FROM THE PRESIDENT

CARPOOLING

One of the foundational legs of PTA: Connections, Communication, and Carpooling.

Okay, not literally Carpooling, but it gives me a nice “C” alliteration.

And connotatively, (another “C”), it works. Carpooling is the act of sharing the ride, helping each other out, working together, giving and taking. And for parents and staff, that’s what PTA is all about.

Worried about your kindergartner starting soon? Or moving on to middle school? Lots of us have done that several times over; I bet we have some ideas that might help. Just made the big jump to 3rd grade and book reports? Find a 4th grade parent and get some hints. Struggling to get the kids out the door on time? With five kids of my own, I’ve had plenty of experience working through that one. Can’t figure out how the orchestra/band program works? The 5th grade trip to Camp Timberlee or the Safety Patrol Trip to Wisconsin Dells? The science fair? Just ask.

No use reinventing the wheel. Hitchhike--It’s definitely a safe place to do so.

So, as we start this New Year, (2010—can you believe it?) Has it really been ten years since we worried about Y2K?), save some energy and create a lot less wear and tear on your life. Let’s make an effort to “Carpool.” You’re struggling with something? Reach out to someone who’s “been there, done that.” You have a suggestion, some experience that will help others? Might make a great article for the newsletter. Need an idea? Email me. Maybe I know someone who can help. In the end, it all works together again: Connecting, Communicating, Carpooling. After all, a table can’t stand on only one leg.

As the temperatures get colder, we have a tendency not only to bundle ourselves into our coats, but also to bundle ourselves away from each other. Instead, reach out; look for someone who could use a friend; lend your GPS, or borrow someone else’s.

In other words, Share the Ride. Or written another way, Carpool.

Elizabeth Daghfal, Nash PTA President
edaghfal@sbcglobal.net 942-6260
TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER NEW YEAR

Make sure immunizations are up to date
Review your child's immunization record. Make sure your child is current on recommended immunizations.

Provide your child with a tobacco-free environment
Indoor air pollution from tobacco increases ear infection, and even Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. If you smoke, consider quitting. Remember, the most important predictor of whether your children will grow up to be smokers is whether you smoke. Make your home a smoke-free zone!

Read to your children every day
Start by the age of 6 months. Reading to children shows them the importance of communication and motivates them to become readers. It also provides a context to discuss issues and learn what is on your child's mind.

Practice "safety on wheels"
Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up for every ride, with children in the back seat in age-appropriate child safety seats. All bikers, skaters and skateboarders should wear helmets.

Do a "childproofing" survey of your home
A child's-eye view home survey should systematically go from room to room, removing all the "booby traps" that await the curious toddler or preschooler. Think of poisons, small objects, sharp edges, knives and firearms, and places to fall.

Monitor your children's "media"
Monitor what your children see and hear on television, in movies, and in music. Children are affected by what they see and hear, particularly in these times of violent images. Talk to your children about "content." If you feel that a movie or TV program is inappropriate, redirect your child to more suitable programming.

Pay attention to nutrition
Nutrition makes a big difference in how kids grow, develop and learn. Good nutrition is a matter of balance. Provide food from several food groups at each meal. Emphasize foods that are less processed, such as whole grain breads and cereals and fresh fruits and vegetables. Review your child's diet with your pediatrician for suggestions.

Prevent violence by setting good examples
Hitting, slapping and spanking teaches children that it is acceptable to hit other people to solve problems. Non-physical forms of discipline work better in the long run. Remember that words can hurt too.

Become more involved in your child's school and your child's education
Visit your child's school. Become active in the parent-teacher organization. Volunteer in the classroom or for special projects. Be available to help with homework. If your child's education is important to you, it will be important to him.
Recapping the Drop-Off Circle...

As the year gets underway and the weather gets a little more “Wisconsin-like,” more and more of you are dropping off your children in the morning. We just wanted to remind you of our procedures:

**Parking vs. “Kiss-n-Fly:** When you enter the driveway, you have two choices. Veer Left to Park in the parking lot, or Veer Right to Drop-off.

**NO PASSING:** Please stay in a single-file line. Stop together, Start together.

**Drive ’til You Can’t:** If there is no car in front of you, please pull up all the way around to just in front of the office windows. Otherwise, pull up until the car in front of you stops.

**ONE-STOP Dropping:** Let all your children off at once. No Double-Dipping. (There is no longer a K-1 or 2-5 drop-off area.)

