



MUSCOTA NEW SCHOOL

"Turn the World Around"

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Judith Menken, Principal Hoard Matza, Ass't. Princ.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR NEWS:

Wed. March 28 Early Dismissal 11:45 pick up for all students

**Friday, March 30 All School Ice Skating Trip –
permission slip enclosed**

April 2 thru April 10 no school Spring Vacation. School reopens Wed.

April 11

**Mon. April 16 8:30 am Java with Judi –
open discussion about school issues**

March 26, 2007

Dear Families,

What a busy few weeks!!! Narratives- Family Conferences- ice storms- and then every third person with the latest version of the flu! It has been a lot (as always), but it was great seeing so many families last week.

FAMILY CONFERENCES:

Conference times were full and productive. There were 2 important changes in our reporting to families this year. First, as you all hopefully noticed, the 4 arts teachers prepared individual reports for each student in the school. That is no small feat! They were arranged on one page so you could easily review them. In many cases it was very useful for families to see the patterns of behavior and learning of their child through his/her entire school day and program. Quite a few families also sought out these teachers on the 3rd floor. In several cases, the entire arts cohort was able to sit down with the family to set up a plan for the child.

Secondly, we invested in having reports translated to the home language if there was a parent who did not read English. Again, this was a huge commitment as DOE does not provide this service free of charge. They will only translate fliers or letters for the entire school, not individual family communications. I believe they should also support the translation of these reports; while they are written individually, it is a whole school policy that each family receive one. I am going to pursue this financial request, but, for now, we are delighted to have been able to finally accomplish this goal. Most of the translations were for Spanish, but several were also Albanian and one in Bengladeshi. Teachers and I could see in parents' faces that it mattered a great deal to be communicated in this way. This can only strengthen bonds between home and school.

Teachers are finishing up the last of their appointments this week. From this point it is up to the family to contact the school if you have not come in for a conference to review your child's progress. If you have any other questions about meetings or the narratives, feel free to contact Alli, Denise or myself.

SAFETY CONCERNS:

There have been a few concerns recently over access to the building and classrooms. This list is to clarify existing school policies:

- Dogs or cats (family pets) are NOT allowed in the school building at any time for any reason. It doesn't matter the size of the animal or the reason. No dogs in the schoolyard or building, lobby included.
- All adults entering the school building are required to show ID and sign in at the guard's desk in the lobby. Since the Muscota office is on the 3rd floor it is necessary to come upstairs and also either sign the Visitor's Book and get a pass to go to your child's class, or sign your child out of school and get a pass that says this. In either case, your teacher will not release your child or allow you to visit the class if you do not produce the pass. This is the only way the teacher has to verify that appropriate process has been followed.
- While we do want family members to be actively involved in their child's school life teachers need to know when a parent will be visiting. Make such arrangements with your teacher first, and be sure to sign in at the office for a pass.

T-SHIRT SALES:

Pink order forms went home last week. We are taking orders for t-shirts, sweatshirts, key lanyards, totes and book bags. A copy of the order form is below this letter. We will take orders through the end of this week. There will be some extras to buy later, but if you want to be sure to get this year's color, order now. All profits are put towards the Senior Trip to Clearpool in June.

Sincerely,

Judi

If you need Project Kids to take your child this Wed. from 11:45- 3 pm (and are not a regular Project Kids family), complete the tear-off and send back with \$20.

Child _____ - class _____ -

At 3:00- child is an independent walker _____

Child is picked up by _____
