


Our mission is to maximize learning for all students

MAXEY Messenger



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Important Dates Coming Up:

Mon., Jan. 19: NO SCHOOL -- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tues., Jan. 20: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS -- Teacher Work Day
Jan. 20 & 21: Cici's Pizza Day (percentage of sales all day go to Maxey)
Tues., Jan. 27: Early Release Day (PLC)
 Grades K-5: Start at 9:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:18 p.m.
 ExCITE: Start at 11:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 28: Report Cards go home with Students
Thurs., Feb. 5: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:45-6:45 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 12: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:45-6:45 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 13: Classroom Valentine Parties
Mon., Feb. 16: NO SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS -- Teacher Work Day
Tues., Feb. 17: No School for ExCITE Students -- Teacher Staff Development Day
Tues., Feb. 24: Early Release day (PLC)
 Grades K-5: Start at 9:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:18 p.m.
 ExCITE: Start at 11:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.
Mon., March 2: Science Fair Set-Up 3:45-5:45 p.m. (Gym)
Tues., March 3: Science Fair 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Gym)
Thurs., March 5: 5th Grade Camp Parent Meeting 6:30-7:00 p.m. (M.P. Room)
Mon., March 9: PTO Executive Meeting 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
Mon., March 9: PTO General Meeting 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Annex)
March 23-27: NO SCHOOL -- SPRING BREAK
Tues., March 31: Early Release Day (PLC)
 Grades K-5: Start at 9:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:18 p.m.
 ExCITE: Start at 11:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.

Best Wishes to Sandi Carrington-Robertson

We say "good bye" and "best wishes" to Mrs. "CR" as she moves to Pyrtle Elementary as Principal, effective January 20. I have appreciated Sandi's work these past seven months. She has made a great impact on our school. She will be missed. You may contact her at (scarring@lps.org).

Welcome, Tracey Peterson

Mrs. Peterson becomes our Assistant Principal on January 20. She will be responsible for general administration, special education, school improvement, North Central School Accreditation, and professional learning communities. You may contact her at (tpeters@lps.org).

Maxey Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

As you are aware, all LPS schools are involved in Professional Learning Communities. You may have asked yourself; just what is the purpose of Professional Learning Communities? Below are the reasons why all LPS educators are working in Professional Learning Communities. I have listed the premise of why we work in PLCs and the goals we are hopeful will be accomplished. The early student release time that is provided to our teachers every month will give us the time to do this.

The professional learning community, or PLC, is based on a single, simple premise: To be effective, educators must change their focus from teaching to learning. In a PLC, educators have three goals:

- * Ensuring that all students learn. Every classroom includes students of varying abilities. In a PLC, teachers are prepared to serve both the students who learn material quickly and those who need additional time and support. That means developing a coordinated strategy to provide timely intervention when students are struggling.

- * Creating a culture of collaboration. In many schools, teachers work in isolation. While staff may come together to formulate basic operational policies (like how to respond to tardiness or supervise recess), they do not engage in professional dialogue about what works in their classrooms. In a PLC school, educators share best practices, join forces to solve problems and work together to improve both their individual performances and the school's performance as a whole.

- Focusing on results. To ensure that a PLC meets its educational goals, educators must identify students' current levels of achievement, establish clear educational objectives, work together to meet those goals and provide evidence that they have succeeded.

Last month I reviewed for you the SMART Goals each Maxey grade level has developed for the 2008-09 school year. I am printing them for you again for your review:

2008-2009 SMART Goals:

Special Education: By implementing interventions and strategies we will increase math vocabulary knowledge with SpEd students, thereby increasing the % of students who pass the **Math** CRT from 70% to 83% by June 2009.

By providing support modifications and strategies for the students in SpEd, we will increase their **reading comprehension** understanding, thereby increasing the % of passing from 80% to 83% on the CRT by June 2009.

Kindergarten: At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, the goal of 96% of Maxey Kindergarteners will score proficient on the LPS District Reading Assessments (alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, and vocabulary) was met. By the end of the 2008-2009 school year, we will raise that percentage to 97%.

First Grade: Last year 96% of first graders were proficient (3 or 4 on report card) in the area of fluency on the DRA. This year we will maintain 96% (or higher) of first graders proficient (3 or 4 on report card) in the area of fluency based on these same assessments.

Second Grade: Based on 3rd Grade Report Card Data from June of 2008, 82% of students were on or above grade level in reading fluency. Our 2008-2009 goal is to have 90% of 2nd graders on or above grade level in reading fluency.

Third Grade: In the spring of 2008, 71% of 3rd grade SPED students passed the **math CRT**. Our goal is to raise the percentage of SPED students passing the 2009 spring math CRT to 85%.

On the spring 2008 MAT, the mean NCE **Reading Comprehension** for 3rd grade was 78.6%. Our goal is that the mean NCE Reading Comprehension for third grade on the spring 2009 ITBS will be 80% or higher.

Fourth Grade: Our goal is for 97% of 4th grade students to meet AYP on the District Reading Comprehension CRT in the spring of 2009.

Fifth Grade: 5th Grade students will have a mean score of 68.6 NCE or higher on the ITBS (reading vocabulary).

Upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences

Shortly you will be contacted by your child's homeroom teacher to set up your February Parent=Teacher Conferences. Many conferences will take place on the Thursdays of February 5 and 12. Other conferences will be conducted on additional mornings, afternoons, and evenings. I have asked our teachers to let parents know what they plan to cover in the meeting and have asked them to give you an opportunity to ask for information you would like to be discussed at your conference.

Winter Has Arrived

Our Nebraska winter weather has arrived and it looks like it is going to stay. Please keep in mind that it is Nebraska and we do ask our students to go outside for a brief amount of time each day to get some exercise and fresh air. However, whenever the air temperature or wind chill goes below 11 degrees we do remain inside.

We ask that students come to school in cold weather with appropriate outer clothing. We ask that boys and girls have winter coats, hats or hoods on coats, and mittens or gloves. We also ask for these items to be labeled with student names.

Our "Lost and Found" is located in the east end of the main hallway "between the doors".

Updating Your Information

In order for us to contact you via "Connect Ed", we need current telephone, cell phone and email addresses. If these have changed since completing the annual census information last August, please send an email to Melanie in the office at mschilo@lps.org with your updated contact information. Please note that the "Connect Ed" system cannot make phone calls to long-distance telephone numbers.

Join the Maxey Chess Club

All Students in first through fifth grade can join the Maxey Chess Club. The club is open to beginners and seasoned players alike. Students can register on January 26th, which is the first session of the second semester. The cost is \$100.00 for the semester and checks should be made payable to Ken Kiewra, the club's instructor. The club will meet on Mondays from 3:38-5:00 in the Annex on the following 14 dates: January 26; February 2, 9, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 30; April 6, 20, 27; and May 4, 11, 18. Dr. Kiewra, an educational psychology professor at UNL, has instructed the club for 10 years.

Student Medications

With the cold and flu season upon us, here is a reminder about school health policies for administering medication. All medications need to be sent to the Health Office. School personnel can administer medication to a student with a doctor's written prescription and a signed school medication consent form from the student's parent or guardian. Medication must be brought to school in the prescription container with a label stating the student's name, physician's name and direction for administering the medication. Over the counter medication can be given with a written order from the doctor and school medication consent form from the parent. Over the counter cough drops should be left at the health office with a school medication consent form or a note from the parent. If there are any questions, please call the Maxey Health Office at 436-1153, x 2.