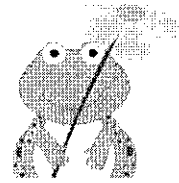


# Grayside Newsletter

May 2024



Something to  
GRIN about!

## Family Fun Night



Please join us for the School Picnic and Cookout on Thursday, May 16th from 5:00-6:30pm. at the Riverside Park.

## PBIS for Parents: Conversation Starters

### What is Creativity?

Being creative means you are open to expressing yourself and investigating the world around you.

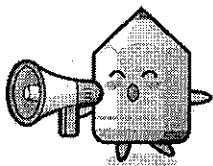
### Conversation Starters

- The tendency to generate or recognize ideas.
- Possibilities that may be useful in solving problems.
- Entertaining ourselves and others.

## Family Shared Reading Program

We will not be having a Family Shared Reading Log and Incentive for the month of May. Thank you for participating in this family fun reading program.

## Mauston Elementary PTC: Parents and Teachers for Children



Thank you for another wonderful year and for your support for the PTC. This year has been an amazing year, and we're excited to see the greenhouse be utilized that YOU helped fund! We are looking for new members to join our leadership team. If you're able and willing to help, please reach out to [pwinker@maustonschools.org](mailto:pwinker@maustonschools.org).

## Reminder From Your School Nurse

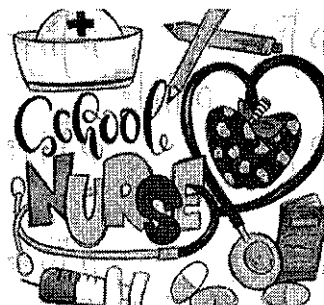
Please remember that if your child has ANY of the following: Fever >100, diarrhea, vomiting, your child needs to stay home for 24 hours SYMPTOM FREE before returning to school. The fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours.

If your child is gone for more than 3 days in a row you would need a doctor's note to return to school.

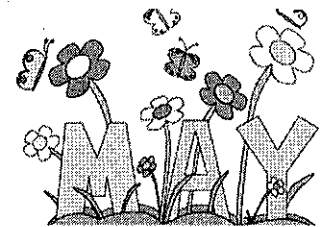
If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Holzberger, School Nurse at 847-5616 ext 2250.

When your child has an appointment please get a medical note from that appointment for your child's attendance.

Please pick up any prescribed or over the counter medication from the school office no later than Thursday, May 30th.



Grayside Elementary  
School  
847-5616



## Lunch Account Information

Breakfast for students grades 3-5 are free and lunch is \$3.10. You are able to deposit money at the Grayside office by check or cash. If you would rather use a card you can do so at the District office. If you have any questions please call 847-5451 ext. 6686.

When sending in lunch money please put it in an envelope or a zip lock baggie with your child's name on it. Thank you.

## Upcoming Events

May 3rd—No School  
No EASP

May 10th—Spring Concert  
@ 1:00pm.

May 16th—Family Fun Night  
School Picnic and Cookout  
from 5-6:30pm. at the  
Riverside Park

May 27th—No School  
Memorial Day

May 30th—Last Day of  
School

# Grayside Newsletter

Hello Grayside Families!

Summer is almost here and the last day of school will be here sooner than we know!

The Week, May 6-10th, is Staff Appreciation Week. The school staff at Grayside is committed and devoted to our students and families. They put in long hours and give their best each day to ensure that your students learn and have a rewarding school experience. Please take a moment this week to say thank you. Each day I am thankful to be able to work with so many caring people who do amazing things for students each and every day.

Thank you so much for all of the support you have given during our Forward Exam testing time period. Our students were well rested and ready for testing each day largely in part to all the wonderful support they received from home. Please look for Forward Exam results to come your way sometime over the summer.

As we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year, we wanted to let you know that the District will be doing online registration again. As we did last year, we will designate some days in August where families who need assistance with registration can come to Grayside and work with staff to complete the registration process. Please look for more information to come your way closer to August.

With summer right around the corner, I wanted to take a moment to stress the importance of continued learning for all students during the summer months. Here is a list of some ideas for activities to do over the summer to extend learning:

**1- Cook together:** It's amazing how much following a recipe can help to keep both math and reading skills fresh and it is tons of fun too!

**2- Start a family book club:** This is one of my favorites and is a terrific way to connect with your child.

**3- Do some planting:** I know that I have mentioned this before but kids of all ages, and grown-ups too, often forget how wonderful it can be to dig in the dirt and plant flowers or veggies.

**4- Check out the Hatch Public Library:** Our local library has so much to offer our students and their families to help keep reading alive all summer long.

**5- Volunteer:** Volunteering is a wonderful way to promote leadership, job skills, build relationships, and it also gives students the chance to explore career paths.

**6- Creative Summer Trading Cards:** Follow the link below to engage your child in an activity that encourages them to do some storytelling in writing and support the artistic nature that is in every child. <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/summer-trading-cards-30864.html>

**7- Active Bodies Support Active Minds:** Keep your child moving and grooving all summer long. Staying active keeps them fit and helps them to learn more than they ever imagined. Maybe invent a new sport or playground game.

Just like with playing basketball or learning the piano, the more you practice the more you will succeed. Learning is like that too so please remember to keep your brain and body active over the summer and to do some reading and work with math each day.

