

Tiger Tales

Friday March 4, 2016

As we celebrate “Read Across America” today, it is fun to see the children (and some staff) dressed as their favorite book characters. Thanks to all who are taking part!

DISMISSAL:

I have watched our dismissal process for several months now, and have spoken to several faculty, members of TOPS, our office staff, and some parents as to my desire to make some changes. This week, we are slowly beginning to institute these changes and would very much appreciate your feedback as we take a new approach to dismissal. Here are a few of the steps we are working on:

1. riding the bus: I hope to have a faculty member at each bus who checks off all students as he/she gets on. This list will be cross-referenced with Tracy's list of changes that have come in during the day.
2. pick-ups: we have placed several chairs along the corridor of the entryway for our parents to sit. Please use them. Given the amount of movement that occurs during the 15 minutes from 2:30 - 2:45, I am trying to keep our entryway quiet and calm so that we "eye" those in that area and help with smooth transitions. Having the 12-15 adults "sitting down" is already a big change in settling down the area.
3. pick-ups: in an effort to keep track of all students leaving the building, I'd like to institute a "sign-out" sheet in which all parents/guardians/grandparents actually sign-out the student as they depart the building.
4. I would ask that all parents COME INTO THE BUILDING to pick up your child. When our kids leave to walk to your vehicle unattended, they often are running in between cars (some moving) and busses.....my blood pressure rises each time I see our kids do this.
5. TOPS: we have tried two variations this week; the goal is to keep these 25 +/- students either in the library or in their classrooms for 10 minutes at the end of school so that the rest of the school children can exit in a more controlled manner. TOPS typically meets in the gym directly after school and these 25 kiddos are moving quickly through the middle of the lobby just as we are trying to keep track of others leaving.

6. Please bear with us as we work through this. Our staff is volunteering to help us out on many levels and we are making good progress even in the past two days.

7. If you need to make arrangements or changes to the transportation for 2:30, please call or email Tracy as early in the morning as possible. Many changes are coming in via email or phone between 12:30 -2:00 which makes it difficult as we tell 1) teacher 2) your child 3)adding to the list for check-offs.

As always, thanks for your assistance and patience. These 3 days are meant to be a "soft-rollout" of a new process as we work out the bugs. Please feel free to let us know what you think.

Bottom line: I need to know that our kids are safe and accounted for.....and some days, putting all of the variables together....it's not as clean as we all would like.

SC Farnsworth

NOTES:

Upcoming dates:

Monday March 7, 2016:

6:00 p.m. School Club

7:00 p.m. Updates from Mr. Farnsworth

Friday March 11, 2016:

Winter Carnival is celebrated (snow or shine!) We will speak with the children as the week progresses as to activities and appropriate attire

Also it is a 12:00 noon early release for all students (in-service for faculty)

Thank you:

We so appreciate the support of the community by passing our school budget for next year! We look forward to sharing updates, news and initiatives on a regular basis....there's plenty to be excited about!