

Dear Armatage Families,

We made it to the finish line! What an amazing year we had at Armatage! As I reflect on the year and witness the growth our students have made, I cannot help be filled with exuberance. I am so proud of the students and their commitment to doing their best every single day. Thanks you to everyone who helped make this school year such a success!

2017 – 2018 School Year

For over two years, we have been planning for the construction project beginning this Friday. I cannot count the number of hours and people involved in preparing for the “Big Event”. There will be many phases to the project. We are quickly learning that flexibility and patience will be key to getting through the construction project. Several classrooms will have an abatement, which means their rooms are going to be emptied over the summer while others a less intensive intrusion, but still, a lot of work for teachers as they box all of their materials to be moved by this Friday.

Over the summer, contractors will begin the process of installing air conditioning in the classrooms (this will not be completed until spring), doing a demolition of the main office, art, music and the health office, and starting to reconfigure spaces. What I know for sure is that when folks return, there will be new traffic patterns, areas we cannot access and a host of challenges we have yet to anticipate. We are keeping our eye on the prize which will be a fabulous remodel.

One major change outside the building will be a temporary relocation of buses dropping off students in the morning. Because the front of the building will be a construction area, we cannot have students and machinery in the same area. Therefore, buses will drop off students on Sheridan Avenue. Most likely, we will use two entrances for bus drop off, but this will be determined over the summer and communicated to you via the welcome back letter this fall.

School of Excellence

Earlier this month, we submitted our application to the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association for the School of Excellence award. Families & staff had the opportunity to have input through surveys disseminated during the year. In addition, data and other information was gathered to do a self-study that

examined our strengths and areas for development. We will be notified in late June if we were selected as a MN. School of Excellence.

Perfect Attendance

Research shows there is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement in school. Congratulations to the following students who had perfect attendance during the 2016 – 2017 school year. I am so proud of:

Vivian Alderman	Aiden Amon-Kundtz	Annika Andersson-Stern
Joseph Bitney	James Christie	Evan Duepner
Evelyn Espinoza-Guzman	Lucille Gudmestad	Curtis Hildebrand
Evelyn McInroy	Oliver Jacobson	Ethan Jones
Andrew Li	Matthew Li	Phoenix Millar-Bruzek
Cormac Orr	Marco Palmieri	Benjamin Rebischke
Carter Risinger-Anderson	Ethan Ryan	Alejandro Sesma
Soren Stensland	Molly Stoesz	Ryan Stoesz
Olive Strike	Ruby Thousand	Esalina Vincenty
Dojin Wells		

Staffing Changes

Each year, staff have an opportunity to make professional / or personal decisions regarding their careers and the opportunity to broaden their horizons. It is always the saddest time for me because I am not a fan of saying good-bye. However, I am happy for the following folks who will be starting the next leg of their journey in education / or life, they are:

Raleigh Fromstein, Speech & language will be moving to a high school setting

Emily Gregory, Band teacher is moving out of state

Geoff Jansen, ELL teacher will be moving to Seattle

Colleen Janssen, Speech/ language will be a district itinerant

Kenny Jones, Associate Educator took a position at N.E. Middle School

Amy Meyer, ECSE teacher will become a district itinerant

Rob Purple, Psychologist will be a district itinerant

Tina Swift, 3rd grade teacher will be moving to Texas

Karen Tatur, ECSE took a position in another district

I am in the process of interviewing and hiring candidates to replace these folks. They will be missed, as they have been huge assets to our Montessori School. Best wishes to everyone!

Summer Vacation

Summer vacation for students begins this Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. I hope everyone will have some time to enjoy the beautiful Minnesota summer that awaits us. If your child/ren are attending summer school and you need any information please call the office at 668.3180 before Friday otherwise you will need to contact Lake Harriet School at 612.668.3210.

Best wishes for a wonderful & safe summer.

Sincerely,

Joan Franks,Principal