

TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY NEWS

Two Rivers Community School
A North Carolina Public Charter School

"Home of the Otters" 

October 14, 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Just a reminder that **Thursday and Friday of this week are Teacher Work Days; there is no school for students.** Next week, **Monday through Wednesday is Fall Break and school will be closed.** School reopens on Thursday, October 22 for students and teachers.

Parent – Teacher Conferences are this week on Wednesday and Thursday. If you have not been scheduled for a conference and would like one, please contact your child's teacher.

This week, in your Wednesday folder, is information about **weather closings and delays.** Please read it over. **We DO NOT follow Watauga County automatically.** We will post our decisions as listed on the handout in your folder. Please note that if we have a delayed opening, we will post it by 5:30 AM with a final decision being made by 8:45AM. We will try to have a delayed opening rather than a closing whenever possible so we minimize the need to extend the school year calendar to make up days.

In the case of an **early release due to weather,** again we will not automatically follow the Watauga County Schools decision. We will make our decision based on the information we have and the conditions at school. As we discussed at the orientation meetings....please **DO NOT** call the school to ask if we are releasing early. We will post the information through the regular sites and begin calling homes. If our lines are tied up with incoming phone calls, the whole process is unnecessarily delayed.

We have put into place several modified procedures including one for **reporting injuries.** We will no longer make a judgment call about the level of seriousness of an injury. We will write an injury report on all student incidents whether it is a paper cut or an injury. A copy of the report will be sent home with the student. Parents/ guardians may be notified by phone as well.

With all of the after-school enrichment activities we now have thanks to the efforts of Elise McLaughlin, we find we need to organize a bit. Students are being dismissed until at least 3:20PM or until remaining they are dismissed to the after-school program. Our teachers have graciously allowed their classrooms to be used for these activities, but we must be respectful of their room and time. Please refrain from entering or sending students in enrichment activities to the host room until after-school has been called and the teacher no longer has classroom student duties to attend to.

Finally, in the office, we frequently get calls from families who are returning a call to the school but do not know who called. We do not have extensions here so all calls originate from the 262-5411 number. I have spoken with the staff about being sure to leave a message when someone calls from a classroom, and to be sure to notify the office if they are expecting a return call. I am asking that you check for and listen to any message that is left. Often, it is easy to hit redial to return a call, but if we in the office do not know who called we are not helpful.

Please have a safe and restful fall break.

AFTER-SCHOOL UPDATE

Music and Movement has been great fun for 1st through 4th graders. Feel free to join us on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 in Ms. April's 1/2 classroom through October.

Cooking Class with Jane Colglazier for 2nd through 4th graders started this week and will go until December 7th, Mondays 3:30-5:00. There will be an edible project each week!

A **Junior Gardening Club** will be forming at Two Rivers. Stay tuned for more information as this develops.

VACATION AND WEATHER DAY PROGRAM

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of a vacation and weather day program and are willing to work on an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibilities and possible implementation, please let June or Beth know either by note, email or phone call. The winter weather is fast approaching so now is the time to act. Call us at 828-262-5411.

AUTHORS' NIGHT

Our first author's night will be held at the Watauga County Library on **Tuesday, October 27th from 5:30-6:30.** Come and see what its all about!



ATTENTION FAMILIES

During the week of October 25th the 1/2 multiage class will be collecting food items for the Hunger Coalition. Please send items during this week. We will collect and count the items on October 30th and announce how much we were able to collect and celebrate this service learning project together.

WE ALL EAT, SO LET'S MAKE IT COUNT!

If you shop at Lowe's Foods and especially if you do it often, please fill out the "Club Cash" order form and send it to school to purchase their Gift Cards. "Club Cash" can donate 6% of our purchase price to our school when you use them. If we can establish a regular order of \$1000 every week, for example, we can have \$60 dollars coming in with no effort. Impossible? Yes, we can!!! Order forms are available at the office.



FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Fifth grade really enjoyed their two days at Buffalo Cove last month. We learned what it felt like to be Porters (people that carry climbing equipment for mountain climbers). We hiked into Buffalo Cove with our backpacks on our backs. We also learned how Greg Mortenson must have felt when he got lost. The students shared their feelings, thoughts, and even some poetry about the experience at the Friendship Circle.

When we returned to school the next Monday, we spent some time making our 5th grade scrapbook page. A completed scrapbook will go home with them at the end of their eighth grade year.

Wow! Our Pennies for Peace fundraiser has been a tremendous success. Thank you for all of your generous donations. The third grade class has collected the most money by far. They even did small fundraising events outside of school to bring money in for PFP. Thank you third grade! We are still collecting for a few more weeks so keep digging in your couch and under your car seats for that change.

~ Sandi Priest

To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has already achieved, but at what he aspires to.

~ Kahlil Gibran
