

Principally Speaking

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Note from the Principal

School has been in session for nearly a month, and I believe we have all settled into a familiar routine. I cannot stress enough how fortunate I feel to be here at Alma Schrader. The hugs and smiles I get daily are invaluable. Your children are delightful and are a credit to the way in which they are reared by you at home.

You may have noticed that newsletters from me are fewer than in past years. I hope this does not alarm you. However, I have found that most teachers are sending home weekly newsletters. I have also found that the great majority of you are on the Alma Schrader listserv, so I have been using that to communicate with many of you.

If you are not on the listserve, please email me at ro@cape.k12.mo with your preferred email contact. This definitely will keep you in the loop about upcoming events. Mr. Brooks has also done an excellent job in keeping the website up-to-date. The website can be accessed at www.capetigers.com/alma_schrader

Upcoming Events

September 17 – Constitution Day Assembly 10:00 Gym

September 22 – PTA Meeting 6:30 Gym

September 29 – Picture Make-ups

October 2 – Collaboration Day 1:45 Dismissal

October 5 – Good Citizens' Assembly 1:00 Gym

October 7 – iWalk to School 7:45 am Dennis Scivally Park

Constitution Day

Parents and honored guests are invited to Alma Schrader's eighth annual Constitution Day Assembly on Thursday, September 17 at 10:00 in the Gymnasium.

It is not too late to invite heroes to be recognized on that day. Please do not hesitate extend an invitation to any relative or close acquaintance to attend this event.

Students (and guests) are encouraged to wear red, white and blue in support of our honored guests!

Marathon Kids Club

26 miles, 26 books, 26 good deeds! Marathon Kids Club (MKC) is gearing up for its second big year.

MKC is sponsored by Lora Coots and Shawn Brooks. The club is open to any third or fourth grade students who express an interest. Students not in these grades may also participate IF a parent/guardian agrees to run with them. The club meets in the gymnasium on Wednesdays after school for warm-ups. One mile is run at each meeting.

MKC will conclude on Friday, April 30, 2010 at 10:00 with the entire school turning out to watch students complete their final mile and receive their T-shirts and medals. It was an extremely exciting event last year. Every student came out a winner as every student improved time from the running of the first mile to the running of the last mile of the season.

If you are interested, you may email Ms. Coots or Mr. Brooks at cootsl@cape.k12.mo.us or brooks@cape.k12.mo.us. The Club does like to have additional adults for supervision, so if you are a runner, please consider volunteering to run with MKC!

Important PTA Meeting

A very special PTA meeting is planned for Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30. Mr. Neil Glass, Facilities Director of Cape Girardeau Public Schools will be in attendance to show the preliminary plans for additions/renovations to Alma Schrader school as well as discuss future facility considerations for the district.

All parents/guardians are urged to attend this meeting to learn about the work of the Facilities Steering Committee. Mr. Glass is also looking for community input. Please mark your calendars!

Collaboration Days/ Early Dismissal

To address parental concerns regarding teachers being pulled out of classrooms for collaboration times, the district has allowed several early dismissal days to allow teachers to have opportunities to collaborate with fellow teachers. Some of Alma Schrader's efforts include a concentration on Differentiated Instruction techniques as well as review of student assessments. The next Collaborative Day is scheduled for October 2, 2009.

We do need your help in making these days as productive as possible. This would include:

1. Making sure you know which days are early dismissal days and making sure your child knows ahead of time how he or she is to get home on that day. These days are noted on the school calendar in the Parent-Student handbook.
2. Continuing to send your child to school on these days or any early dismissal day and not using the day as a way to make a "long weekend."
3. Noting that not sending your child to school on these days or picking your child up at 12:00 on these days does affect your child's attendance rate since attendance is collected *hourly*. This year, to be recognized for perfect attendance, students would have to be in attendance for 100% of hours school is in session. Outstanding attendance will be recognized for those students obtaining 98% of the hours school is in session.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Many parents have already scheduled P-T conferences at the Back-to-School Orientation. Please note that P-T conferences are being offered on two different evenings in October: October 22 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and October 27 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. **School will NOT be in session on October 30th. Fall Parties will be held at 2:00 on October 29th.**

What Time Does School *Really* Start?

