

JANUARY 2012 CHADWICK-MILLEDGEVILLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Notes from the Superintendent

Happy New Year! School will resume Tuesday, January 3, 2012, and we are looking forward to a great spring semester. Congratulations are in order for our three Illinois State Scholars: Heather Fischbach, Abbie Habben, and Jolee Parks. This is one of the highest academic honors one can earn and signifies that these three young ladies are in the top 10% of the students in our state. Each of these students has demonstrated tremendous academic skills and has been an excellent role model during her time at Milledgeville High School.

The Board of Education will meet on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, from 4:30-8:00 P.M. in the high school library to discuss past, present, and future goals of the Board of Education. A "retreat" meeting allows the Board a time to discuss where the District has been and where it should be going. A discussion of future direction and goals is helpful as a framework for all future Board business. In order to get feedback on the future direction of our district an on-line survey will be available on the Chadwick-Milledgeville District Web Page. By completing this survey residents will have the opportunity to provide input on important issues such as curriculum, instruction, building renovations, future of the district, etc... The board of education strongly urges residents to complete the on-line survey. District residents who have input on concerns not addressed in the on-line survey are encouraged to contact me (684-5191, ext. 223) prior to the retreat meeting.

As of this writing we have not incurred a snow day. If weather necessitates closing school parents will be notified via the School Reach automated phone calling system. In addition, the district will announce closings on area television and radio stations i.e., KWQC, WQAD, WCCI etc...Regardless of the official action to close or not to close, students and parents are urged to always use discretion in deciding whether or not to travel to school. We also need to remind parents that the school buildings are not open before 8:15 A.M. Especially in the cold weather, please be sure that your students do not arrive at school before 8:15 A.M.

Sincerely,
Tim J. Schurman, Superintendent

Twenty Ways to Encourage Your Child to Read

By: Tim J. Schurman (source RIF America)

The following are some ways to turn a young reader's reluctance into enthusiasm:

1. Scout for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
2. Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.

- 3.** Notice what attracts your children's attention, even if they only look at the pictures. Then build on that interest; read a short selection aloud, or simply bring home more information on the same subject.
- 4.** Let your children see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
- 5.** Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together. Ask a librarian to suggest books and magazines your children might enjoy.
- 6.** Present reading as an activity with a purpose; a way to gather useful information for, say, making paper airplanes, identifying a doll or stamp in your child's collection, or planning a family trip.
- 7.** Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
- 8.** Play games that are reading-related. Check your closet for spelling games played with letter tiles or dice, or board games that require players to read spaces, cards, and directions.
- 9.** Perhaps over dinner, while you're running errands, or in another informal setting, share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
- 10.** Set aside a regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork, the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.
- 11.** Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.
- 12.** Encourage your child to read aloud to you an exciting passage in a book, an interesting tidbit in the newspaper, or a joke in a joke book. When children read aloud, don't feel they have to get every word right. Even good readers skip or mispronounce words now and then.
- 13.** On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
- 14.** Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
- 15.** Introduce the bookmark. Remind your youngster that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting; you can stop after a few pages, or a chapter, and pick up where you left off at another time. Don't try to persuade your child to finish a book he or she doesn't like. Recommend putting the book aside and trying another.
- 16.** Treat your children to an evening of laughter and entertainment featuring books! Many children (parents, too) regard reading as a serious activity. A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage read aloud can reveal another side of reading.

17. Extend your child's positive reading experiences. For example, if your youngster enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a natural history museum.

18. Offer other special incentives to encourage your child's reading. Allow your youngster to stay up an extra 15 minutes to finish a chapter; promise to take your child to see a movie after he or she has finished the book on which it was based; relieve your child of a regular chore to free up time for reading.

19. Limit your children's TV viewing in an effort to make time for other activities, such as reading. But never use TV as a reward for reading, or a punishment for not reading.

20. Not all reading takes place between the covers of a book. What about menus, road signs, food labels, and sheet music? Take advantage of countless spur-of-the-moment opportunities for reading during the course of your family's busy day.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday and that you're ready to get back to school. January is the month to begin working on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. It is essential that seniors get this completed as soon as possible. You will need to complete the form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Not only is the online form faster, it is much more efficient.

The FAFSA website offers help on how to complete the form and what information/documents are necessary. In addition, we will have a financial aid night in the high school library on Thursday, January 12 at 5:30 pm. The financial aid coordinator from Sauk Valley Community College will be here to give a presentation and answer any questions you may have about the process. In addition, a representative from ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) will be here to help any families fill out FAFSA online. SVCC will also be hosting a FAFSA workshop on their campus Sunday, February 19th from 1 to 3 p.m. Please call the Financial Assistance office at (815) 288-5511 ext. 339 if you have any other questions about this workshop.

