

December 2008



SEE OUT SPANISH SECTION IN THE BACK. VEA AL FINAL NUESTRA SECCION EN ESPANOL

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

We have had a positive fall. Our Honor Roll Assembly reminded us of the great job our Chase students do. It is my privilege to get to know the families of our Chase communities. We can all be proud of our student success and of the excellent staff that help contribute to their achievements. But, now that we have completed nine weeks of school, we've noticed some of our students have dropped their grades to D's and F's. I think the staff has done an excellent job in offering instruction, support, and assistance to our students. It is time for the students accept responsibility for their education and take advantage of the tools and support they are given. In order for the student to be successful, three pieces need to be in place. It takes the student, teacher and the parent. By all three working together, the struggle will lessen.

CLASSROOM TIME: At Chase we feel the classroom time is extremely important and therefore attempt to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. As a result, we prefer not to call students out of class to talk to parents on the phone unless it is an extreme emergency. We would prefer to take a message to students and have them return the call later. Your cooperation in enforcing this policy will be very much appreciated.

STUDENT PHONE NUMBERS: It is very important that we have phone numbers where parents can be reached. Hopefully we will never have an emergency but phone numbers are very important. Please make sure we have the correct numbers on file.

LOCK-DOWN DRILLS: We are doing periodic lock-down drills at school. This is not a reason for parents to be concerned, as we simply want to be proactive in making sure we are prepared for a variety of possible situations that might occur.

SECOND QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT DAY: **Wednesday, November 19, 2008** was Progress Report Day. The students hand carried their progress reports home. If you did not receive a progress report, please call the office and we can get a copy for you. Please remember that the progress report is the tool used by the staff to inform you how your student is doing. Your student has an additional five weeks to improve or maintain their grades before the report card comes out.

GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IS LINKED TO SCHOOL SUCCESS: Studies prove that even one more hour of sleep can help your child. His/her brain will work better. They will be more alert and able to pay attention at school. They will remember material with greater accuracy. Following are some guidelines to help your child get the recommended nine hours of sleep each night.

- . Monitor caffeine. Don't allow your child to have caffeine within four hours of bedtime. Experts say children shouldn't have more than what's in a 12-ounce soda per day.
- . Get your child active and outdoors. Exercise and fresh air help children sleep better.
- . Follow a schedule. Try to have the same times for meals and snacks; homework; games, TV and other recreation; and bedtime.

- . Create a bedtime routine. Take a bath, put on pajamas, brush teeth, read a brief story. Review something positive from the day. Then, lights out.
- . Make your child feel safe. Put a night light in his/her room. Leave his/her door slightly open. Tell him/her you'll check on him/her.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: We are still in the process of completing our fundraiser. Once we know the total, we will share the information with you. We appreciate all the efforts the students, parents and community have given to this fundraiser. This money is used for all student programs and materials. We couldn't do many of the things we do without this important fundraiser. Thank you for your participation, we anticipate a successful fundraiser.

BASKETBALL: Girls basketball will be over the week before winter break. The 8th Grade Girls Basketball Play night will be on **December 10, 2008**. Play night will begin at **6:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$1.00 and are only sold at the door. Come and support your Chase Girls Basketball team.

SCHOOL DANCE: Our All School Dance will be **Friday, December 12th**, from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The cost is \$1.00 and there will be pop and candy bars for 50 cents. Please make sure that if your student is staying for the dance, you have a ride arranged to pick them up by **5:00 p.m.** Thank you for your cooperation.

HEAD LICE: We are asking your help to reduce the number of head lice cases at Chase. If your child does get head lice, don't panic or get embarrassed. A lice manifestation is NOT a sign of lack of cleanliness. It is a treatable condition, which has little medical significance, but causes a great deal of frustration. If you suspect that your child may have head lice, but are uncertain, Mrs. Mercer, the school nurse, will check your child at your request. The following suggestions will help minimize the chances of your child getting head lice. Do not allow your child to bring combs or brushes to school. Discourage your student from sharing lockers. Discourage sleepovers until the problem has subsided. To help you understand more about head lice, the transmission and treatment, we are including an information sheet and an instruction sheet at the end of this newsletter. Read this information carefully and keep it for a quick reference. By working together, we can all help keep the problem under control.