Many parents/guardians have expressed confusion about the start times of schools. The doors to Alma Schrader open at 7:40. Students are asked to gather in the gymnasium area. Alma Schrader students may take advantage of the breakfast program beginning at 7:40 and ending at 8:00.

Students may come directly to the classrooms beginning at 8:00. Students arriving after 8:15 are considered to be tardy.

Please help your child in being prompt to school. We do document tardies in the office, and we do understand that sometimes some tardies are unavoidable due to appointments or to circumstances beyond your control. The great majority of you have been very supportive about providing documentation of these early appointments or have been tardy infrequently enough that we understand you have experienced an unusual situation.

Unfortunately, there are some instances of chronic tardiness. In these instances, additional follow-up by the district may be required including contacting the Truancy Officer of the Juvenile Office of Cape County. This can simply be avoided by dropping your child off at school no later than 8:10.

Being prompt is a lifelong habit which you can instill in your child. If they learn at an early age that it is important to be on time for school, it is very likely they will understand the importance on being on time for work. Thanks for your cooperation!

New Faces, New Programs at Alma Schrader

Several new staff members have joined Alma Schrader this year.

Suann DeWitt joins us as a fourth kindergarten teacher. Suann taught preschool at Blanchard school prior to coming to Alma Schrader. Not only is Suann a kindergarten teacher, she is also a parent of one of our new kindergarten students!

Allison Davis is a familiar face at Alma Schrader as all four of her children have attended or are attending Alma Schrader. Allison is serving as a Class Within a Class teacher in kindergarten, collaborating with David Brown.

Brandelin Frazier is also a familiar face at Alma Schrader as both her children also attend this school. Brandelin is teaching the fourth section of first grade after serving as a teaching assistant in kindergarten last year. Brandelin has also taught in the Sikeston school district as well as teaching preschool in the Cape Girardeau school district.

Sarah Garner joins us as a special education teaching assistant. Sarah has taught home economics and has also served as a substitute teacher in the Cape Girardeau school district. Sarah's daughter also joins us as a new member of the Alma Schrader family.

Another familiar face returning to Alma Schrader is Sharon Bennett. After serving as a long-time counselor and psychological examiner, Sharon joins Alma Schrader as a speech language implementer. We are so glad to have Sharon back with us!

Susie Reinagel joins Alma Schrader as a literacy teacher. Susie most recently taught at Southeast Missouri State University. Prior to that, Susie taught fourth grade at Clippard Elementary.

Jennifer Stovall joins Alma Schrader as the new cafeteria manager. Some parents may remember Jennifer who graciously volunteered her time to help at last year's Chili Supper. Jennifer previously worked at Clippard Elementary.

Returning to Alma Schrader after a brief stay at Clippard is Aaron Rankin, our new head custodian. Aaron has a wealth of experience after working in the Branson/Reed Springs area before moving to Cape Girardeau.

New Faces, New Programs (Continued)

Jeanie Pruitt also joins Alma Schrader as the evening custodian. Ms. Pruitt actually began her position in early June. She has been a very welcome addition to the Alma Schrader staff.

Stacy Boerboom is the new teaching assistant to the second grade. Stacy is also a parent of past and current Alma Schrader students. Many of you may recognize her from her family involvement in both the Cape Central and SEMO football teams.

And while not new to Alma Schrader, we did have two weddings over the summer resulting in new names! Congratulations to Mrs. Miranda McClintock (formerly Ms. Petrea) and Mrs. Carolyn Hoffman (formerly Ms. Behnen). While the students have gotten used to "Mrs. McClintock" we are pretty sure that "Coach B" may have stuck with Mrs. Hoffman!

Lastly, the district did expand one of the Preschool programs by offering a Reverse Mainstream preschool in the morning. This class is taught by Tara Dameron, speech-language pathologist, and serves a mixture of general education and special needs students.

