

Castlewood Elementary Connection

SEPTEMBER 2015



Welcome Back!!!

Thank you to everyone who attended open house on Monday, the 24th. We had a good turnout, and it was fun to see how much all of the children have grown over the summer. One thing I have truly come to realize since beginning my employment as a principal at Castlewood is that time really flies! Watching the kids grow so much in what seems like such a short time has been eye opening.

We have a handful of new students and staff joining us this year. We would like to extend an extra warm welcome to the new families who are joining us on our educational journey.

Similar to last year, monthly newsletters will come home (1 per family – typically with your youngest child) around the start of the month. If you prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email instead of getting a paper copy, please email me at heather.eide@k12.sd.us.

Standardized test score results were mailed out over the summer for students entering grades 4 - 6. There was a parent's guide to understanding what your child's scores mean in the envelope along with it. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me.

We will continue the Back PACH program this year to provide weekend snacks and some meals to children who need it. There is information on the sign up sheet attached.

If you are interested in joining the PTO, we would love to add you to the group! Please contact me, and I'll add you to the list.

Ms. Eide
Elementary Principal

School Pictures

The children will have their pictures taken on Wednesday, September 23rd. Please return your picture packets on or before that day. Younger siblings are welcome to come to the commons/concession area and have their picture taken as well. We will start with staff at 7:30, then siblings at 8:00, followed by the elementary, junior high, and high school.

School Hours:

8:10 - 3:30

Preschool

8:10 - 11:45

Special Dates:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 1**
1st Day of School
- **Friday, Sept. 4**
No School
- **Monday, Sept. 7**
No School
- **Monday, Sept. 14**
7:00 School Board Meets
- **Tuesday, Sept. 15**
Bullying Presentations at school
6:30 Parent Bullying Session
- more information will be coming home
- **Saturday, Sept. 19**
2:00 Punt, Pass, & Kick at the football field
- **Wednesday, Sept. 23**
Picture Day



School Lunch

Please feel free to have hot lunch with your child any day. However, it is essential that you contact Angie in the office at 793-2351 the day before you come to eat. Our kitchen staff needs a count in order to prepare enough food. The cost of an adult meal is \$3.36 payable when you come. Thank you for your cooperation.



School Lunch Prices

- Preschool - 12 Breakfast Price — \$ 1.50
- Adult Breakfast Price — \$1.80
- Preschool — 8 Lunch — \$2.53
- 9 — 12 Lunch — \$2.78
- Extra Milk — \$.30

Free or Reduced Lunch

Applications for free or reduced lunches are available in the office. With our economy, it seems that many families have experienced a cut back of hours and job losses. Please consider applying for this program, even if you don't think you will qualify. You may be pleasantly surprised! A family of 4 qualifies for reduced lunch if they make less than \$44,863. If the income is less than \$31,525 then you would qualify for free meals. The information is confidential and even your own child does not need to know if your family receives free/reduced lunches. Those on free/reduced lunches also receive free/reduced breakfasts.

If your child is choosing to bring a sack lunch to school, please encourage him/her to choose healthy foods and beverages. We have milk available for \$.30 and water is always available in the lunchroom. Either one is a healthy choice to accompany a sack lunch. Drinking water actually increases energy levels. The most common cause of daytime tiredness is actually dehydration. When your body lacks water, brain cells and other neurons shrink. This causes processing speeds to slow, visual tracking to suffer and deficits in paying attention to occur. We prefer that children do not bring soda or sugary juices. Obviously, soda has loads of sugar, which makes it deliciously (and addictively) sweet, but do you know that some sodas have up to eleven teaspoons of sugar per 12 ounces!? Can you imagine manually spooning eleven teaspoons of sugar into something you were about to drink?

New Math Curriculum

Go Math! from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is being adopted for K - 6 math instruction. GO Math! offers an engaging and interactive approach to covering new state standards. You will notice that the children are required to write and strategize a lot more than in previous years. In addition to the traditional textbook experience, the students will have SmartBoard interactive instruction, computer review, and reinforcement activities for home and school, as well as center activities and other project based learning opportunities.



TumbleBookLibrary

TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. TumbleBooks are created by adding animation, sound, music, and narration to existing picture books in order to produce electronic picture books which you can read, or have read to you.

The TumbleBookLibrary collection can be accessed online at school or home. There is a link on the Castlewood home page under

“Student Links.” The TumbleBooks website also has puzzles, games, and activities that your child will enjoy. The students will also be able to take quizzes and create book reports. The quizzes can be a good way for you to monitor listening comprehension with your child at home. Even very young children can use this site independently. Take some time to enjoy everything that the site has to offer.