WINTER RECESS: School will not be in session beginning on **Monday, December 22nd**. The first day back to school is **January 6, 2009**. Happy New Year!

STOPPING VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL: You as parents play a big role in helping stop violence in school. How is that, you ask? Kids who are violent usually have three things in common. 1: Kids who do anything to get what they want even if it includes lying, stealing, or cheating. 2: Kids who do not respect authority. They tell others what's up and are rude. 3: Kids who are mean to each other. They call others names, bully or act mean. They are particularly rough to people who are different. What can parents do? Teach goodness which is knowing right and wrong, showing love for your neighbor, and not being afraid to tell your child NO.

WINTER AND BUSES: Winter is almost upon us and even though it doesn't feel like it, it is going to get cold soon. Here are a few things to remember: 1) Whether walking or riding the bus, there will be some times that our students are exposed to the elements. We need to make sure they are dressed properly before they come to school. 2) Roads may be slick. Students, who walk to school, need to be aware of their surroundings. They need to stay away from the streets as much as possible. Bus riders need to stay further away from the curb when the bus pulls up.

Students also need to remember that the steps leading to the bus and in the aisle may also be slippery. 3) Horseplay is not allowed at the bus stop nor on the bus, there will be no throwing snowballs. Please stay safe and stay warm.

Winter weather brings with it the concern about whether or not school will be closed. The local radio and TV stations are the best and fastest source of information should inclement weather and bad street conditions signal possible school closing. The decision to close schools is made as early as possible—preferably the night before—**BUT NOT LATER THAN 6:30 A.M.** Once the decision is made, the news media is notified immediately. Do not call the schools or the radio and TV stations. The stations will announce the closings as soon as possible.

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS: A scheduled meeting is to be held on **December 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.** We want to encourage parents to participate in our Booster Club.

WINTER MUSIC CONCERT: It is time to celebrate the time of the year. Take your family out for a night of great music. The best part about it is that it is FREE! Our **orchestra** and **vocal** students have been working very hard all year. They would like to invite you and your family out to Chase Middle School on **Monday, December 8th**, for a concert you will not forget. The concert will begin at **6:30 p.m.** and will be held in the Chase Commons. Our **band** students have been working hard to present a concert on **Monday, December 15th** at **6:30 p.m.** So bring the family, and don't forget Grandma and Grandpa and come out for a night of magical music.

A MATHEMATICAL ENVIRONMENT:

1. Let your child know that you believe they can succeed.
2. Be ready to talk to your children about mathematics and to listen to what they are saying.
3. Be more concerned with the processes of doing mathematics than with getting a correct answer.
4. Try not to tell children how to solve the problem.
5. Practice estimation with your children whenever possible.
6. Model persistence and pleasure with mathematics.
7. Above all, enjoy mathematics!

CARING COUGARS: This event is a school wide service project that sets its goal of providing Thanksgiving dinners to ten Chase families. The families are selected anonymously and the students do not know who is selected. The entire student body and staff worked on this school wide project.

PARAPROFESSIONALS ARE VAUABLE! Chase is so fortunate to have the best paraprofessionals in the district! We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their work.

EASE ANXIETIES TO HELP YOUR CHILD DO BETTER ON TESTS: tests are important. They tell teachers what students know and where they might need extra help. They can affect a year's grade and child's placement in school.

Some students develop “text anxiety.” They can be so afraid of failing tests that they fail.

