

“That’s what I consider true generosity. You give your all, and yet you feel as if it costs you nothing.” Simone de Beauvoir

Dear Armatage Families,

### **Family Fun Walk**

As Mr. Rogers use to say, “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood.” Well at least it was last Saturday when literally hundreds and hundreds of family members came together for the annual Family Fun Walk. The weather was perfect for a brisk morning walk following a delicious pancake breakfast provided by Pastor Somerville and the City Church congregation.

It was so much fun to see the kids dancing to the music, walking joyously around the block and partaking in intermittent activities along the route. The committee chairs and PTA never cease to amaze me with their dedication, creativity and determination to help support Armatage Montessori School.

At 11:30 a.m., we had the ribbon cutting ceremony. We were honored to have Superintendent Graf and Associate Superintendent Brian Zambreno in attendance. Following a few words from both of them, we cut the ribbon and headed up stairs to the new luncheon for pizza, desserts, coffee and lemonade generously provided by Steve Bonine and Community Education. It was a great ending to a fantastic fund raising event.

Thank you so much to our PTA and all the families who supported this fund raising event. Armatage would not be the school that it is without you!

### **Conferences & M.E.A.**

Just a reminder there will be **no school** for students this Wed. October 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents will have an opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss their child/ren's progress and help develop a plan for the remainder of the year. If you have not already signed up for a conference, please contact your child's teacher via email or by calling the school.

### **Inclement Weather**

I could not have been more surprised when I woke up Sunday morning to snow covered grass. It was a stark reality that winter is just around the corner. It is probably a good time to begin looking for the gloves, mittens, hats and other miscellaneous winter gear that your kids will need for the next five to six months. As long as the temperature is above zero and the wind chill is above -15, the kids go outside for recess. They need to dress for Minnesota weather.

### **Directory**

The school directory is up and running. User name and passwords will be sent home with your children in next week's orange folder. The parent who has labored over this project would like to remain anonymous but I want recognize her for this herculean task; it was much appreciated.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is important to school success. It is expected that all students will attend daily and will be on time. Students are allowed in the building at 7:17 a.m. At 7:35 teachers lock their doors and students need to get a tardy pass in the health office.

### **Excused absences**

- Illness (up to eight days/year unless medical documentation is provided). Parents must call the attendance line (612-668-3188) EACH day the student is absent.
- Medical appointment (student must bring a note)
- Funeral or serious illness of an immediate family member
- Family Emergency (up to three days in an academic year unless approved by administration)
- Religious observance
- Family vacation/activity (up to five days): Parents must fill out a form at least ten days prior to the first absence and have it signed by the principal, missing work must be completed, and absences must not occur during state-wide testing periods.  
[http://armatage.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/mps\\_familyactivityform.pdf](http://armatage.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/mps_familyactivityform.pdf).

### **Unexcused absences**

- 3 unexcused absences – a principal’s letter is sent to the student’s home
- 6 unexcused absences – the parent must attend an attendance meeting in the community for information and assistance
- 9 unexcused absences – the family is referred to Hennepin County Be@School program
- 12 unexcused absences – the family is referred to Hennepin County Child Protection

### **Tardies**

When a student arrives late, the teacher must take time out from instruction to help the late student get acclimated to the day. This is disruptive to the learning environment. PLEASE make every effort to have your child ride the bus, or have your child arrive by 7:20 to ensure they are ready to learn.

Students who arrive later than 180 minutes into the school day without an approved excuse will be marked as absent for the full day.

### **Smoke Alarms**

**Smoke Alarms Save Lives** according to the American Red Cross. Therefore, they have created a program in which families can receive a FREE smoke alarm by calling 612-460-3674 or going to [GetASmokeAlarm.org](http://GetASmokeAlarm.org) and requesting an alarm and installation.

### **Morning Drop Off**

I have received many phone calls and emails regarding the morning drop off procedures. Parents are frustrated and concerned that folks are dropping their kids off in front of the building on 56<sup>th</sup> street. Because there is no cross walk, cars stop and let the kids out resulting in them crossing the street while other cars are driving east and west often oblivious to the children.

Several years ago, we started the drop-off procedure in the Park Board parking lot as a way of ensuring kids and cars are not crossing paths. Carey Seely, Assistant Principal is out there each morning to ensure kids get out of their cars and into the building safely.

We are asking that families do not use the front of the building as a drop off for children and allow this to be for walkers only. As daylight savings ends on Sunday, November 4, it will get increasingly darker in the mornings. For the safety of everyone, if you drop off your children,

please use the park board parking lot. Thank you for helping us keep Armatage safe for children.

I hope you have a wonderful 5-day weekend with your kids. Sincerely,  
Joan Franks, Principal