**Long Goodbyes:** Please remember to have everything ready for children to get out as quickly as possible. Thank you for having long talks or discussions before leaving home, or for parking if you need to talk longer.

**Leaving Your Car:** Please do not get out or leave your car in the drop-off zone. You are free to Park in the Parking Lot if you would like to go into the school. Student Safety-Patrols are there to open doors for you. If it’s too cold for them to be out, Parent Patrols are there to help.

**NO Drop Zones:** There is no dropping off by the K-1 playground. This area is reserved for pedestrians to cross.

**Leave Home Early:** More cars means more traffic. If you only give yourself a few minutes to get to school, your child will most likely be late.

**Inside:** On rainy or very cold days, under 10°F (0°F windchill), students will go directly inside. Before 8:20, they can enter ANY door, which ever is closest.

**Stop Signs:** They count on school property, too. Please notice the stop sign at the end of the driveway. Stop BEFORE the sidewalk starts to let pedestrians cross, before AND after school.

School starts at 8:20am.

If we all follow these procedures, children and cars will get out of the Drop-Off area quickly and safely.

And we’ll all start our days out with Smiles! 😊
Grading Policies for Art, Music & Physical Education

Dear Parents,

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to evaluate your children in the areas of art, music and physical education. We do not take grading lightly. Considerable thought and effort go into each grade. Both objective and subjective grading are used to give what we feel is a fair and accurate evaluation. We hope this information will help you better understand the grading in each of our specialty areas.

Grades K-2

Students will receive a letter of E (Excels on Benchmarks), S (Secure with Benchmark), W (Working Toward Benchmark) or L (Limited Progress Toward Benchmark) for each of the standards. These letters indicate a student’s progress toward achieving each of the standards at their grade level. The Standards cover a wide range of skills and concepts.

Grades 3 - 5

Students will receive a letter grade for overall achievement and effort in their class. The overall grade is based on meeting the standards. The effort grade is based on the child’s willingness to cooperate, engage in all activities, follow directions and rules, as well as demonstrating and understanding responsible personal and social behavior. Standards will receive a number, which reflects the child’s progress toward achieving each of the standards at their grade level. For example, students showing expected progress toward meeting that standard would receive a 3. The Standards cover a wide range of skills and concepts. All standards are taught however, not all standards are assessed.

Art Standards

Kindergarten

Standard 1 - Demonstrates ability to use lines, shapes, colors and textures:

Students must demonstrate visually within the art product and/or through verbal response, an understanding of the elements of design.

Standard 2 - Uses materials safely and properly:

Students are expected to demonstrate the safe and proper handling of art materials and supplies.

Standard 3 - Shows effort and cooperation:

Students should work cooperatively and demonstrate a willingness to work toward the completion of an art product or process.

Grades 1-5

Standard 1 - Uses formal structures of art (Demonstrates knowledge of elements: line, shape, color, texture and demonstrates knowledge of principles: balance, pattern, contrast):

The formal structures are the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, space and value) and the principles of design (emphasis, proportion, movement, balance, contrast, variety, rhythm/repetition/pattern, harmony and unity.) The student’s thought process while using the elements of art is much the same as they would use when choosing nouns, verbs and adjectives to create a proper sentence. As the formal structures are presented, students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of each structure within the art product. Students may also demonstrate an understanding verbally through art criticism, which is an organized system of looking at and talking about art.

Standard 2 - Uses media, techniques and processes (skillful use of materials, tools, techniques):

Media is the supply an artist uses (clay, paint, and wood). Process refers to the method in which art is created (printing, sculpting, painting, weaving). Students must show a willingness to use a variety of art media, techniques and processes.

Standard 3 - Follows directions, rules and cooperates:

Students should demonstrate a willingness to follow directions and rules and work cooperatively. There is an expectation to participate in art critiques, art processes and art production.

Music Standards

Kindergarten

Standard 1 – Effort

Students should follow directions, rules, participate and cooperate to show effort in the music classroom.

Standard 2 – Demonstrates good singing skills

Students will sing various songs from memory, singing loud and soft and use their voice to speak and chant.

Standard 3 – Perform music on instruments

Students should be able to use various classroom instruments appropriately and effectively.