Seniors also need to be checking their email for information on upcoming scholarship deadlines and opportunities. If you have not signed a permission slip for Mrs. Atilano to send your child emails regarding this information please do so. Another great resource for college information is www.collegezone.com. This website offers information for parents and students for filling out FASFA and other scholarship opportunities. The following link also has a copy of the power point presentation, explaining the Financial Aid Process.

<http://www.svcc.edu/UserMenu/potential/finaid/index.html> click on "View Presentation".

Here are some helpful FASFA tips:

1. Complete the form as soon as possible.
2. Complete it even if you don't think you qualify – it may help you get private awards.
3. Call the financial aid office of the college you're applying to because they may have additional forms/information.

Some common FASFA mistakes:

1. Don't leave ANY spots blank. Put N/A or zeros.
2. Don't forget to report ALL income, such as Social Security or child support.
3. Use your 1040 tax form, not your W-2s for reporting income and taxes paid.
4. Include yourself (student) in household size even if you don't live with your parents.
5. Sign the application and, if you're filing as a dependent, be sure to have your parents sign, too.

On January 13th, representatives from area businesses will be here to kickoff a new program available for all high school students. This is a chance for all high school students to start earning points to a Certificate of Employability. More information will come regarding the steps toward earning this certificate.

Have a great January!

Shelley Atilano, Guidance Counselor
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When Weather Closes Chadwick and Milledgeville Schools

When snowstorms, bad roads, or other emergencies make it necessary to close school for a day or more, students and parents will be notified via School Reach telephone calls, radio/TV and by a message on the district website at www.dist399.net as soon as a decision has been reached to close school. Hopefully, this decision will be made no later than 6:30 a.m. The following radio/TV stations will be given this information:

WSDR - Sterling, 1240 AM
KROS - Clinton, 1340 AM
WSSQ - Sterling, 94.3 FM
KCLN - Clinton, 1390 AM
WFPS - Freeport, 92 FM
KLNT - Clinton, 1390 AM
WFRL - Freeport, 1570 AM or 98.5 FM
WLLT - Dixon, 107.7 FM
WCCI - Savanna, 100.3 FM
KWQC TV - Davenport - Channel 6

In case school is dismissed early or it is necessary to delay the running of buses due to inclement weather, you will receive a School Reach phone call and the information will also be posted on the district website and broadcast over the same stations (Note: the email notification system has been discontinued). Regardless of the official action to close or not to close, students and parents are urged always to use discretion in deciding whether or not to travel to school.

School Reach Automated Telephone Contact System

When the administration decides to close school, dismiss early, or wants to provide an important reminder to parents we will execute a School Reach call. When a School Reach call is made a recorded message will be sent to the contact numbers you provide the school district during registration. Please make sure that the contact numbers we have for your family are accurate and

up to date. Warning: In the case of school closing you will receive phone call notification very early in the morning i.e. 5:00 A.M. If this is not acceptable notify in writing the office secretary in the building your child attends that you would like to be removed from the School Reach telephone notification program.

District Spelling Bee

The District Spelling Bee will be held Tuesday, January 24, at the Chadwick Junior High Gymnasium. It is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

Participants will be the top three spellers chosen from each section of the 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades of Chadwick Elementary and Junior High School. There will be a total of 24 possible participants.

The top three spellers will receive medallions given by the Educational Service Region. Special awards to the winners and an award of recognition for all participants will be given by THE National Bank of Chadwick.

The top two winners from the district will go on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee on February 28 at Pearl City and regional winners will advance to compete in the Journal Standard contest for the opportunity to go to the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

Milledgeville/Chadwick Pre-School Screening

On Thursday, March 8, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Friday, March 9, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon we will be doing pre-school screenings at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chadwick.

Ages Birth through 3 Years – A screening is available for children from birth through 3 years old. Those experiencing delays may be eligible for Early Intervention services to help them reach their greatest potential. For more information, please call 1-800-808-7750 for an appointment.

Ages 3 through 5 Years – Screenings continue to be available for children of ages 3-5 years. Based upon screening results, they may be eligible for a free preschool.

At the time of the screening you will be asked to answer some questions about your child's development. Any written information that you have, such as, a baby book, immunization records, health history, etc., will be helpful in answering some of these questions.

Your child will be asked to do some activities such as stacking blocks, drawing, jumping, etc., to see how he/she is developing. A speech and language check will be made, and a nurse will give a vision and hearing screening.

