

Unionville Elementary Newsletter

8144 E State Road 45, Unionville, IN 47468

332-0175

School Year 2011-2012

"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with the world that no longer exists."—Eric Hoffer

Welcome Back!

To another exciting journey at Unionville Elementary, **Exciting & Journey** are two key words here, due to the change this year for me as your new Education Leader/Principal. As Mr. Hoffer states, this will be a **learning** experience for me. My most important goal is to get to know each and every student/ family at Unionville as soon as possible. Another goal is to support and lead this incredible staff through the 2011-2012 corporation IDOE/State goals and objectives. This is where you - the **parent** and **teacher**, play a very important part. We must embrace change even though difficult, to avoid frustration. We must proactively continue to focus on the positives- ie. Unionville's tradition and history of excellence. I certainly can't do this alone. I need each and everyone of you to assist me with this new experience. I will create opportunities for shared decision making, where our joint inquiry, collaboration and consensus will thrive. Come join me as we learn new skills, behaviors, beliefs and **journey** through an exciting year. See you on August 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the gym!
Sincerely,
Scott Raftery

School Day Hours

The school day is **M,T,TH,F** 8:35a.m. to 3:50p.m.
Wednesday is 9:35a.m. to 3:50p.m. Students who are driven to school should arrive no earlier than 8:20 a.m.(9:20a.m. on Wednesday) We discourage parents from picking their children up early from school unless it is absolutely necessary.

Fire Lanes

The curbs in the front and on the east side of the building have been painted red for designation as official fire lanes by order of the Fire Marshall. Parking is no longer allowed next to these curbs so that fire trucks could pull up next to the building in case of emergency. The fine is \$50 with no warning.

Labor Day Holiday

School will not be in session in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 5.

Regular Bus Change

If your child will be riding the bus regularly to or from school from a location other than your home address that is within the Unionville school attendance area, there is a form that needs to be completed for the transportation department. Please request a form at the office.

School Website & Newsletter

Unionville Elementary has a web-site that can be accessed at home by families with internet service. Go to www.mccsc.edu, click on "Schools" and then scroll down and click on "Unionville". Newsletters, lunch menus, and notable dates are among the many items posted on a regular basis. You may also subscribe to receive the newsletter electronically. Go to www.mccsc.edu and choose "Community Mail Lists." Scroll down and choose "unomail" and follow the instructions to subscribe. Also, 6th/5th grade parents may subscribe to "uno10" or "uno11."

School Pictures

School pictures for the 2011-2012 school year are scheduled to be taken on Thursday, October 13th.

Bradford Woods

Our fifth graders will attend Bradford Woods April 16-18, 2012. Additional information will be sent home as the time approaches. Information for the Bradford Woods' Fall Open House for fifth graders and their parents will be sent home when received.

Safe School Plan

We want to remind parents that our school has a plan in place in the event someone ever enters the building with the intent to harm students or staff. The procedures of the plan, in case of an emergency, are practiced several times during the year just like fire drills. One element of the plan is monitoring visitors to the building at all times. In light of this, parents and others are required to stop by the office and get a visitor's pass to continue through the building. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Market Day

Market Day order forms will be sent home soon and they are due back at school by Sept. 9th. The first Market Day pick-up is Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 6:00-7:00pm.

Parent Handbook

Please take the time to review the information your child brought home as it contains important information about Unionville Elementary, MCCSC and your child's classroom. Also, some forms require confirmation of family information and need to be returned to school as soon as possible.

Open House

This year's Open House is Thursday, August 25th at 6:30pm. Plan to attend this annual event to meet your child's teacher and learn about the upcoming school year. Parents can join PTO during the event.

Library Volunteers

Be a library volunteer! It is fun and it is very helpful. Since the librarian is only at Unionville two and one-half days a week, we need volunteers to help keep the library open during school hours.

Volunteers are welcome and needed every day of the week. You can even volunteer on a drop-in basis on Tuesday, Wednesday morning or Friday - there is always something to do! Call Jean Heidt at 332-0175, send a note to the library with your child or email her at jheidt@mccsc.edu.

Grandparents Week

Each year we invite our students' grandparents to have lunch at school during a three-day period in the fall. This year those days are **Oct. 3rd, 4th and 5th**. Family friends or other relatives are welcome to serve as proxies in the event grandparents cannot attend. More information will be sent home with the students as the time approaches.

Breakfast Program

Unionville is again offering a breakfast program this year. The price is \$1.30 (students eligible for reduced lunch will pay \$0.30 and free lunches get breakfast at no cost). Students are served in the cafeteria as soon as they get off the bus.

Family Vacations

Good attendance is a key factor in the success of your child at school. To that end, parents are asked to adhere to the MCCSC school calendar and plan family vacations only during scheduled breaks. Attendance rate is one of four criteria the Indiana Department of Education monitors closely. Therefore, it is very important for both academic and accreditation purposes that students attend every day, providing they are not ill.

Student Insurance

Parents are reminded that students are not covered by a corporation-wide policy for injuries sustained on school grounds. However, in cooperation with an insurance company, parents can purchase just such an injury policy. The MCCSC derives no profit from this arrangement. Call the school office or send a note to your child's teacher to request an application.

School Lunches

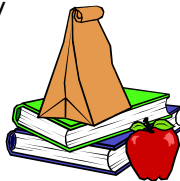
Students will be offered two or three main entrees each day with a choice of canned and fresh fruits and vegetables. The intent of the program is to reduce waste through a more varied menu. School lunch prices are as follows:

Lunch with milk: \$2.15
Extra milk: \$0.45

Lunches may be paid for by the semester, week or month. You may pay ahead for as many days as you would like. **Each child has an envelope in his/her classroom with their name and PIN number to make sure money is deposited into the correct account.** Money turned in by 10:00 a.m. will be available for lunch that day. A statement will be sent home weekly with your youngest child when the account balance is low. **Microwaves** will no longer be available in the cafeteria due to the potential for contamination and food borne illness. Please remember to add cold packs for food requiring refrigeration to prevent from spoiling.

Lunch Extras

In order for a student to purchase extra entrees, a note must be sent to the cafeteria or notify Food Service at 349-4762



Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program

We urge parents to look closely at the Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast application included in the materials your child has brought home. This is a federally funded program intended to financially assist eligible families as they work to meet daily living expenses. Eligibility is determined according to income guidelines listed on the application. No attention is brought to children included in the program in any way, shape or form. **All** students are issued a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which they enter in a computer when meals are served. This ensures there is no distinction among students at any time. For more information or if you have any questions, call Mr. Marshall at 332-0175 or Food Service at 349-4762.

Electronic Devices

Students are encouraged to leave electronic devices and other valuables at home. This eliminates the chance for them to be lost or stolen. The school is not responsible for the security of these or any other types of valuables.

Cell Phones

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones at school. Students that need to bring their phones to school must leave them in their backpacks during the school day. Cell phones found in the possession of students during school hours will be confiscated and held in the office for a parent to retrieve.

Moment of Silence

In accordance with Indiana law, a "Moment of Silence" will be observed in each classroom every day. Students will remain seated or standing and silent. Students should make no distracting display so that each student may, in the student's exercise of individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with another student's individual choice. This "moment of silence" is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious exercise. This policy precludes students from using the occasion to pray audibly or otherwise speak, singly or in unison. Any coercion by a student to force other students to engage in or refrain from prayer will not be tolerated.

Pledge of Allegiance

A daily opportunity will be provided for MCCSC students to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom. A student is exempt from participation if:

- the student chooses not to participate; or
- the student's parent chooses to have the student not participate.

Students who are exempt shall remain quietly standing or sitting and make no display that disrupts others making the pledge.

Family Access

Family Access allows parents to view their child(ren)'s attendance, food service information, immunization record and demographic information. In order to begin using this service, please come to the office to obtain your user ID and password.

Tutoring Available

Tutors are available at the Monroe County Public Library to assist students with their homework, reports, essays and most other areas of a school's curriculum. Students should bring their worksheets, notebooks, textbooks, or anything else needed to complete their assignments. Call the MCPL for the hours tutors are available during the week.

Health Office

Our health office offers some over the counter treatments for relief of minor symptoms. Over the counter treatments available include sore throat spray, Orasol for tooth / gum pain, calamine lotion for itches, antiseptic sprays and creams for minor cuts and abrasions and medicated lip ointment for chapped or sore lips. We do not have medications such as Tylenol, Advil, or Benadryl. These types of medications are only available if a parent has brought them to the health office and completed an authorization form for their child. If you have any questions please call the health office.