Standard 4 – Demonstrate a steady beat

Students should be able to maintain a steady beat to a piece of music by tapping, clapping, patting or any other forms of movement.
Grades 1-5

Standard 1- Demonstrates good singing skills:
Students should be able to sing various songs from memory, sing loud and soft and using their voice to speak and chant as well. The benchmarks gradually increase as the child progresses in grade levels. By 5th grade, students need to sing on pitch, in rhythm and expressively. They must also be able to match and respond to the cues of a conductor.

Standard 2- Performs music on instruments:
Students need to be able to use various classroom instruments appropriately. As the children progress to 5th grade, they must be able to perform contrasting rhythmic patterns, perform expressively and on a variety of melodic and rhythmic instruments.

Standard 3- Reads and notates music:
This standard evolves as the students begin to read simple rhythm patterns, on through 5th grade when the students must be able to read more complicated rhythms. The 3rd – 5th grade students are also expected to read standard music symbols and notation.

Standard 4- Understands musical concepts in relation to history and culture:
This standard begins with the understanding that music is a part of daily life. The student moves toward understanding music from other cultures. We also work toward learning the music of various composers and styles.

Physical Education Standards

Grades K-5

Standard 1- Demonstrates age appropriate skills:
An individual’s progress toward age appropriate physical skills such as movement skills, manipulative (object control) skills, and team skills will be evaluated.

Standard 2 - Understands concepts taught:
Student’s ability to explain or identify a skill, knowledge of rules for an activity, fitness concepts, and safety awareness are determined in standard two. Students are sometimes not developmentally ready to perform a skill or activity, but they understand and can explain how it should be performed.

Standard 3 - Participates and cooperates in physical education activities:
Student’s participation is determined by regular attendance, proper clothing/shoes for activities, and willingness to participate. Cooperation includes student’s willingness to follow directions and work with other students.

Standard 4 - Engages in fitness activities:
Students will be exposed to a variety of activities and concepts that can improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, and flexibility. Student progress toward understanding and achieving a healthy level of fitness will be evaluated.

Grades 1-5.

Standard 5 - Participates in Health:
Students will be expected to attend and participate in health classes conducted by the Physical Education teacher.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely

Karen VanBlarcom  Lauren Yorgensen  Dave Dummer
Art  Music  Physical Education
925-1516  925-1526  925-1529
kvanblar@kusd.edu  lyorgens@kusd.edu  ddummer@kusd.edu
It's Almost Here
The January 20th "Evening of Reflections" Awards Party is only weeks away. Invites should be out very soon. Please return the RSVPs right away and be sure you get the date on your calendar.

We can't wait to celebrate and point out all the wonderful things about the students' creativity!! Remember - every child who entered will receive prizes and will be in the movie.

Come enjoy the evening with us.

Open Gym Dates For January

Thursday, January 7: Puzzle Members Open Gym 4:45-6:00, All Parents 6-9
Thursday, January 14: k/1 Open Gym 4:45-6:00, All Parents 6-9
Thursday, January 21: 2/3 Open Gym 4:45-6:00, All Parents 6-9
Thursday, January 28: 4/5 Open Gym 4:45-6:00, All Parents 6-9

Please see note on Calendar of Events page regarding open gym for parents.

Hot Chocolate Needed
During these cold months our Safety Patrol students are treated to a cup of hot chocolate after their morning patrol duties. If you are able to donate a canister (this is the easier for the large quantities being made) it would be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU
A Huge Thank You to all our Committee Chairpersons and Coordinators. We couldn't do what we do without YOU! Thank you for your time, your energy, your ideas and your HEART!

If you are interested in volunteering to help with a VENDOR FAIR at Nash, please contact Georgette Sims at georgette.sims@att.net

Fall Festival Raffle Winners:
If you won the PTA basket at the Fall Festival raffle, please contact our PTA Treasurer, Regina Scheppa, at rscheppa@yahoo.com to discuss the memorial brick you won. Regina would like to be sure to include your brick when she places her next order.

Thank you.

Artist of the Month
Congratulations, Tyler R! Nash Elementary School's "Artist of the Month" for January. You can see Tyler and his artwork on cable channel 20 throughout the month of January. Check the TV listings for specific dates and times.

Tremendous job, Tyler!
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA)

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee voted S.678, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) out of committee. The next step in this bill's reauthorization is a full Senate floor vote and for the House of Representatives to introduce their version of the bill.

