

Panther Trax Newsletter



October 2007 SCHEDULE C

Whenever there is a schedule C listed on the calendar, school will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will not be served.

TUESDAY DISMISSALS

Many parents have called on Tuesdays asking if it is the early dismissal. **There are no more 1st and 3rd Tuesday Early Dismissals.** Should there be a need to dismiss early on a particular day, it will be on the monthly activity calendar sent home in the newsletter. You can also check the MES website at www.mes150.org

SENDING NOTES TO SCHOOL



When you send a note to school with your child, please be sure to include the **child's first and last names, date, teacher and grade** in the note. Be sure you sign your full name on it also. It is very difficult for the office staff to know which child the note pertains to when only the child's first name is on it and the parent forgets to sign it.

BREAKFAST AT SCHOOL



Any student that is a walker to school and has breakfast at school in the mornings will need to arrive before **8:15 a.m.** Breakfast will not be served after that time. Too many students are late to class due to late arrivals and eating breakfast.

Parents, please remind your children if they are eating breakfast to go directly to the cafeteria upon arrival at school.

BOOSTERS CHICKEN FRY TICKETS & SPORTS PASSES AVAILABLE

Club members are planning for their annual Chicken Fry to be held on **November 3rd**. Dinner will be served from **4:30-7:30 p.m.**, at the Marseilles Lions Club.

Cindy Moore and Denise Vangelisti are in charge of the raffle. You can reach them at 815-795-2283 or 815-795-2922. Tickets are available through any member or at the school office. Tickets are due in by **November 2, 2007**. Prizes are:

- 1st prize \$2,500**
- 2nd prize \$500**
- 3rd-5th prizes \$100**

Sport Passes are available to Marseilles residents 60+ years of age for \$5.00 each. You can get the passes from the District Office. You may reach them at **815-795-2162**.

The Booster Club is offering family passes for \$50.00 per family. If you are interested in purchasing a family pass, please send payment to the district office with the names of each family member. Reminder: Passes cannot be used for IESA Tournaments.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES

Halloween parties will be held on **Wednesday, October 31st**. The **Costume Parade** will begin at **1:30 p.m.** with parties held immediately following. Children will be getting dressed in their costumes at school prior to the parade.



For the safety and well being of our students, **all adult visitors in the school building must be without face make-up or masks.**

SCHOOL PICTURES

Photos will be taken for class pictures on **Friday, October**

12th. Please make sure your child brings their picture envelope to school that day.

ATTENDANCE LINE

If your child is absent, please call **815-795-8795** to report him/her off of school. This is a 24-hour line. If you need homework assignments for your child, you may request them on this line also.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 8th through the 14th is Fire Prevention Week. The school will be practicing fire drills during this week.



KEEP ON SAVING!!

The school collects D & S Receipts, Campbell Soup Labels, and Box Tops for Education each year. If you have been saving these items, you can send them to the school. Please send them in separate envelopes. Thank you!

MAGAZINE DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you for your support of our magazine drive. This year's homerooms with the most sales were:

- 1st—Mr. Kavanaugh**
- 2nd—Mr. Long**

Top selling individual was:

- 1st—Josh Schmitke (13 sales)**

Top winners for the "Cash Wheel" were Zack Bonnell with \$30 and Jessey Kline, Jared Jackson, and Jarrett Wood each with \$21.

There were 46 students qualifying for the Cubs game provided they maintain exemplary behavior throughout the school year! Our school total was over \$6,800.00 sold!!

Mr. Long would like to thank everyone who participated in making

the magazine drive a success. Great job!!!

TRUANTS' PARENTS' FACE FINES

Article by CHARLES STANLEY
THE TIMES NEWSPAPER

A truancy ordinance that fines parents unanimously passed without discussion at Marseilles City Council meeting Wednesday.

The new law says both public and parochial school students may not be absent from school without permission of a parent or guardian. It allows court fines of up to \$1,000 for parents who keep their children out of school without a valid reason or who give a false written excuse to school authorities.

Commissioner Jim Hollenbeck, who sponsored the ordinance, has said the truancy law is aimed at keeping students in school and out of mischief, including drug and alcohol abuse. After the meeting, Hollenbeck said he has received no negative reaction to the ordinance. He said a typical reaction from residents was "its too bad we have to enforce common sense."

Mayor Jim Trager said he has received no comment from residents on the ordinance.

False written excuses are defined as those that contain "false information, including falsification of a signature."

You may access www.mywebtimes.com for more information about this article.

FROM OUR SOCIAL WORKER

Welcome back! It's hard to believe the summer is already over and so is our first month of school! Hopefully your student is "ready to go" and have a great school year. I always like to introduce myself at the beginning of the year as we undoubtedly have lots of new faces that have moved to town. If that describes you, then "Welcome!"

Going back to school can sometimes cause a lot of stress on children of all ages (let alone parents!). As the social worker at Marseilles Elementary, I would like to

invite you to call me if there is anything I can do to help make your child's adjustment a smooth one. Better yet, feel free to stop by. My office is on the first floor, and I share the office area with Mrs. Shane, our Title One Reading teacher. So, if you are new to our school, please stop in and say hello!

