

# Classroom Connection

Foster Elementary School

October 6, 2011

A big **THANK YOU** to our dedicated Safety Patrollers this past month:  
Sophia and Hannah Sanford, Genevieve Frank, Austin Schwartz, and Noah Shannon.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

- October 7** 9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Rm 113 Field Trip to Heritage
- October 10** 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip to Mulberry Farms
- October 11** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Foster Family Night
- October 12** 8:45 – 3:00 p.m. Kgn Field Trip to New Zoo
- October 14** 9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Field Trip to Heritage
- October 18** 3:30 p.m. FFN Meeting  
5:30 – 7:45 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- October 20** 5:30 – 7:45 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- October 21** 9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Rm. 127 Field Trip to Heritage  
**NO SCHOOL PM – dismissal at 11:27a.m.**
- October 24** 8:30 – 12:00 p.m. Rm. 121 and 123 Field Trip to Log Cabin  
3:45 – 6:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- October 26** **NO SCHOOL PM – DISMISSAL AT 11:27a.m.**
- October 27** **NO SCHOOL ALL DAY**
- October 28** **NO SCHOOL ALL DAY**
- October 31** 8:30 – 12:00 p.m. Rm. 125 Field Trip to Log Cabin
- November 1** Picture Retakes – See article on page 2 of newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings!

We have had a magnificent start to the school year at Stephen Foster Elementary Charter School. We have all sorts of things to celebrate since our last newsletter.

I am pleased to share that we placed first in the Fox Cities' Marathon School Challenge. The graph below shows Foster's participation in the event and the prize money that has increased as a result.

### Foster Wins \$1,000 from School Specialty

118 students participate in 2011 Fox Cities Marathon Fun Run



For the second year in a row, Foster Elementary won the Fox Cities' Marathon School Challenge (medium-sized school division). This distinction comes with a \$1,000 award from School Specialty to buy supplies and equipment. Our friends at SECURA Insurance played a huge role in boosting Foster student participation numbers in the September 16 Fun Run. They made registration fees affordable for all and sponsored two school buses to transport our runners. Special thanks to all of the teachers, parents, and volunteers who helped to corral, feed, and cheer on the flock of Foster Falcons at the Fox Cities Stadium.



We are also pleased with the progress we are making on the academic front. This month we had MAP Testing. MAP Testing will help us understand where each of the children are at in reading, math and language usage. We will use the data we get from these assessments to build lessons that will help each child learn in a way that fits their strengths and addresses the areas they need to work on.

It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you and your children. As always, feel free to stop and see me if you have any concerns or even just to say "hi." Have a great October!

Matt

## **NOTICE: FOSTER'S CLASSROOM CONNECTION NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN**

**All newsletters will be available on Foster's Website:**

<http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/foster>

Communication with our families remains a priority. We also know that many families are accustomed to using online resources and email. With the high cost of paper we continue to try to move towards paperless communication. Again this year, the September and October *Classroom Connection* will be sent home with students in paper form. However, future newsletters will be posted online each first Thursday of the month.



### **Safety In and Around Our Parking Lot**

Your help in observing the signage around our school parking lot will help us accomplish our goal in keeping our students safe as they enter and leave the school and playground areas. We need your help to set a positive example. Please do not park your car in the areas marked **No Parking**. Please do not park in the bus area. **Please slow down and have your child cross only at the corner with the Adult Crossing Guard.**

A safe area to drop off your child is on Foster Court by the playground. Have your child walk from the basketball area through the playground trail to the entrance of school, or drop off on Foster Street and have them walk up the sidewalk to school. This avoids congestion in our small parking lot and is a safer situation for all. Also, please help us meet the needs of students and parents by leaving the handicapped parking spots for those with the handicapped parking sticker or tag.

## **IS MY CHILD SICK ENOUGH TO STAY HOME?**

Every parent has contemplated this question at some time during any given school year. The following are some guidelines to help you decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or too ill to be in school.

