



Pinecrest Elementary Newsletter 2016

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WOW...September is already behind us! Therefore, we can truly say the school year is underway. We have had an excellent beginning to the school year. The students have been "all smiles" and enthusiastic about learning. Of course, being back with friends and having an opportunity to make new friends is a plus too.

Pick-up and Drop-off Expectations

- 1) We must make conservative driving decisions. Always Be Patient!
- 2) Whenever possible, prepare your child(ren) to exit the vehicle on the curbside.
- 3) Please pull up as far as you can, so other cars can drop off behind you.
- 4) Do not park your car along the curb and come into the building. If you need to come into the building for any reason, please park in one of our parking lots.
- 5) As the cold weather approaches, make sure you have clear visibility out all of your windows.

Drop off times are from 7:40 am-7:55 am. **Children should not be dropped off before 7:40.** If you need to drop off before the 7:40 bell, you can enroll your child in Kids Campus. Further information about Kid's Campus can be obtained from the district's website, the Pinecrest webpage, or from our office. We need your help to honor this drop off time as recently 56 students were dropped off before the 7:40 bell. To help keep our school safe, a dramatic reduction in this number is needed. Please adjust your morning routines so you can safely and calmly drop students off between 7:40-7:55. Please note, if your child is going to breakfast, you may drop off at 7:30 am and have them go directly to the cafeteria.

Parent – Teacher Conferences

Parents/guardians have been invited to sign up for fall conferences online. If you have not signed up yet, please contact your school office as soon as possible. **Online registration will close Sunday, October 9, at 10:00 pm.**

We have intentionally moved conferences to an earlier part of the school year as a means to better communicate goals and expectations with families. Our purpose of this first Parent/Teacher conference is to outline and set academic goals for your child. Then, at the end of the trimester, we will send home report cards indicating progress towards those goals. We are thrilled to be meeting with you earlier and having the opportunity to discuss ways of partnering with you about your child's success!

Elementary conferences are in the evening on October 17th and October 18th and the morning of October 19th.

VISION 2025 Update

Vision 2025, Hastings Public Schools' plan for continuous improvement, began approximately 3 years ago. Since then, we've hosted dozens of conversations to seek ideas and input as to how to make ISD 200 the highest quality school system for all of our students. At its core, Vision 2025 intends to engage in consistent communication with our families, and members of the larger community.

We'd like to begin this year seeking feedback about some District practices and your responses will help inform our next steps in making District 200 even better. During our fall Parent/Teacher Conferences devices will be made available for you to participate in this survey. To complete the survey, please click on this link [Parent Survey](#) or visit the Pinecrest homepage. Thank you in advance for your time and thoughts.

NO SCHOOL

October 19 [Conferences]

October 20 and 21
[Teacher Association Days]

Dismissal Safety!

We want to make sure all students are safe at dismissal. Recently there has been an increase in the amount of families adjusting their child's dismissal plan, in particularly, mid-day. We can get up to 20 phone calls a day indicating a change in students' dismissal procedures. Sometimes half of those calls can come 20 minutes before dismissal. Getting everyone on the same page at the end of the day has some inherent challenges. Consistency with your child's dismissal plans reduces stress on all parties involved. Keeping the same plan, day after day, helps us maintain safety throughout dismissal.



We understand that there are times when events occur that need to change dismissal plans. In those instances, it is recommended to have a note a day in advance, and the day of. We thank you for your advanced planning and communication.



EXAMPLE: What If My Child Is Going Home From School With A Friend?

Many children want to go home with a friend after school. If this is the situation with your child, you will need to send a note to their teacher. **We will not allow a child to deviate from their regular going home route without a note giving your permission.** If your child intends to ride a bus home with their friend, the bus driver also requires a note. If you follow these expectations your child will have a pleasant and easy time going home with a friend.

School Bus Safety Training

All District 200 K-4 elementary students received school bus safety training on a school bus in late September or will receive the training in early October. Hastings Bus Company drivers conduct the training. They have developed lesson plans that correlate with the bus safety curriculum classroom teachers cover each fall.



Dress For The Weather

As the weather begins to cool, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for playing outside. Students spend twenty minutes outside for noon recess.

When the temperatures start to dip into the 40's and 50's, we do require students to wear a light jacket or sweatshirt outside. When winter arrives, winter clothing will be required



Field Trips:

Occasionally your child's teacher will extend classroom instruction and activities through field trips. Many field trip activities include an admission fee for students. Please be aware that you may be asked to cover the cost of the trip.

Before going on a field trip, teachers will send home permission slips to be signed by their parent or guardian. Permission must be granted prior to attending an activity. We believe that students need to provide their parents/guardians with the forms and to have them returned at least one day prior to the trip.

Classroom Directories

As the school year starts, we want to support families making connections with each other. If you would like to connect with a family to schedule a play date, please do so by putting your contact information in an envelope and have your child deliver it to his/her classmate, allowing the other family to contact you to make arrangements. As a district practice, we do not create and distribute classroom directories which include class lists with family contact information.

