

Dear Armatage Families,

“You can turn it all around in a split second by making a simple choice to try again, to play again, to love again, to live again, to dream again.” – Chris

Teacher convention, Halloween & conferences are in the rear view mirror, which is evidence that we have completed the first quarter of the school year. For those who have endured much of the construction noise, the first quarter may have seemed like an eternity and for others who are enjoying the transformation of the new addition; it has been an exciting time. At the end of the day, we are working collaboratively to make this year a great success for your children.

Data Meetings

During the last 2 weeks, Paul Scanlon; Assistant Principal, Sarah Hassebroek; Instructional Specialist and I met with each classroom teacher for a data meeting. We asked the following questions:

1. How have you become familiar with students' background knowledge, skill levels, experiences, and cultural resources?
2. How are you using student data to plan for differentiation of instruction?
3. How do you assess prior knowledge and differentiate instruction to ensure engagement for all students?
4. What sources of student data do you use to determine student performance level?

5. What opportunities do you provide for student choice?

The data meetings gave us the opportunity to get a deeper understanding of the comprehensive needs of every classrooms. We will do another data meeting with the teachers in January to look at growth factors and ascertain additional information to help support the needs of the classrooms.

Construction Update

For those attending conferences last Friday, you could not help but experience the noise that comes with saw drilling a brick wall. The construction crew was working on the opening that eventually will lead to the new steps by the playground. I have become oblivious to the noise, but I know it may have been irritating especially for families attending conferences in room 114. Thank you for your patience!

The frame of the new addition is in place. Currently, the focus is on the roof and installing the underground plumbing. The goal was to have the roof completed and the outside wall in place before the snow flies, but last Wednesday was a stark reality that winter is around the corner.

There were a few times last week where the smell of hot tar was evident. Teachers are great about letting me know when their students need a break from the noise / or aroma in the building. As you can imagine, it is a challenge to try to construct a new addition that is adjacent to existing classrooms / or hallways and having a principal who is notoriously known for wanting a quiet

and respectful environment😊. The construction crew and I are learning how to work together with a win-win goal in mind.

Report Cards

Last week during conferences, you had the opportunity to talk with your child/s teacher/s about their progress and goals for the year. On **November 15th**, report cards will be sent home in the Wednesday envelopes. Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions / or concerns.

Free & Reduced Applications

The district is requiring each family to have a lunchroom application on file. For those families who do not have an application on file, we are sending one home in this week's Wednesday envelope to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

If Free and Reduced support is needed, please fill out the entire application.

If no services are needed, please fill out the top portion with the child(ren) names, DOB, and Grade and check the box for no participation.

Winter Recess

The snowflakes blowing around last Wednesday was a clear indication of things to come. Per district policy, your children will go outside for recess ***30 minutes a day***. If the temperature is

above zero and the wind chill is above -15, the kids will go outside for recess; thus, they need to have appropriate winter clothing. Please make sure they have a warm coat, hat, mittens/ or gloves and boots during the winter months.

Also, please let your child/ren know that staff will closely monitor the temperatures and may insist that a student put on their coat when going outside.

Sharing food in the lunchroom

One of the many amazing attributes of a Montessori School is how children love to share and take care of each other; it is a beautiful thing! However, many children in our school have allergy issues attributed to certain ingredients in particular food items. Therefore, students are not permitted to share food off their trays / or anything from their home packed lunches. We certainly appreciate their generosity and desire to share, but unfortunately, food is something that cannot be communal. Please review this expectation with your child for their health and the health of their classmates.

Book Fair

This Thursday, November 9th & Friday, November 10th will be our PTA sponsored Book Fair. Students will have an opportunity to go with their classmates to peruse / or purchase books. Parents are welcome to visit anytime between 7:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. both days.

PTA Conference Dinners

A huge thank you to our PTA for providing box lunches for our staff last Wednesday evening. I cannot express how much the teachers appreciated having such a delicious meal to eat as they geared up for evening conferences. Thank you to all our parents who support the work we do; it is an amazing partnership!

Statue

About 1 ½ years ago, Cathy & Dean Rebuffoni donated a beautiful 7 foot, 400 lbs. bronze statue for our courtyard entitled “Old Friends” by George Lundeen, a Colorado artist. It depicts an older gentleman feeding birds and celebrates the relationship and responsibility of human beings to nature.

I have been waiting (im)patiently for this statue to be permanently placed in the prairie as we had to get a cement slab placed and cured before this could happen. Last Thursday, I saw the statue being wheeled down the hallway and I knew the day had finally come. “Old Friends” is now a permanent figure in our prairie thanks to the generosity of the Rebuffoni’s.

The Rebuffoni’s had two sons who attended Armatage and currently have a grandson, Enzo who is a third grader.



On Broadway

During conferences, a parent stopped by to ask if On Broadway was going to happen this year. Unfortunately, our current construction project is encompassing every inch of the building in some way or another and trying to orchestrate a major production is impossible. There were ideas tossed around such as finding another venue, making major modifications and pairing it down to only one grade level, but in the end we couldn't make it work.

I appreciate how disappointing it is, especially for our 5th grade students, but there are just too many mitigating factors to be able to pull it off this year.

There are a couple of staff members interested in discussing what the future could look like for this musical offering. Once the construction is completed and we have all of our spaces available, the conversation will begin.

Have a wonderful week as we move into the beginning of our second quarter of school.

Sincerely,

Joan Franks, Principal