park in the large lot or the office “turn-around” area. **Please do not park in front of the gate while it is closed.** For safety, the gate will not be opened until students have exited the recess playground at the end of the day.

Jr. Kindergarten and Early Childhood Screening Feb. 7-8th

Spread the word. Registration for Jr. Kindergarten and screening for identification of Early Childhood needs will be held at the elementary school on Thursday and Friday, February 7th and 8th. **If you or someone you know has a child who will be four years old by Sept. 1, 2019**, or a child (age birth to three) you would like to have screened for possible special needs or developmental delays, plan to attend. Information and pre-registration can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Jessica Pickard via email at jpickard@clwarriors.org or the school office at 715-263-2117 or mrobl@clwarriors.org. Due to the screening, there will be **no classes for current Kindergarten, and Jr. Kindergarten students on these two days.**

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New Year's Resolutions For Moms and Dads

Here is our annual list of "parenting resolutions" for the New Year. Life gets super busy. Here are some simple daily goals to keep our kids our top priority:

- Read to your child before bed each night (or have them read to you).
- Spend five minutes helping your child go through their backpack and folder each day.
- Ask your child to tell you one thing they learned about in school that day.
- Help your child with their homework.
- Encourage your child to try a new activity or hobby.
- Praise your child each day for something they did well.

Box Tops PTO Fundraiser

The PTO continues to collect Box Tops for Education as a fundraiser for our school. Families can collect Box Tops off many common items, and students may drop them off at the receptacle by the office any time. PTO uses its funds to support students and teachers with things like classroom supplies, small technology purchases, family fun nights, or other special projects. PTO also has a continued long term goal to save for a larger playground purchase.

Another Carnival Reminder

Speaking of the PTO . . . sharing this message from the Officer Team again:

Our Parent Teacher Organization is again planning to do a spring carnival this school year. The date for the carnival is Friday, April 12, 2019.

We want to thank you for your support for the carnival last year and the overwhelming amount of prizes donated by families. We want to send this reminder to keep your eyes peeled for post-holiday clearance items that would make great prizes for our next carnival.

Items can be sent to Mrs. Meyer at school for storage if that is an issue. Please keep an eye out for things like temporary hair color, tattoos, face paint, small and large prizes for various games and reading incentives. Thank you for your support!

Fighting Hunger in Our Community

Thank you to everyone – students, parents, staff, and friends – for the generous donations of non-perishable foods recently. On December 19, Mrs. Millar and some Student Council members shared 315 lb. of items with Lifeline Food Pantry as well as directly to our local weekend backpack nutrition program. This directly impacts our community in a positive way by providing for those in need. This has been a great way for our students to learn about or December Warrior Pride theme of COMPASSION for others. Thank you!

Lost and Found

Please take a minute to label/mark your child's hats, mittens, boots, sweatshirts, etc. with their name. This can help reduce the number of items in our lost and found. We thank the many people who claimed items during the holiday concerts. Unclaimed items will eventually be donated.

How Do I . . . Log In To My Child's Google Account At Home?

Here is a tech tip from Mrs. Meyer, our Librarian and Technology Coordinator, explaining how you or your child can access their Google account outside of school.

1. Go to www.clwarriors.org
2. Click on the G symbol in the upper right-hand corner and sign in with your name@students.clwarriors.org account then enter your password.
3. Google may notify you that you do not have access to email with this account; this is true. Simply go to www.Google.com and look in the upper right corner of the screen. You should see that your child is signed in and has a waffle (little squares stacked on top of each other). If you click on the waffle, you will notice the student's items are available there. When you are done with your work simply click on the student image or letter in the circle and choose "sign out."

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Warrior Pride Recognition

Each month we define a different character trait for which we discuss and promote positive examples to students. The staff then recognizes a standout student from each class who displayed this trait throughout the month.

November Warrior Pride Recipients – for GRATITUDE:

JK: Mason Arcand, Tristan Kiekhofer, Myra Symalla, K: Trey Ramsey, Hunter Munson; 1: Maci Buhr, Anna Meyer, Evan Bowen; 2: Maddy Ziemer, Blake Rivers; 3: Ava Mattmiller, Kaleb Mewhorter, Logan Connett; 4: Riley Hawkins, Maddy Siler; 5: Cora Voeltz, Shelby Meyer; 6: Xander Quinn, Anneli Monson

December Warrior Pride Recipients – for COMPASSION:

JK: Harper LaBlanc, Walker Jarchow, Karelee Ramos; K: Hazel Cain, Rylen Emerson; 1: Nevaya Larson, Caleigh Wienke, Liesel Monson; 2: Andrea Anderson, Bennett Buhr; 3: Jake Christiansen, Jarric Manning, Lydia Humpal; 4: Brooklin Tellijohn, Amelia Kirk; 5: John Raisch, Alana Newcombe; 6: Gavin Nellesen, Jordyn Goossen.