End of Day Concerns

Traffic concerns are not new or exclusive to Alma Schrader. However, we are always looking for ways to make things safer for students. Again, parents/guardians can help us out greatly:

1. Avoid calling the office after 2:45 unless absolutely necessary to make changes to how students are to get home. This time is very busy in the office and sometimes results in lost or confused messages.
2. Do not ask to check your child out "early" (i.e. 3:00 or after). Again, teachers are very busy trying to pack up backpacks and this is disruptive to their classroom routine.
3. Please do not leave your cars in the drive-through lane to come into the school to get your child. Instead, ask your child to come out to the front sidewalk and watch for your car. A teacher will assist them into the car.
4. Respect the crosswalks and come to one of the two designated crosswalks between the parking lot and the school. Do not ask your child to walk between cars.

ALMA SCHRADER CALENDAR 2009-10

SEPTEMBER		JANUARY	
1	Beef 'O Brady's Night	4	Back to School
4	Good Citizens Assembly 9:00 am	5	Good Citizens Assembly 9:30 am
4	COLLABORATION DAY – DISMISS 1:45	5	Beef 'O Brady's Night
7	NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)	12	Papa John's Night
8	NO SCHOOL (Teacher PD Day)	15	Deadline for Parent/Teacher Nominations for Gifted Screening Grades 1-12
15	Papa John's Night	18	MLK Day (NO SCHOOL)
17	Constitution Day 10:00 am	25	Valentine-Gram Sales Begin
22	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm	26	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
22	Domino's Night	26	Domino's Night
29	Fall Picture Retake Day		
30	Deadline for Parent/Teacher nominations for Kindergarten Gifted screening		FEBRUARY
		2	Good Citizens Assembly 1:30 pm
	OCTOBER	2	Beef 'O Brady's Night
2	COLLABORATION DAY – DISMISS 1:45	4	P/T Conferences (4:00 – 7:30)
5	Good Citizens Assembly 1:00 pm	5	COLLABORATION DAY – DISMISS 1:45
6	Beef 'O Brady's Night	5	Valentine-gram orders are due
13	Papa John's Night	9	P/T Conferences (4:00 – 7:30)
15	Chili Supper 4:00	9	Papa John's Night
20	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm	11	Valentine's Parties 2:15 pm
22	P/T Conferences (4:00 – 7:30)	11	P/T Conferences (3:30 – 4:30)
27	P/T Conferences (4:00 – 7:30)	12	NO SCHOOL
27	Domino's Night	15	President's Day (NO SCHOOL)
29	Fall Festival Parades/Parties 2:00 pm	16	NO SCHOOL (Teacher PD Day)
30	NO SCHOOL	23	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
		23	Domino's Night
	NOVEMBER		
3	Beef 'O Brady's Night		MARCH
4	Good Citizens Assembly 10:00 am	2	Beef 'O Brady's Night
6	COLLABORATION DAY – DISMISS 1:45	4	Good Citizens Assembly 10:30 am
10	Papa John's Night	5	COLLABORATION DAY – DISMISS 1:45
17	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm	9	Papa John's Night
19	Parent Visitation 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	11	Alma Schrader 50 th Anniversary Celebration 6:30
24	Domino's Night	19	NO SCHOOL – DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVAL
25 - 29	Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)	22	NO SCHOOL (Teacher PD Day)
30	Collect for FISH and Salvation Army	23	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
		23	Domino's Night
	DECEMBER	24	Spring Pictures (No Retakes)
1-4	Collect for FISH and Salvation Army		
1	Beef 'O Brady's Night		APRIL
3	Good Citizens Assembly 2:00 pm	1-5	Spring Break
8	Papa John's Night	6	Good Citizens Assembly 1:00 pm
15	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm	6	Beef 'O Brady's Night
17	Christmas Parties 2:15 pm	13	Papa John's Night
18	End of Semester (12:00 PM DISMISSAL)	23	Grandparents' Day 10:00 – 2:00
21 – Jan 3	Christmas Break	27	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
		27	Domino's Night
			MAY
		4	Good Citizens Assembly 9:00 am
		4	Beef 'O Brady's Night
		6	Play Day
		7	COLLABORATION DAY – DISMISS 1:45
		11	Papa John's Night
		13	Fourth Grade Graduation 2:00 pm
		17	Awards Assembly 1:30 pm
		18	Last Day of School (12:00 PM DISMISSAL)