JJDPA provides the major source of federal funding to improve states' juvenile justice systems and sets federal standards for the protection and rehabilitation of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.


(Retrieved from www.wisconsinpta.org on 01/02/10)

What is PTA Founders Day?

Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Founders Day is celebrated every year on February 17th

(Retrieved from www.wisconsinpta.org on 01/02/10)

Contact:
Wisconsin PTA
4797 Hayes Road
Suite 102
Madison, WI 53704
Tel: 608-244-1455
Fax: 608-244-4785
E-Mail: wi_office@pta.org
Website: www.wisconsinpta.org

Upcoming Dates

April 22-24, 2010
Wisconsin PTA Convention (LaCrosse, WI)

June 9-15, 2010
114th National PTA Convention (Memphis, TN)

Contact:
PTA National Headquarters
541 N. Fairbanks Court
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312-670-6782
Fax: 312-670-6783
E-Mail: info@pta.org
Website: www.pta.org
MARKET DAY

We’d like to thank everyone who supported our December Market Day sale. We had 23 Market Day orders with a profit of $139.26. Thank you to all who placed orders, and/or volunteered with our pick-up.

Our next Market Day pick-up is January 28th from 3:00 – 4:00 PM in the cafeteria. If you cannot pick-up by 4:00 on that day, please pre-pay and we will be happy to put your order in the freezer located in the teachers lounge. Any unpaid orders not picked up by 4:00 on our sale date will be returned to Market Day. Order forms will be due by Monday January 25th at noon (online orders due by 11:00 PM).

Anyone who places a minimum order of $40 in January will receive a FREE 4-pack of Peanut Butter & Jelly Grahamwiches at the January sale pick-up.

If you have not already done so, please check out www.marketday.com, and be sure to click on web clearance for some great web-only deals. Market Day also offers online weekly deals, these offers change every week, so check back often for even more savings. Remember, you do not have to pay online – you can place your order online and still pay at pick-up.

If you have any questions/concerns about Market Day,

please contact Kristina Dean at 697-1483 or kbdean@sbcglobal.net.

Thank You To Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial

Darrell L. Reynolds, a financial representative with Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial in Racine, contacted our 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Sides, to offer matching funds from his company for our school’s fall fundraiser. They generously matched $1,700.00 from our wrapping paper catalog sale! This will allow our PTA to continue offering programs that help our children and school academically and experientially. We are so thankful to Modern Woodmen for its support!

Will your company donate? Double your support - ask if your business will meet or exceed your gift. Many places of employment will match any donations given by their employees to non-profit, 501-c3 groups.

Gift Card Sales
Thank you to everyone who ordered gift cards. The PTA earned $50 (that's $500 worth of cards purchased). If you purchased a Texas Roadhouse card, watch for a Texas Roadhouse Out To Eat Event in the coming months where you can use your cards and the PTA will receive an additional percentage back.

Out To Eat Event
Watch for information to come home regarding a Nash Out To Eat Day at El Sarape/La Hacienda restaurants in January.

Please be aware that during an "out to eat event" a local restaurant agrees to donate a percentage of total sales generated during our fundraising event back to the Nash PTA. The event is NOT for families to receive a percentage off their bill. (Example: if the flyer says Nash will earn 10%, it does not mean you get 10% off your bill.)

Thank you for supporting the Nash PTA.

Bake Sale
The January bake sale will be on Friday, January 22nd, hosted by 3rd grade. So, 3rd grade students should bring in their store-bought goodies and EVERYONE should bring in their quarters!
Check Out Nash News Online

Want a check out some of the daily activity at Nash?

Log on to the Nash website at http://nash.kusd.edu and select "Nash News Online."

This fun and informative site is brought to you by the Nash "Web Geeks" PBL group.

Christmas Tree Disposal

In the years before Nash was built, the city had a drop-off site for the disposal of Christmas Trees after the holidays, located on the east side of the property. Once the school was built, the property became KUSD property and the drop-off site was eliminated. Working in cooperation with KUSD and Principal Pitts, I am happy to say that there will be an official city drop-off site for the disposal of Christmas trees, wreaths, etc., at the previous location. Trees can be dropped off within the fenced area beginning December 10 through January 31. During that time, the city will collect those trees and dispose of them at our Bulk Yard Waste Collection Site. Please remind your children not to play in or around the fenced area.

Thank you!
Alderman David Bogdala

Featured Teachers...