It doesn’t help to tell a child to relax or stop worrying about tests. But, it will help if you do these things:

- . Provide a quiet place for studying at home.
- . Make sure your child eats well and sleeps enough.
- . Insist your child attend school regularly, so he/she doesn’t miss learning what’s being tested?
- . Encourage your child to space studying over days or weeks. Real learning occurs over time.
- . Discourage “cramming” before a test. It increases anxiety and hinders clear thinking.
- . Praise and encourage your child. Kids test better when they feel good about themselves.
- . Encourage your child to read test directions and questions carefully. If he/she doesn’t understand them; he/she should ask the teacher to explain.
- . Don’t judge your child on a single test score. Many things can affect a score, including your child’s health and classroom environment.
- . Review test results with your child. Make sure he/she understands why he/she got answers wrong.
- . Ask your child’s teacher to suggest home activities that will help your child learn and prepare for tests.

BOY’S BASKETBALL: Will be starting in **January**. The **7th grade boys** will start **practice at 6:00 a.m.** Please enter the gym by the east doors by the front entrance. We would appreciate if the players would not wear their court shoes outside. The **8th grade team** will be practicing **after school 1-B team until 4:30 p.m.** and **A team until 5:00 p.m.** Please make sure you are on time picking your players up. Players must have passed at least 5 classes to be eligible and have a current physical on file.

SECOND QUARTER ENDS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th.

THIRD QUARTER/SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS, JANUARY 6TH.

MUSICAL AUDITIONS ARE COMING SOON: Chase Middle School will be presenting its sixth annual musical. Auditions will start in **January**. Please encourage your student's participation. It will be a great experience for you and your student. If you have any questions, please call and ask for Mrs. Martin.

GRADE CARDS: Second quarter grade cards will be distributed to students on **January 9TH**.

TITLE I: Chase Middle School is a Title I school: As such, we receive separate federal funds, which enable us to provide special supplemental programs in reading and math.

The Title I evaluation and accountability system requires us to annually demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the areas of math and reading. The decision as to whether our students are making AYP is made solely on the Kansas Assessment tests scores in math and reading.

FLU AND COLDS: We are fast approaching the cold and flu season. The CDC reports that nearly 22 million school days are lost annually due to the common cold alone. Some viruses and bacteria can live from 20 minutes to 2 hours or more on surfaces like cafeteria tables, doorknobs and desks. Addressing the spread of germs in schools is essential to the health of our youth. The main way that illnesses like colds and flu are spread is from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes. These droplets spread through the air and are deposited on the mouth or nose of people nearby. Sometimes germs can be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets from another person on a surface like a desk and then touches his or her own eyes, mouth or nose before washing their hands. When children practice healthy habits, they miss fewer days of school. Ways to help stop the spread of germs are to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue away and wash hands afterward with soap and running water. It is also important to get plenty of sleep. Physical activity, drinking plenty of water and eating good nutritional food will help boost the immune system and prevent coming down with illnesses. And remember to get your flu shot this year. Parents can be a positive role model for children by practicing healthy habits, so encourage your children to follow your example.

FACTS (HUMOR/OF INTEREST) FOR THE MONTH:

1. Shakespeare invented the word “assassination” and “bump”.
2. “Stewardesses” is the longest word typed with only the left hand, “lollipop” with your right hand.
3. The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
4. Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

PROMOTE LITERACY:

Parent Tips –

Buy pencils/pens in fun colors and spiral notebooks.

Books – Short and at their Reading Level.

Encourage your student to write letters, notes and keep a journal.

Parents respond in the journal, write notes to your child and put notes in their backpacks.

Deliver Parent notes to students. Enlist Teachers/Para’s/Staff to write encouraging words to students.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOVING HEAD LICE AND NITS

1. Purchase enough pediculicide (shampoo or cream rinse) for all members of the household. You may wish to confer with your pharmacist.
2. Treat ALL members of the household:
 - a. Remove clothing on upper body.
 - b. If hair is dirty-shampoo with regular shampoo and dry hair.
 - c. Then apply pediculicide (shampoo) to DRY HAIR until hair is thoroughly wet.
 - d. Follow instructions that accompany the shampoo exactly shampooing the head thoroughly. Usually the medication is left on the hair for 4 or 10 minutes.
 - e. Select a 1-inch section of the hair and comb repeatedly with a special, fine toothcomb. Continue this procedure until all hair has been combed.