Also, I would like to invite all the 6th-8th graders to join "TNT", (Teens n' Teamwork" this year. TNT meets every other week in Mrs. Bianchi's room on the third floor, and is a group dedicated to fostering a healthy drug-free attitude among our junior high students. We meet at 7:15-8:00 a.m. every other Thursday. It may be early, but it's worth it. More information will be coming home soon. We do lots of activities, sharing, and going out into the community, as well as sponsor dances. Our goal is to instill into our students that drugs are not the way and you can have fun without getting drunk or high. Mrs. Solis, Mrs. Bianchi, and myself are at each meeting. We look forward to a big turnout this year!

Again, call me at 795-2428, if you have any questions or if there is something I can help you with.

Miss Stacy Brannan
School Social Worker

PANTHER DOOR



Students who walk or get a ride to school are to enter the building in the morning using the Panther Door. Please do not drop your child at the front entrance as they will not be allowed in and will be told to use the Panther Door. For your child's safety, **please do not drop** children off by the bus lanes. Students not riding the buses to school should not be on school property until 8:10 a.m.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT PLANS FOR HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The 6th-8th grade Panther Band is off to a great start. Band rehearsals will be on Wednesday and Friday during 7th hour. Please remind your child to have their instrument,

full band music and lesson book for their lesson during the week. Please encourage your child to practice. We can get so much more done in rehearsal if they already know the notes. Please contact Linda Olsen at 795-2428 if you have any questions regarding band.

6th-8th grade choruses meet one day a week during study hall. A paper is being sent home with the dates for the year. We will soon be working on music for our Christmas concert. Make sure you have the date, December 3, on your calendar!

Our Music Department has been busy making plans for the annual holiday concerts. The 6-8th grade will hold their concert on Monday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. The K-5th grade concert will be held on Tuesday, December 11, at 1:30 p.m., in the large gym.

2007-08 CHEERLEADERS

The following girls were chosen last May for this school year's cheerleading squads:

5th-6th Grade

Taylor Hughes, Autumn Oley, Emily Smith, Lindsay White, Haylee Gordon, Olivia Raikes, Lauren Hicks, Haley Stock, Dusty Gabehart, Brooklyn Terando, Alyssa Irwin.

7th-8th Grade

Matti Smith, Tiana Boryca, Jasemin Gilmore, Jessey Kline, KC DeGraaf, Jessica Nordlie, Emily Blue, Amanda Oley, Brittany McGeorge, Jessica Mooney, Alissa Van Ness.

FISHIN' FOR RIBBONS

Students in grades 2-8 are using Study Island Math. We are having a competition this year to encourage each student to earn as many Blue Ribbons as possible.

Students must earn Blue Ribbons in Study Island fairly.

For every 5 Blue Ribbons earned, students will receive a fish to decorate and place in the display case. Students will also place one ticket with their name on it in the fish bowl for their grade level upon earning a fish.

Periodically tickets will be randomly drawn from the fishbowls for student recognition.

At the end of the year we will hold a luau assembly where prizes will be awarded.

LAW CHANGES REGARDING PHYSICALS

Governor Blagojevich signed into law on August 24, 2007, a bill that changes the required student health exam from "prior to entering 5th grade" to "prior to entering 6th grade". What this means is that all current 5th grade students, regardless of whether just having a physical or not, will be required to have a physical before entering the 6th grade. The intent of this bill was to require all female students to have the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccine before entering 6th grade, however this portion of the bill did not pass at the current time. It does require all health insurance plans to cover the cost of the vaccine, and the Department of Public Health to establish a program that pays for the vaccine for girls under age 18 in families that do not have coverage. The bill also requires the Department of Public Health to provide all female students entering 6th grade and their guardians written information about cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine. Additional information will be passed on to you as we learn more.

Julie Watts, R.N.

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Medicaid reimbursement is a source of federal funds approved by Congress to help school districts maintain and improve special education services.

Therapy and diagnostic services provided to your child (you) are partially reimbursable. Unless you object in writing, (LEA/Joint Agreement Name) will claim Medicaid/KidCare reimbursement for services provided. These claims will have no impact on your ability to receive Medicaid funding either now or anytime in the future.

PANTHER PAW AWARD

The Preschool Staff nominated **Jody Gosdin** for the Panther Paw Award. Jody noticed that the Preschool sandbox was in desperate need of fresh sand and was instrumental in getting that accomplished. She sought out and secured a donation of sand, and with the help of her brother, filled the sandbox on her own time. We are lucky to have someone like Jody on staff with us at M.E.S.!!

The Panther Paw Award is given to any staff member or student who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help better the atmosphere of our school. If you would like to nominate someone for a Paw Award, please contact Stacy Brannan at 815-795-2428, ext. 130.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 10/29/07

Conferences will be held on Monday, October 29, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, and 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The 6th-8th grade conferences will be held in the multi-purpose room. K-5 will be held in their classrooms. There is **NO SCHOOL** on this day.

**HAVE A SAFE
AND
HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



Please Mark Your Calendars!

11:30 AM Dismissal On Wednesday October 17 2007 & Friday November 9 2007