HOT LUNCH COST FOR OCTOBER



Lunch - \$46.80
Breakfast - \$23.40
Lunch & Breakfast - \$70.20

Breakfast meals are \$1.30. Hot lunches are \$2.60 for elementary students. **Milk is \$.50. Adult lunches are \$3.70.** Grades 1-4 have the option each day of choosing between hot lunch, an alternate (sandwich of some kind) **OR** a chef salad. Kindergarten students are only offered the hot lunch option.

Volunteer News!

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct 25th at 4 PM due to conferences the week prior.

Dates To Remember:

- **Book Fair:** Runs October 17-19. A sign up genius will be posted to the facebook page and emailed to those who selected to receive information on the volunteer form.
- **Staff Luncheon:** October 17th. As with book fair, a Sign up Genius form will be published.
- **Voting:** November 8th. Students will be voting for yearbook cover, president, and which movie will be shown for movie night.
- **Movie Night:** November 11th

Pinecrest will hold our Box Top contest from October 1st-18th. Please collect your box tops and attach them to the collection sheet that was sent home. Winners will be announced early November! First Prize will be a Pizza Party!

Additional Sheets can be found here:

[Collection Sheets](#)

Please join our [Facebook Page](#) for important Sign-Ups and news.

If you haven't filled out the volunteer registration form just yet but are interested in getting involved, please complete the form: [Volunteer Form](#)

Title I - Parent Information Meeting

Come learn about the Title I services your child is receiving at school:

- ✓ *What is Title I?*
- ✓ *How is Title I funded?*
- ✓ *How are students identified for services?*
- ✓ *What can you do to help your child succeed?*

3 times and locations for your convenience:

- Pinecrest, Room 51
 - 7:45am-8:15am - Tuesday, Oct 25th
- McAuliffe, Media Center
 - 6:00pm-6:30pm - Monday, Oct. 24th
- JFK, Media Center
 - 3:45pm-4:15pm - Thursday, Oct 27th

You can attend at any location regardless of which school your child attends.

Kids Campus Before and after School Program

There are still openings for before and after school care at Kids' Campus in all of the elementary schools. Call Community Education at 651.480.7670 for registration or go to their website at: www.hastingscommunityed.com

Kids Campus Emergency School Closing

If the Hastings Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, the Kids Campus Program will also be closed.

If school is delayed two hours in opening, Kids Campus will be open at the regular time (6:30am).

If school closes two hours early, then Kids Campus sites will close two hours early (4:00pm).

Parents will be called and notified by Kids Campus staff to pick up their child.



Please pick up your child by 4:00pm or authorize someone else to pick up your child by that time. Please listen to the radio and TV for school closing announcements.

Happenings from Hastings Community Education

Tilden Community Center, 310 River Street, Hastings
Check your catalog for all course details or go online at:
www.HastingsCommunityEd.com

Recreational opportunities for Kids!

- **Private Music Lessons** (gr. 3+) Choose from a 30 minute or 60 minute lesson (same time each week) Thu, Sep 15-Oct 27; \$149/30-minutes or \$249/60-minutes
- **Community Water Safety Swim Lessons** (gr. 3+) Sat, Oct 1-Nov 12 from 11:30 am-12:10 pm; \$45
- **Learn to Skate, levels 1-4, Pre-Alpha and Mini-Mites** (ages 3+) Sat, Oct 1-Dec 10 for a 30-minute lesson and 30-minute ice practice between 10-11:30 am at the Civic Arena; \$150
- **Using Cursive Skills to Make Beautiful Holiday Cards** (grades 3-8) Sat, Oct 29 from 2-4 pm at the LeDuc Historic Estate, \$15.

Fall Courses for Adults with Children include:

- **Human Trafficking education and awareness seminar** (adults) Tue, Sep 27 from 6:30-8 pm at the High School, FREE
- **What to Do Until Help Arrives** (adults) Sat, Oct 15 from 9-11:30 am at the High School, \$39
- **Freezer Meal Workshops** (adults) 7 freezer meals serving 6 people per meal prepared in class) Sat, Oct 8 from 9-11:30 am at the Hastings High School, don't forget to collect your preparation sheet from the Com Ed website prior to class! \$99
- **Disney 101 comprehensive planning & information course** (adults) Tue, Oct 4 from 6-8 pm at the High School, \$15/each or \$25/family

Registration is necessary for all Community Education courses. Call 651-480-7670 or go online to register at
www.HastingsCommunityEd.com

**A life-time of learning -
locally grown**



Special Education Website:

If you have questions about a child's development or about special services available in the Hastings Public Schools, take a look at our Special Services website. Log in to the ISD 200 District Website – www.hastings.k12.mn.us and click on Special Services.

This website is designed to provide a parent friendly information source that is easy to navigate and includes pertinent links. **CHECK IT OUT!**