

Dear Armatage Families,

Spring Music Performance

It was great seeing so many families at the Spring Music Program last week. I always love watching the kids perform, as I know there is so much pride in the work they do to prepare for this event. A special **Thank You** to Miss Anita who in her magical way can get 650 kids to stand and perform as if they are ready for American Idol.

School of Excellence

Last Friday, we submitted an application to the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association to be considered for a School of Excellence recognition.

The Minnesota School of Excellence (SOE) program promotes excellence through a rigorous 1 or 2 year-long, self-directed evaluation process that showcases dynamic schools of the 21st century. The schools earn validation by completing a school community self-study, developing a plan to build on evident strengths & address areas needing improvement, and assessing ongoing results from implementing the plan.

The state School of Excellence committee will read the application for that addresses six standards, they are:

1. Learning Centered
2. Diverse Communities
3. 21st Century Learners
4. Quality Instruction
5. Knowledge and Data
6. Community Engagement

They will also look at our state Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR) and the Self-Study Methodology.

The timeline is:

✓ Submission of S of E application by	June 5 th
Committee review	Mid June
Decision & notification	September

Award Banquet at Principals Institute

February

School Celebration

May

2017 – 2018 Calendar

It is hard to believe we are well under way planning the calendar for next year. There are still some unknowns; however, there are a few dates I thought you might want to know as you plan your summer vacations:

- Kindergarten – 5th grade supply drop off - Thursday, Aug. 24th from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- PRE – k supply drop off – Tuesday, Aug. 29th from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- First day of school for 1st – 5th graders – Monday Aug. 28th
- First day of school for pre – k / kindergarteners – Wed. Aug. 30th

Fidget Spinners

Fidget Spinners have become all the rage this year, especially for elementary aged students. Although the manufactures have stated they are a “stress-relieving toy”, our staff have found them to be distracting and as one student said, “Mrs. Franks they bother me so much my brain can’t think”.

I have listened to many people express their frustrations about this item and so in talking with Alissa, Mpls. Kids director & Kasey, Rec Plus director we have made a joint decision to ban Fidget Spinners from school. If your child brings one to school, it will be confiscated and kept in the office where you can pick it up at your convenience.

In advance, thank you for your support!

Construction

We are T – 32 days until construction begins. On Friday, June 16th, Rochon Construction will begin our project which includes a demolition of the existing office, health office, art & music rooms, and staff work room. In addition, air conditioning will be installed in all of the classrooms. By the time the project is completed (Tentatively August of 2018) we will have the following:

- A new lunchroom where art & music are currently located
- A new office, health office, staff lounge and workroom in what currently is the grassy area in front of the building.
- Air conditioning throughout the building
- A new art & music room in the existing lunchroom & Mpls. Kids area
- Mpls. Kids will have a space located in the current lobby

To ensure the safety of students during the construction project, ***next year***, we will be moving the bus arrival and departure to ***Sheridan Ave***. We do not want to have machinery and children in the same area and this appeared to be the only logistical maneuver that made sense. In addition, half of the parking lot in front of the building will not be available for parking, which will make it more difficult to find a space when visiting the building. It is definitely going to be challenging next year as we work through the nuances that come with construction, but in the end we will have a beautiful new space

Next year promises to be exciting!

Summer School

We are still accepting applications for summer school. If you are interested in having your child attend summer school please send the application to school asap. Although bussing can no longer be guaranteed for the first week of summer school, we will make every attempt to work with transportation to see if your child/ren can use an existing stop until a permanent one is in place.

Recess

I have received many inquiries regarding the potential increase in the required number of minutes for recess next year. Last week, the MPS School Board had a

discussion and are deliberating about increasing the time from 20 to 30 consecutive minutes per day. It is my understanding a decision will be made by June.

Testing

The MCA 's are complete and additional testing for our English Language kids and students in grades k-2 will wrap up at the end of this month. We are excited to share with families the growth their children had in the areas of math and literacy. The MCA results are embargoed. When results are determined later this summer, schools and families will receive independent results.

As the year begins to wrap up, the calendar is inundated with events and activities that you are welcomed and encouraged to attend. This Thursday, May 18th from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Girls on the Run will take place at the Armatage Rec Center Baseball Fields. They are in need of volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. Please email noel@thousandfamily.com or tina@thousandfamily.com if you can help.

Have a wonderful week as the weather right now is glorious!

Sincerely,

Joan Franks, Principal