Congratulations to these students, and the many others not listed, who do a terrific job showing positive character in school each and every day!

'Tis The Season . . . For Student Illnesses

When colds or illnesses hit, it is important to take steps to allow for recovery and prevent the spread of sickness to others. School guidelines are found on page 26 of the Parent-Student Handbook. Children are encouraged to attend school regularly, but when they are ill, please remember:

- A child should be fever free for 24 hours (without the aid of medicine) before returning to school.
- A child should be free from vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.
- A child with thick or constant nasal discharge should not attend school.
- A child diagnosed with strep throat should remain home for the first 24-48 hours of antibiotics.
- A child diagnosed with conjunctivitis (pink eye) should remain at home for the first 24-48 hours of antibiotics or until the redness is gone and there is no more drainage.

Absences brought on by illness are unexpected, which is a good reason to not excuse children from school for frivolous reasons on other days.

Winter Season Reminders

We are in the cold season of the winter. Here are a few things for parents to remember:

• **Outdoor vs. Indoor Recess**

When determining whether it is safe for students to go outside, we use zero degrees wind chill as our standard. If the wind chill falls below this mark, we have indoor recess in classrooms. Whenever possible, we want students to be outside for recess for fresh air and exercise, but we keep safety from the cold as a top priority. Please make sure your child is properly equipped with outdoor clothing.

• **Winter Clothing Requirements**

During the winter, students in grades JK-3rd must have jackets, snow-pants, boots, hats, and gloves/mittens for outdoor recesses. Students in grades 4th-6th are required to wear a coat. Parents who would like their 4th-6th grader to wear more articles of clothing such as boots, snow-pants, hats, gloves, etc. should send them to school with their child. **All students are expected to go outside for recess. Students who do not have appropriate outdoor clothing will call parents to bring it to school.**

• **School Closings or Delays**

If school closures or delays are necessary due to inclement weather, that information will be communicated, as always, through Twin Cities television stations and WXCE 1260 radio. In addition, the SchoolMessenger calling system will be used to notify parents instantly by phone. Primary and emergency phone numbers which are housed in our database will be called.

Parents should be aware of changing weather during the day that would cause an early closing. Early closings would also be announced via these sources.

- **Two Hour Delayed Starts:** In the event of a two hour delayed start, children should arrive at school between 10:00 and 10:20 am. Students may not be dropped off earlier, as there will be no staff to supervise them. School will start at 10:20 am. Students riding the bus to school will be picked up approximately two hours later than usual. We offer a "light" breakfast option for students to purchase between 10:00-10:20 a.m. Cereal, graham crackers, milk, juice, and fruit will be offered as part of the school nutrition program. The morning group of Jr. Kindergarten will not meet.

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How to Take the Stress Out of the Holidays

Help kids rise to the occasion, and don't aim too high

Reprinted from childmind.org

We are reminded, every year at this time, how difficult holidays can be for people who are lonely or alone. But let's be honest: even for families rich in children, holidays can be stressful—both for parents and kids.

Why are holidays so fraught? Because expectations are heightened, and holidays can feel like a test of how happy and successful your family is. And if you have children with psychiatric or learning disorders, even favorite traditions can turn into a test of stamina and patience. Here are some tips to help minimize stress and make the holidays more fun and fulfilling.

1. Be open to change.

Talk with your kids about your traditions — which ones they love and which you might evolve to make them more fun or memorable for everyone. This is especially important when family dynamics have changed because of divorce, a new marriage or sibling, or a death in the family.

2. Be realistic.

Factoring in kids' limitations when you make plans will reduce stress on everyone. Kids who are anxious about meeting new people — or even encountering the extended family — will need support and realistic expectations. Kids who have trouble with organization will need help to succeed at gift-giving. Children who tend to be impulsive need structure to minimize disruptive behavior. Not overestimating your kids' patience and ability to focus will help you enjoy yourself more, too.

3. Prep kids for changes in routine.

Holidays represent a change in a family's normal schedule, and for some kids that's unsettling. Preparing them for changes in their routines — what to expect and what you expect of them—will help head off meltdowns. If you're traveling, bring familiar toys and books, and make sure you have quiet one-on-one time like reading before bed.

4. Give yourself a break.

Don't stretch yourself too thin trying to create the "perfect" holiday season. Decide what is important, prioritize, and say "no" to what you can't handle.

5. Be sure to laugh.

Kids pick up their parents' stress and tension, so they're more likely to be irritable if you are. Have a sense of humor, enjoy your kids for who they are, and keep in mind that what you'll all remember when it's over is likely to be the unexpected moment when everybody was relaxed, not the brilliantly choreographed party, dinner, or outing.

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