



Marion Cross

Principal's Newsletter

November 26, 2007

Marion Cross
Website
www.marioncross.org

SAU 70 Website
www.sau70.org

Calendar

12/5 School Board
Meeting 7:00

12/11 Holiday Concert
Grades K-3 1:00

12/13 Holiday Concert
Grades 4-6 1:00

**12/20-1/1 No School
Holiday Vacation**

***Tuesday, Jan. 2nd
School in Session***

School Delays

Please see page 7 of the
Parent Handbook for info
regarding school closing
procedures.

MCS Safety Drill

We recently practiced a Safety Drill called "Secure the School". This drill, often referred to as a lockdown, is intended as a response to an immediate safety threat such as an intruder in the school. During this drill, all staff and students remain in a secure room with the doors and windows locked. The students are seated on the floor away from doors and windows and remain quiet.

I am very pleased to say that the drill went exceptionally well. The building was secured within one minute, and our observers found the process very effective. In addition to selected school personnel, our observation team included two members of the Norwich Police Department. It took 4-5 minutes to establish that the school was in fact secured, and we then signaled the all-clear. It took another 5-6 minutes to contact each classroom for the all-clear. Overall, the entire drill lasted less than 15 minutes.

Our school counselor, Dani Ligett, has collected feedback from the staff, and we will be addressing any concerns that were raised about this process. If your children raised any concerns to you, please do not hesitate to contact either Dani or me.

Local Action Plan (LAP) Committee

Each year, a committee of teachers, parents, school board members and administrators work to develop a school action plan for the following year. Part of the process is to help develop a parent survey to be sent out in February. If you are interested in finding out more about this committee or would like to join, please contact me here at school. You can see the current LAP Goals either in your Parent Handbook or on the MCS website.

Health Education Guest Speaker

Rob Williams, a media educator, will be our guest on Thursday, November 29th, at 2pm in the multi. He will talk to the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders about media literacy issues, such as alcohol and tobacco marketing, video games, and social networking. Parents are welcome to attend.

Rob Williams comes highly recommended through colleagues in the Vermont Department of Education. His visit is being funded by our Tobacco Use Prevention Grant. Our goal in having Rob Williams speak to our students is to reinforce the health education curriculum, and give students greater awareness regarding their own decision making and the media influences.

Jan Hopkins, School Nurse

Senior Food Baskets - Raisin Collection

MCS is a collection site for Senior Food Basket items. We are collecting boxes of raisins. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated for this upcoming holiday season. **Collection ends December 10th.**

Final Word...

I recently reached a difficult decision to leave MCS at the end of this school year in order to pursue other opportunities. Here are a few reasons why it was a difficult choice:

- the kids
 - Hulbert overnight
 - Mayfest
 - concerts & plays
 - occasional 4-square games
 - jumping in a soccer game
 - subbing for the teachers
 - the kids
 - visiting with parents on the green
 - skating at recess
 - Farm & Wilderness overnight
 - listening to ideas from the kids
 - watching kids perform at REP
 - listening to the school sing "Bells of Norwich"
 - the dedication of the staff
 - the kids
 - getting a kite out of a tree
 - the Odyssey projects
 - 10 books per kid during TV Turn-off Week!
 - VT author visits
 - the first grade Halloween parade
 - the kids
- (everything from charity work to a swimming pool)

Most of all, it's seeing your kids every day and watching them grow and learn. It's been a privilege that I am proud to have been allowed to take part in, and I look forward to continuing that privilege for the rest of this school year.

Thank you,

Rob Edson