

FEBRUARY 2018

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! As we continue to make our way through this winter season, I can attest to the fact that our staff and students have been faced with more health and illness difficulties than usual this year. To a certain extent, health issues are beyond our control and we completely understand that children (and adults) get sick from time to time. However, we can all take some simple precautions that can help minimize the spread of unwanted germs. This starts with good old fashioned hand washing. As any doctor or nurse will tell you, regular hand washing is the best preventative measure that we can take to keep germs from spreading. The students are reminded about the importance of hand washing at school, especially after they use the bathroom or finish working with materials in the classroom. As with most things, if the students have consistent expectations at home and school, there is a greater chance that they will develop good habits.

If and when one of your children becomes ill and needs to stay home, please remember to notify the school about the absence. As much as we don't want students to miss any more time from school than necessary, it is also important not to send students back to school until they are healthy enough to be here. With that in mind, students that have had a fever should not return until they are fever-free for at least twenty-four hours. From our end, Mrs. Gillick is responsible for assessing the medical needs of any student that comes to see her during the day. While there are certain symptoms that warrant sending a student home as soon as possible (i.e. vomiting and/or fever), Mrs. Gillick will always use her professional judgment when it comes to making a decision about a child's ability to remain at school. Often times, Mrs. Gillick will call home to discuss the situation and elicit feedback from parents in order to learn more about the condition and make a more informed decision about that child's ability to remain in school. If your child ever has a change in a medical condition, I strongly encourage you to share that information with Mrs. Gillick so that she will be able to provide your child with the best care possible when needed. As long as we continue to exercise good judgment, we will help our students make it through the rest of winter and this difficult cold and flu season.

Looking ahead on the calendar, one of my favorite days of the year is rapidly approaching - Read Across America! We try to schedule our school celebration as close to March 2 as possible since that was Dr. Seuss's birthday, and this year will be no different. Although our school plans are still in the works in some ways, it is safe to say that part of our agenda for the day will include having a wide variety of guest readers come to visit our classes. Many people on our staff along with our older students look forward to visiting younger grade classrooms to be guest readers. However, this is also a wonderful opportunity for parents to get involved as well. So, as the date gets closer, be on the lookout for invitations and notices that may come home from your child's teacher asking for volunteers to be guest readers. I can tell you from personal experience that you will instantly achieve celebrity status and have a great time sharing your favorite Dr. Seuss story with the class!

Please remember to follow me on Twitter @MBS_Ettore so you can see the various exciting learning activities and events that occur at our school.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent