

## Parent Newsletter—September/October 2009

Greetings!

I am proud to say that, thanks to my staff and our great families, we are off to an excellent start to the 2009-2010 school year! It was so nice to see the children and their families attending this year's Open House and then coming through the doors on the first day of school. We continue to be proud of our of our many different programs which provide so many wonderful opportunities for the families here in Kenosha. For those of you who may be new to our school, we offer the following programs: Creative Arts, Dual Language, Even Start, Head Start, Early Childhood, Early Childhood Kindergarten, and more.

With our continued focus on excellence, our test scores continue to rise every year, guaranteeing that our students, your children, receive the best education Kenosha has to offer. Our emphasis on technology led us to the purchasing of Promethean technology which can be found in 8 classrooms. This technology allows us to motivate the children and increase the amount of information that they remember. This is a great tool that we will continue to focus on as a school.

With so many great things going on, our attendance continues to rise with more and more families choosing to send their children to our school. While space continues to be a concern, we have been able to ensure that it does not affect the teaching and learning that goes on in our school.

As you can see, I am very excited about the progress that our school has made and will continue to work hard for all of you as we strive to have the very best elementary school that exists anywhere in the nation. With your support, your wonderful children, and our excellent staff, I have no doubt that we can do even greater things which will lead to a great education for your child.

Oh, and by the way, to make my point about our great school, we finished first place among KUSD schools for attendance rates during the 09-09 school year (94.8%). Way to go parents!!!!!!

If there is anything that we can do to be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks again for your great children and all of your support!

Have a great year!

Scott Kennow, Principal

### **Are you picking up your child after school?**

If you drive to school to pick up your child, please use our Car Rider Service! All you need to do is the following and we will bring your child right out to your car:

1. Tell your child that they are a CAR RIDER and then write a note to your child's teacher indicating that they are a CAR RIDER.
2. Enter the drop off/pick up lane located on 50<sup>th</sup> street, immediately South of the school and wait in line.
3. Write your child's name on a piece of paper and place it on your dash.
4. At 3:20 p.m., we will call your child's name and they will be escorted by a staff member right to you.

It's as easy as that!

**NOTE (IMPORTANT!!!!!!) Parents who are picking up their child by walking into the school will not be allowed into the school until 3:20 p.m. (even if it is raining). PLEASE do not ring the buzzer to wait in the entry way! We have over 800 children, so you can understand the safety issues that come with that many**

people in our lobby or office. We are sorry for any inconvenience that may be caused. If you have business to conduct in the office, please feel free to enter the school at any time.

### **Visitor Policy**

Due to the fact that school safety is our number one priority, we continue to require that all classroom visits be approved prior to the actual visit. We encourage all families to take an active interest in their child's education and will support every request that is possible. Education is taken seriously, so please understand that there may be days where testing is occurring or children are in the middle of a lesson that cannot be disrupted. In these instances, a visitation may not be possible. Please be patient as we schedule an alternative time with you. Parents are encouraged to call or send notes to their child's teacher as often as possible so that learning is monitored during a time when grades can still be affected (report card time is usually too late!). Thank you for your support of our school security!

### **PTA**

If you are interested in joining the EBSOLA PTA, we meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the library. Translations are available!!!! Come help us do some great things to support teaching, learning, and fun times for all of our families! The new digital sign and our wonderful playground are two great examples of what can be done with great teamwork! For more information, please call the school's main office and we will get your message to Horace Staples, our PTA President.

### **Free/Reduced Lunch?**

If you feel that you may qualify for free/reduced lunch, please be sure to call our office and request the paperwork for this. With our current economy, we have more and more parents needing this benefit. If you need help with this form, our friendly office staff is more than willing to help!

### **H1N1/Swine Flu**

KUSD is preparing for what is expected to be a rough year for our staff, children, and parents this winter and through the spring. Please be sure to talk to your child about proper hand-washing and be sure to teach them to sneeze and cough into their sleeve. If your child is experiencing flu symptoms, be sure to contact your family physician as soon as possible. It is critical that you keep your child home for at least three days allowing the symptoms to clear. More information on this issue will be made available to you in the near future.

### **Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>—(6-7 p.m.)**

Girl Scout Meeting for Kindergarten Parents interested in signing their child up for Daisys. For more information (English/Spanish), call Debra Solomon at 653-0239.