- A child with a temperature over 101 should be kept at home until he/she is fever free for 24 hours.
- A child with a temperature over 100 and other symptoms such as a headache, cough, or general malaise would probably be more comfortable at home.
- A child who is vomiting or has diarrhea should be kept home.
- A child diagnosed with strep throat needs to be out of school until he/she has been on an antibiotic for at least 24 hours. (Children do not need to be out of school until all of the antibiotic is gone.)
- Children may attend school with a cold if they are fever free and able to participate in school activities.

If your child becomes ill in school, we will need to be able to reach you. Please make sure to notify the office of any work or phone number changes as they occur.

If you have further questions, please contact your school nurse through the school office.



### **Picture Retake Day:**

Herff Jones Photography will be back at Foster on Tuesday, November 1st to take school pictures of any student that was absent on September 19<sup>th</sup> and any student that is new to Foster since September 19<sup>th</sup>. Retakes will also be done the same day. If you decide you do not like the pictures that were recently sent home, send the complete package with a note explaining the problem with your child to school by Monday, October 31st and their picture will be redone. We must have the complete package at the time of the retake to avoid additional charges.

### **Input Session on Educational Materials Selection**

The Appleton Area School District (AASD) would like to invite residents of the Appleton Area School District to participate in a Facilitated Input Session regarding the AASD Educational Materials Selection Policy and Library Media Materials Selection Policy Revisions. You may view the original Materials Selection Policy and the proposed revised policies on the AASD website.

- [www.aasd.k12.wi.us](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us)
- NEW ON THE SITE
- AASD Materials Selection Policy Revisions & Input Sessions

If you would like to attend one of the Facilitated Input Sessions (see below), please register by calling 832-6301.

October 11th 6:00 p.m.	East High School's LMC 2121 Emmers Drive
October 12th 1:00 p.m.	Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Center Community Room 122 E. College Avenue, Suite 1A – City Center Plaza

### **FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK - PTO**



There are many opportunities for parents to participate actively in their children's education. The *Foster Family Network* (formerly Foster PTA) meets monthly and seeks to support student achievement through parental volunteering and additional program opportunities.

Research has shown that children whose parents are involved with the school are more likely to achieve academic success and to feel good about their school experiences. Foster encourages parents to become involved in their children's educational programs in whatever way is most comfortable and interesting for them. Some examples include volunteering to read to students, working with students at centers, serving on the school's Charter Governing Board, or assisting with planning and committee work for *Foster Family Network* projects such as Safe Night, School Yearbook, Staff Appreciation, and fundraising. If you have a unique talent or interest that you would like to share, please contact the office. All parents and staff are encouraged to become involved in the *Foster Family Network*. Please plan on attending our next FFN meeting on Tuesday, October 25th at 3:30 p.m.

## **TELEPHONE USE**

Students are allowed to use the school office phone to make **emergency** or **urgent** calls only. Students are not permitted to call home for assignments, projects, gym shoes, or music instruments unless the teacher considers it necessary. Students will not be permitted to call home after school to ask for permission to go home with another student. **All after school arrangements need to be made with parents before coming to school in the morning.**

The office telephone will not be available for use after 4:00 p.m., when the school office closes. Please make sure students participating in after school activities, such as Walking Club, Scouts or Intramurals have transportation plans made with parents before leaving for school.

## **MESSAGES TO YOUR CHILD OR TO A STAFF MEMBER**

We discourage calling the school to have us relay routine messages to your child. If your daily schedule changes, please discuss with your child each morning what they should be doing after school. It is much more comforting to your child to have these things settled and planned ahead. If a message is extremely important, we will be glad to relay it to your child, but please don't wait until the last second to call us. Since your child will also have instruction in the music room, the gym, the library, the computer lab, the playground and the art room, it can take a few minutes to locate someone. The best ways to communicate with your child's teacher is to email the teacher or write a note in your child's agenda and ask the teacher to call you. Please indicate when would be a good time for them to call you to set up a time to confer.