I was born and raised in Kenosha. I graduated from UW-Parkside and earned my Master's from National Louis University. Besides teaching, I have worked as a waitress and an aerobic instructor. If I wasn't a teacher, I would work in a gym teaching fitness and nutrition. I think it would also be fun to be a "dog walker." Three material possessions I wouldn't want to be without: My husband, my children, and my dogs. I recommend On the Banks of Plum Creek, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. My special treat is anything chocolate...I have a little something sweet each day!

Mrs. Powers
2-3 Facilitator

I was born in LaCrosse, WI, and moved to Kenosha when I was 5 (I attended the 3 B's - Bose, Bullen, & Bradford). I earned both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Carthage College. Besides teaching Phys. Ed., I have worked as a grocery stock boy, at the Kenosha News circulation dept., for Chem-Lawn, was principal at a parochial school, and coached football at Bradford for 12 years. Three material possessions I couldn't be without: my Dixon riding lawn mower, my Ariens 11 horse snow blower, and my signed Brett Favre Packer Helmet (he'll always be a Packer to me)! I recommend Stellaluna by Janell Cannon for the primary students and for 4th & 5th graders The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks. My favorite treat is Dove Milk Chocolate or Kopp's Custard in Milwaukee-Just Drummy-it's the best!

Mr. Dummer
Physical Ed.

I grew up in Kenosha, WI. I earned my Bachelor's and Master's degree from Carthage College and am currently attending Concordia University pursuing my administration license. Besides teaching, I was a newspaper boy, and worked in the Kenosha News customer care dept. If I wasn't a teacher, I would like to be an astronaut. Three material possessions I wouldn't want to live without: my wedding ring, my son's first picture, and my laptop. I recommend Margaret Peterson Haddix for upper elementary students and Shel Silverstein for all readers. My favorite special treat would most definitely be Mrs. Merow's chocolate chip brownies!!! They're the best.

Mr. Bishop
4th Grade

I grew up here in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I earned my degree from UW-Milwaukee, and my Master's from National Louis University. Back in the day of "film" I worked for my father at Rode's Camera Shop. I was a dietary aide at Rolling Hills Nursing Home, worked at a daycare center, and was a course assistant for a professor in Ethnic Studies. If I wasn't a teacher, I would definitely be a crime scene investigator! Three material possessions I couldn't live without: Burt's Bees Chapstick, Diet Coke, and photographs of my family and friends. My new favorite Christmas book for children is, "The Elf on the Shelf!" I enjoy books by Jan Brett, Kevin Henkes, Helen Lester, Dav Pilkey...this list goes on and on... My favorite special treat is QUIET TIME with a grape Edy's Fruit Bar or anything chocolate!

Mrs. Schiess
2nd Grade
# JANUARY 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>SCHOOL RESUMES</td>
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<td>January 5</td>
<td>6:30-8:00pm - PTA Meeting - Library</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>6:30-8:00pm - Daisies - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>Popcorn Day</td>
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<td>January 11</td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm - Daisies (1st Grade) - Art Room</td>
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<td>January 12</td>
<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>4:45-6:00pm - Open Gym (Grades K-1)</td>
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<td>6:00-9:00pm - Open Gym (Parents)*</td>
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<td>6:30-8:00pm - Daisies - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>11:45am - EARLY RELEASE</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
<td>6:30-8:30pm - &quot;Evening of Reflections&quot; Awards Program - Gymnasium</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>4:45-6:00pm - Open Gym (Grades 2-3)</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>Bake Sale (hosted by 3rd Grade)</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>12:00pm - Market Day Orders Due (online orders due by 11:00pm)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm - Daisies (1st Grade) - Art Room</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>3:00-4:00pm - Market Day Pick-Up - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>4:45-6:00pm - Open Gym (Grades 4-5)</td>
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<td>6:00-9:00pm - Open Gym (Parents)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30-8:00pm - Daisies - Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL (Teacher Workday)</td>
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* For parent open gym, if no parents have shown up by 6:30pm, staff members will leave for the night and the gym will be closed. If you are certain you will be coming after 6:30pm and would like them to keep the gym open for you, please contact Mrs. Lindstrom (359-3500) before the end of school that Thursday.

Have an item for the newsletter? Contact Syndi Vazquez at 262-948-1498 or e-mail me at synvaz@aol.com (Kindly put "newsletter" in the subject matter so I'm sure to open it!)