- f. When hair is dry – select a 1-inch section looking at each strand of hair and remove remaining nits with thumb and forefinger. Continue this procedure until all hair has been looked at and nits removed.
This task is made easier if done in front of a window or under a high intensity light.
- g. Repeat hair inspection several times until all nits are removed.
Patience and persistence are needed.

Since the pediculicide can be absorbed through the skins, it should NOT be used in the bath or shower, pregnant women should wear rubber gloves when applying the shampoo. Since lice may be transferred on clothing, clean clothing should be put on after shampooing.

While the pediculicide (shampoo) effectively kills lice, it will kill less than 20% of the nits, and the survivors will hatch in a week to 10 days, re-establishing the infestation. Therefore, NITES MUST BE REMOVED.

3. Parents should check the hair daily for new nits for at least 10 days.
4. REPEAT TREATMENT 7-10 days following the INITIAL TREATMENT.
5. Personal articles must be cleaned!
 - a. Combs and brushes can be soaked in the pediculicide (shampoo) for an hour or in hot water (150F.) for 5 – 10 minutes.
 - b. Clothing must be washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer.
6. House must be cleaned:
 - a. Bed linen must be washed in HOT water and dried in a hot dryer.
 - b. Pillows should be put in a dryer on high temperature for 20 minutes.
 - c. Rugs mattresses, and upholstered furniture should be vacuumed carefully to pick up living lice or nits.
 - d. Articles that cannot be washed may be dry-cleaned.
 - e. Non-washable fabrics or articles (stuffed animals, etc.) may also be disinfected by sealing them in a plastic bag for 10 days.
7. Notify all contacts, in order to stop infestations.
8. See school nurse for examination and permission to return to School. The school nurse will not remove nits. Remember after 3 calendar days – the student will be considered truant.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS – You should not bring things of value to school. We are asking our parents for help. Please do not allow your student to bring to school character cards, toys, radios and candy, CDs, cell phones, and I pods. We do not allow them in class. If such items are brought to class, they will be retained by staff and will be held at school until a parent can pick them up.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL: Please remember we do not have supervision for students before school until 7:30 a.m. Try not to have your students at Chase before that time. There is no supervision after school therefore the students should be off the school grounds by 2:55.

EIGHTH GRADE PARENT NIGHT: On Tuesday, January 20th, Topeka West will host its annual Eighth Grade Parent Night. The 2008-2009 high school enrollment process will be explained in the Topeka West Band Room in “A” building beginning at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Gail Kaiser, counselor, at 438-4017. The enrollment process for eighth graders will actually begin in January when the high school counselors are visiting middle schools with the appropriate paperwork. January 20th enrollment for THS will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

CYBER BULLYING: On December 11th Chase is holding a Cyber Bullying Meeting for parents. We look forward to your attendance at this meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. There will also be a presentation for parents the morning of December 11th from 7:45-8:30 a.m. in the library if you are unable to attend the evening session. Breakfast will be served.

HOMEWORK CENTER: Homework coaches are available to help students with questions and assignments at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. Students from 5-18 years old are eligible for this homework center. They are available 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. We also have tutoring for our 6TH Grade students after school from 2:40 to 3:30 Monday thru Thursday.

LATINO COMMUNITY NIGHT: We are extending an invitation to all parents to attend our Latino Community Night. It will be held on December 11th, 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing our parents on that night.

STUDENT RECORDS: In order to get access to Student Information you have to fill out an application for student record asses. Once you have filled out the application the IT department will assign you a password to use on the internet. The log in procedure is put in www.topekapublicschools.net. This will take you to MY PROFILE (Link at top of page). You then log in with your password that IT has assigned to you. Student information (Link on right side of page). If you have problems you can contact IT Help Desk @ 438-4750. Attached is an Application for Student Record Access you can fill out.