After the screenings have been completed, you will receive a verbal feedback on how your child performed on the screening.

Age 5 Years Before September 1, 2012 – children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2012, are eligible to register for Kindergarten at a later date. At that time, parents

will be requested to bring the child's original or notarized birth certificate (not hospital certificate) and immunization records. It would be helpful to bring the phone numbers of the child's dentist, doctor, and a person to call in case of emergency.

To make an appointment for preschool screening please call Nurse Susan Carter during school hours to set up a screening appointment. Mrs. Carter can be reached at Chadwick School (8:00-11:30 a.m.) at 684-5191 ext. 254, or at Milledgeville School (12 Noon-3:30 p.m.) at 225-7141 ext. 226.

If you do not have any pre-school children in your home, please give this information to someone who may not be aware of our pre-school screening.

Nurse's Notes

While your child is home for the holiday season, please double check for head lice, which tend to become more prevalent in the hat wearing/sharing season. Our incidence has been low this year and we would like to continue this way. We can do this with everyone's help.

Cold and flu season is underway. As a reminder, be sure any over-the-counter medications you wish your child to receive at school arrive in their original containers and are labeled with the child's name. Written orders are to be provided to the school by a physician, detailing the name of the drug, dosage and the exact time when the medication is to be given.

A child with mild cold symptoms can be in school if (s)he feels up to it, but please keep your child home if (s)he has a temperature above 100, is vomiting or has diarrhea. Remember, good hand washing goes a long way towards controlling the spread of these annual viral "annoyances"!

Free-Throw-a-Thon

The Boys basketball team will be holding their annual free-throw-a-thon on Monday, January 30th. The freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be shooting to earn money for summer camps, tournaments, and basketball supplies. The seniors will be shooting for Free Throws for Hero's, a charity which helps military families and cancer research. Please support a player with a pledge or donation.

Milledgeville Elementary AR News

Congratulations to our new Point Club members!

Thumb Print –Andrew Lapp, Colton Stahl, Graicie James, Kieren Harris, Zachary Pauley

Hand Print – Blake Schurman, Linsey Lapp, Brett Gums, Payton Sarber

AR STARS –Gage Offill, Dawson Maronde, Maxwell Phillips, Kayden Wolber, Chase Sarber,
Alyssa Mertz, Tyler Diehl, Claudia Hamilton

We also want to thank our students' families for the time they spend listening to their children read. Your support of the Accelerated Reader Program is essential to your children's success. Thanks for your help.

Mission Accomplished

The Christmas holiday mission of the Chadwick Middle School fourth and fifth graders was to provide for others. Beginning Monday, December 5th each of the four homerooms competed against each other. For ten school days the fourth and fifth grade students and teachers brought to school items for the Milledgeville Food Pantry. A total of 1059 items were collected with Mrs. Workman's homeroom being the winners bringing in 368 items to donate!

Following a celebration assembly in the small gym all donations were loaded to be delivered after school. Mission accomplished!

Carroll County Early Childhood

Start your new year off with some great family activities!

We have a new Story Stretchers, *The Crunching Munching Caterpillar*. It will be available 3 times this month, once in each school district.

Mommy and Me will be held in Lanark this month. This is a fun parent-child activity offered in the evenings from 6:00-7:00. It will be held in Milledgeville in February and in Thomson in March. Call early to make your reservations, this one fills up fast!

Our *Talk About it Tuesday* workshop *Raising Boys* will start off in Thomson in January, Lanark in February, and Milledgeville in March. This is an informal discussion held with participants on the rewards and challenges in raising boys.

Jan. 6thStory Stretchers (10:00-11:00) Lanark
Jan. 10thMommy & Me (6:00-7:00) Lanark
Jan. 13thNo School all districts. Early Step Preschool Staff Meeting
Jan. 16thNo School all districts. Holiday
Jan. 20thStory Stretchers (10:00-11:00) Milledgeville
Jan. 27thStory Stretchers (10:00-11:00) Thomson
Jan. 31stTalk About It Tuesday Raising Boys (6:00-7:00) Thomson

Helping Hand Food Pantry

The Helping Hand Food Pantry is open to anyone who lives in the Milledgeville or Chadwick areas. It is located in the Milledgeville United Methodist Church at the corner of Holcomb Ave. and 4 (across from Ewer's Garage). It is open the first Tuesday of every month from 9-11 a.m. and from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The pantry is sponsored by the Chadwick/Milledgeville Ministerial Assoc. For more information call 225-7511 or 225-7050.