## **IF YOUR CHILD IS LATE TO SCHOOL (1<sup>st</sup> bell rings at 8:22 a.m., school starts at 8:27 a.m.)**

The first 15-20 minutes of each day are probably *the* most important minutes in the whole school day because that is when the entire day's plan is described to the children and when basic reviews, especially in the primary grades, take place. If your child must arrive late, ***please call the school office to let us know and to tell us if your child wants hot lunch.*** When arriving, please sign your child in at the office. If your child is late to school due to a doctor's appointment or similar valid excuse, he/she will be marked "**tardy**", but it will be an "**excused tardy**". If your child is late for school because of oversleeping, missing the school bus, leaving home too late to arrive on time, etc., your child will be marked "tardy" but it will be an "**unexcused tardy**". ***If a child has been tardy due to unexcused reasons five (5) times in a semester (September until January or January until June), the child is considered "truant" according to the law in Wisconsin. The child and parents are then reported to the Truancy Center for follow-up to determine why the child is being late for school so often. If the unexcused tardiness continues, legal action will follow.*** Please help your child develop the important habit of being on time each day so that they can learn as much as they can.

### **Report All Changes to Keep Our Records Accurate**

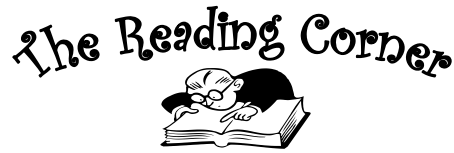
**Address/Phone @ home and work**

**Names/Phone of emergency contacts**

**Immunization records updated**

**Changes in child's health status**

**Please inform the School Office: (920) 832-6288**



## The Importance of Sleep

Research shows that adequate sleep is essential to the memory storage process, especially for young learners. (Tuma, 2005).

Some studies show that students who get less sleep are more likely to get poorer grades in school than students who sleep longer. Students with sleep-deprivation also had more daytime sleepiness and depressed moods. (Wolfson & Carskadon, 1998).

Though research cannot pinpoint an *exact* amount of sleep need by people at different ages, the following table identifies the "rule-of-thumb" amounts most experts have agreed upon. Nevertheless, it's important to pay attention to your own individual needs by assessing how you feel on different amounts of sleep. Armed with this knowledge, it is essential that all children get enough sleep in order to perform well in school and other events.

How Much Sleep Do You Really Need?	
Age	Sleep Needs
Newborns (0-2 months)	12-18 hours
Infants (3 to 11 months)	14 to 15 hours
Toddlers (1-3 years)	12 to 14 hours
Preschoolers (3-5 years)	11 to 13 hours
School-age children (5-10 years)	10 to 11 hours
Teens (10-17)	8.5-9.25 hours
Adults	7-9 hours

Source: National Sleep Foundation

## Appleton Reading Specialists



### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Appleton Area School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or handicap.

El Distrito Escolar de Appleton no discrimina a los alumnos con motivo de sexo, raza, color, religión, lugar de origen, ascendencia, credo, gravidez, estado civil o de paternidad, orientación sexual, o incapacidad física, mental, emocional, o de aprendizaje o minusvalía en los programas educacionales o actividades. La ley federal prohíbe la discriminación en empleo por motivo de edad, raza, color, origin nacional, sexo, religión, o minusvalía.

Cov tsev kawm ntawm hauv Appleton no txwv tsis pub thum, cem, cais, thiabua tsis ncaj nces rau ib tug tibneeg twg vim nws yog pojniam lossistxivneej, nws cev nqaij daim tawv, los yog xim qaij daim tawv ntawm nws haivneeg, nws txoj kev ntseeg lossis kev dab qhuas, nws haiv neeg, nws caj cesmus rau poj koob yawm txwv, kev lis kev coj, muaj/tsis muaj menyum, muaj/tsis muaj pojniam lossis txiv, muaj/tsis muaj tub ki, kev plees kev yi, lossis puas tes puas taw ntawm cev nqaij daim tawv, kev nyuaj siab ntxovplawv, kev kawm tsis tau lossis ib yam dabtsi qeeb/poob qab ntawm kev kawm. Txoj cai hauv Federal txwv tsis pub thum, cem, cais thiab ua haujlwm vim nws lub hnuv nyoo, nws haiv neeg, nws cev nqaij daim tawv, nws caj ces, los yog xim qaij daim tawv ntawm nws haiv neeg, yog pojniam lossis txivneej, nws kev ntseeg los yog kev dab qhuas thiab puas/xaim ib qho dabtsi ntawm cev nqaij daim tawv lossis hauv hlwb (handicap).