



IronKid News

Mancelona Elementary School
Mancelona Public Schools

September 2007

Emergency Forms

The office needs all students to have emergency contacts on file. Make sure you keep this information current.

Library News

Volunteers are needed on Fridays at various times. Please call 587-8661 ext. 343 and leave your name and a number and Mrs. Weeks will return your call with more information and times.

Go Team!

Show your Ironmen spirit! Ironmen apparel is available at the elementary Library office. Children size T-shirts are only \$5 and hooded sweatshirts are \$20-\$30. We also have some adult sizes.

Media Center News

Howdy Partners! The 4th graders will meet the lively author Jon Scieszka on a field trip to Gaylord on Sept. 19th where he will tell us about his new book "Cowboy & Octopus". Watch for exciting activities for each grade sponsored by the Media Center throughout the rest of the school year. Adios!

Important Info

What happens when nobody is home to get a student off the bus? The bus may be able to come back by, or your child may be taken back to school (587-8661) or the Early Childhood Center (587-9021).

Playground Rules

Be sure to check out the playground rules listed on the back side of this paper. Take a minute to review them with your child.

Welcome Back!

September is nearing an end and October is right around the corner. The weather is even beginning to make it feel like fall. In no time you will be getting Halloween costumes ready.

Our classes have established their routines and the learning has started. Now is the time to take a good look at where your children are academically and socially. In the spring you will be amazed at their growth in both of these areas.

Volunteers are the life-blood that make a good school great. There is always room for helpers in an elementary school; the classroom, the playground, the cafeteria, special events. Volunteers support the social and academic growth of every student.

Our parent group, Get Involved!, has several events that need your support: Popcorn Thursday, Mom-to-Mom sale, Earth Day tree distribution, Flower Bulb fundraiser, Spring Fling, and Lunch Helpers. The Lunch Helpers program will provide a free lunch to volunteers that help our kids during the noon hour.

Volunteering can be a daily, weekly, or one-time event. Anytime you can give to kids, it will be worthwhile.

We look forward to working with you to make this a fantastic school year. Please call the office if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Keeping our Kids Safe

Many parents have noticed a sign on our lobby doors. This sign tells everyone that starting on September 17, these doors will be locked during school hours. This is for the safety of our children. There are 500 students that attend our school daily. To ensure that all visitors have checked in at the office, the classroom windows will be secured.

Please stop in the office and get a pass. At the end of the day your students will meet you in the lobby. This will help us monitor visitors in the building and keep our school safe. *What is best for kids is not always convenient for adults.* We hope you can help us make this a successful improvement.

Kindergarten Students Growing

Twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty. Those were the number of students in our kindergarten classes when this year began. A new section will start on Monday, September 17. This will greatly reduce the number of students in each classroom. What a great way to support our youngest learners!

This does not come without challenges. A new room was needed for our junior kindergarten class. The science lab has been converted to accommodate this need. New staff will be joining us in the near future to work with this group of kids.

Mark Your Calendars

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| Sept. 19 | 4 th Grade Trip |
| Sept. 25 | 3 rd & 4 th Music Workshop |
| Sept. 25 & 26 | 2 nd Grade Trip to AuSable |
| Oct. 3 & 5 | Fire Safety |
| Oct. 8-26 | MEAP Testing |
| Oct. 20 | Get Involved! |
| | Mom-to-Mom |



Playground Rules:

Be Respectful

- Be kind with your words and actions, use words to solve your conflicts with others.
- Accept all students if they would like to play. Everyone is welcome to join in!
- Take turns when using all equipment.
- Be respectful of school and personal property.

Be Responsible

- Follow all game and equipment rules as well as adults' directions.
- Only eat food or chew gum when sitting at the picnic tables and dispose of trash properly.
- Dress appropriately for recess time, wear warm clothes as needed and always wear appropriate footwear.
- Stay in designated areas for recess, ask permission if you need to use the restroom or reenter the building.
- When the whistle blows return equipment to its proper place and line up without delay.
- Avoid playing pretend gun or knife games or playing in mud puddles.

Be Safe

- Play safely and considerately so you do not harm yourself or others.
- Rocks and woodchips should be left on the ground.
- Run only on the ground that is not covered by cement.
- Keep yourself safe by staying off of equipment you could easily fall off of or cannot reach on your own.
- Keep a safe distance away from equipment that is in use by others and only take your turn on that equipment when it is safe to do so.
- Keep play equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.) off of play structures and if you do bring your own equipment make sure it is okay to do so.
- Always use appropriate physical contact; never push, hit, kick, grab clothing, spit or throw objects at others.

Consequences

- Positive consequences for obeying the rules may include: praise from adults and classmates, friendships and good feelings, pride in doing the right thing, added privileges, extra recess time, rewards, use of gym during indoor recess, or a positive parent phone call.
- Negative consequences for disobeying the rules may include: a warning from an adult, loss of friendships and bad feelings, shame in doing the wrong thing, loss of privileges, time outs, assignment to the focus room, or a negative parent phone call.

Specific Playground Game and Equipment Rules

Rules for kickball, soccer, football, tag, four square and other organized games should have student input. Emphasis should be on safety, fairness, and keeping rules easily understood and agreeable to everyone so students may manage their own activity as much as possible. Once rules are decided and approved upon they should be posted and may need to be signed by participants.

The following are specific rules for the Stationary Equipment on the playground:

Swings-be seated and only swing forward and backward. Do not go side to side, stand or kneel on the swing, jump off, do flips or other dangerous stunts or have more than one person on at a time.

Tire swings-stay seated, up to three students on a swing, if pushing is allowed by older grade students then it must be done safely by only one student and with the approval of all of those on the tire swing.

Slide-Sit on your bottom and go feet first, do not run or crawl up the slide.

Climbing bars-do not sit or stand on the bar or flip over backwards, only do stunts that are safe for everyone.

Teeter Totter- keep feet on pedals, do not jump off or pound seesaw into the ground. Primarily for use by younger students as are the animal riders.

Castle Green Bridge-do not climb on while another person is coming from the opposite direction, no sitting on rails to slide down.

Sandbox-keep sand and sand toys in the sandbox, do not destroy others' creations, and do not throw sand.

Wood Bridge-do not go underneath.