



February 7, 2014

Dear Parents,

Happy 2014! With all of the winter weather, cold temperatures, teacher work day, and national holidays our students have only been in school for 19 days so far this year. But there is a lot going on at Madison and I'd like to update you on a few of these big events and projects.

Guidelines for Success: Madison School is launching our three new school-wide rules or "Guidelines for Success." We introduced our first guideline, "RESPECT," with a PTA sponsored all-school assembly. Our second guideline, "RESPONSIBILITY," is coming in early March. Kids will be learning about what it means to show **respect** to self, classmates, and adults and to demonstrate **responsibility** at Madison School. What is the third guideline? Stay tuned!

iPad Collections: We recently received a donated iPad2 from someone in Elgin who read about our initiative. How are kids using them?

- Last month, Mrs. Graham led third grade students in fun and engaging ways to demonstrate learning using Audioboo. Kids produced voicemail messages from fairy tale main characters.
- In fourth grade, students created book trailers on the historical fiction novels they read. Here is an example: <http://animoto.com/play/z0Lha73yauTaOwcivJLvQQ>

We are continuing to gather more iPads for student use. I want to extend a HUGE thank you to Janet Mathis, PTA president, for all of her publicity work and to Diane Graham, our LLC director, as she continues to work on the organization of this initiative.

2014 Reading Incentive: "What Does the Fox Say?" Students cheered wildly as their teachers danced and introduced this year's reading incentive project. Students will be reading daily, learning about endangered animals, and collecting "Change for a Cause." Students should turn in their weekly reading logs and answer the trivia questions about endangered species.

St. Baldrick's Eve: March 21 is St. Baldrick's Day at Madison. Staff members, students and others have volunteered to shave their heads to help raise funds for childhood cancer research. Interested in being a "shavee?" Go to <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/11057/2014>.

Thank you so much for partnering with us in your child's education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Callahan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tim Callahan, Principal

Keep sending in climbing wall donations

We're about two-thirds of the way to our goal of raising \$8926 for a climbing wall. We want to have it installed before spring break so fifth graders will still have months to enjoy it. The 40-foot wide, 10-foot high climbing wall will be a permanent fixture in the Madison gymnasium. You'll see kids developing strength and confidence during P.E., Explore More Day, TV turnoff week, B.A.S.P., indoor recess, winter carnival, the fifth grade year-end party and so much more. Classroom teachers can use it as an incentive for excellence in reading, math, spelling and other core subjects. It can be a reward for good behavior. The possibilities are endless.

Please make checks to Madison PTA and write "climbing wall" in the Memo line. All donations are tax-deductible. Questions? Please contact Joe Cortesi or anyone on the PTA executive committee: Janet Mathis, Sarah Johnson, Robyn Beres, Amy Schmidt, Amy Fiorato.

Kindergarten Roundup Coming Soon

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2014, we will be hosting a Parent Meeting on Mon., March 10 at 7:00 p.m. Pre-registration begins at 6:30 p.m. This "parent only" event is a great way to become acquainted with kindergarten at Madison Elementary, meet the staff members, and ask your questions. Please pass this information to any friends or neighbors with a potential kindergartener. Please call the school office at 630-682-2095 to add your child's name to our kindergarten list.

Character Counts to create posters for St. Baldrick's

Join Character Counts on Mon., Feb. 24 from 12-1 p.m. in the LLC to create a poster to support the St. Baldrick's Day event. The students will make posters for their favorite "shavee," either individual or team, and hang the posters around school.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, email Shannon@klopfensteins.com to sign up.

Pancake Breakfast Organizers Thank You

A big thank you to all who helped make the Pancake Breakfast a success.

Katie McBride, Amy Spayth, Jeromy Franks, Annette Shore, Susan Nordmark, Jim Fiorato, Becca Hary, Janet Mathis, Amy Schmidt, Colleen Claussner, Lisa Miller, Annie Kim, Jen Pashup Graham, Kirsten Borrink, Mrs. Graham, Miss. Clum, Mr. Callahan, Mrs. Shirley, Mrs. Emma, Mrs. Hull, Mr. Cortesi, Mrs. Giambalvo, Mr. Jewell, Mrs. Gatlin, Mrs. Karlsson, Mrs. Seum, Miss. Fograss, Ms. Schiefen, Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. DiOrio.

Staff Appreciation Needs Your Help

The PTA will treat the Madison teachers and staff to lunch on Thurs., Feb. 20 to thank them for all their hard work. Shane's Deli will provide the main portion of the lunch. However, we are in need of donations for sides, desserts and drinks. We are also in need of set up and clean up help the day of the event. If you would like to make a donation or can help the day of the event, please contact Jaime Szafranski (jszafra1@yahoo.com).

Save the dates

Click on the [calendar](#) on the Madison section of www.cusd200.org to view upcoming dates. See below for some highlights:

Feb. 7: Winter Carnival
Feb. 12: Dining for Dollars at McDonalds
Feb. 13: PTA General Membership Meeting @ 12:15
Feb. 14: Classroom Valentine's Day Parties
Feb. 17: No School
Feb. 20: Staff Luncheon
Feb. 28: No School
Mar 10: Kindergarten Roundup

Did you know?

At the next Engage 200 meeting on Feb. 19, attendees will be enjoying treats from Madison, Lincoln, Whittier and Edison PTAs. If you'd like to be a baker on the Madison PTA hospitality committee, please contact Marianne Kratz (mkratz95@comcast.net) or Susan Sanders (susansatch@sbcglobal.net).