It has truly been a pleasure to be able to work with all the Grayside students and families this year. I hope you have a delightful summer and come back to school next year with some wonderful and exciting stories to share. Have a summer that is bursting with fun. As always, we look forward to continuing to work with you! Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely, Bobbi Steele

## Before School

**For safety concerns please drop your child/children off in the morning in the circle drive at the front of the school. Please do not drop off in the front parking lot.**

**Thank you.**

## Attendance

**Just a reminder school starts at 7:45a.m.**

**Please call your child in to the attendance line by 8:45a.m. if your child will be absent for the day. 847-5616**

## Messages

**If you need to get a message to your child before the end of the day please get the information to the office by 2:00pm. Thank you for your cooperation.**

## Dismissal

**Just a reminder that school dismisses at 3:15p.m.**

**If you're going to be late picking up your child please make arrangements with someone who can pick them up.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## Extra Clothes

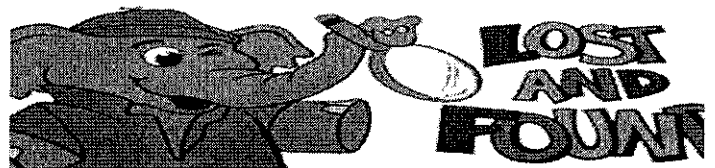
Could you please send extra clothes to school with your student in case they get dirty from outside or spill something on their clothes. Thank you.

For an example: pants, socks, shirt, and underwear.

## Lost and Found

Please have your child check the Lost and Found tables in the front entryway for any of their missing clothing.

**If any of the items are not claimed by the last day of school Thursday, May 30th they will be donated.**



## Spring Outside Wear

Just a reminder to please have your child wear a light jacket or sweatshirt to school for recess.

# 10 Ways Parents Can Fight Summer Reading Loss

## 1 Set a specific time for daily reading

When you set aside a specific time each day for reading, it becomes part of the daily routine. When something is done routinely it makes it less likely to be forgotten. I love that for my own children reading at night is as routine as putting on their pajamas and brushing their teeth.

## 2 Let your children see you reading

Literature-rich homes have a myriad of reading material around, from all sorts of books (picture, chapter, nonfiction, and fiction) to newspapers, magazines, and electronic reading materials, etc. Just last week as I was standing in the kitchen holding a book, my son Brady (age 4) said to my daughter Marykate (age 3): "Oh great, Mommy has another book she won't stop reading so she can feed us." I laughed because they were anxiously awaiting a snack, but what they were seeing instead was a true passion for reading that I hope will inspire them to be avid readers themselves. They were just going to have to wait!

## 3 Talk with your children about what they are reading

Letting your children know that you are interested in what they are reading can be very motivating for them. Even if you are not familiar with the book, you can ask about the characters, the problem, or have your kids share something new they learned. At this point in his reading life, my son starts answering questions (without me asking) as soon as we close a book we have read together. While I am thrilled that he knows that thinking and talking about books is important, I also try to make sure that I keep reading fun and don't turn it into a chore.

## 4 Have a reading area

Make a special place in your home that is a reading nook. Have a variety of books and periodicals available there. You do not need to buy these reading materials. Instead, borrow them from your local library. At my home, we seem to have books in every room of the house, but I also have a cozy pillow or chair next to my children's bookshelves in their playroom where they enjoy looking at books on their own.

## 5 Visit the library

Go to your local library regularly throughout the summer. Not only can you check out reading material, but most local libraries also have many fun reading programs and activities to encourage summer reading. My kids love to go to our library—honestly, it's mostly to do crafts—but we always get a stack of books while we are there, too.

## 6 Reading to your child

Reading to your child is so important. It is a great way to model fluency and enjoy a good book together. I personally love to act out the books with my children. (Sometimes, I am not sure if they are laughing at me or with me!) Children can also read aloud to their siblings or to the whole family—even to a patient family pet.

## 7 Have writing supplies available

Writing is an important part of the language arts. Additional practice with writing is beneficial to all children and manipulating the text they are reading helps them remember more of it. Keep the writing fun! Some ideas include writing a letter to your favorite character in a book, writing a "sequel" to a story you love, or drawing and writing a graphic novel version of a book. Younger kids could draw pictures or make collages of images that "go with" the books they are reading.

## 8 Get audio books or listen to books online

Your local library should have a variety of audio books available for children and adults. It can also be a nice change of pace to listen to and watch stories online. Several actors, actresses, sports heroes, and musicians have participated in websites that post celebrities reading books out loud. My children just love to listen to books. Their favorite is *Click, Click, Moo*, by Doreen Cronin, as read by Randy Travis.

## 9 Start a book club

Get your child's friends together and pick a book they are all interested in reading. Have them meet once or twice a week to discuss what they have read—you may want to help them set reading targets if they are reading a chapter book. For example, they could aim to read two or three chapters a week. If they choose a book from their summer reading list, the discussion may also help them with comprehension. My own children are too young to be part of a book club, but I can't wait until they are old enough to have one of their own.

## 10 Carry books with you

Having books with you at all times is a great way to pass the time when you have a few unexpected minutes. Keep a supply in the car or in a tote bag. I have books in the pockets of the seats in my car. This way, when we're out on the road my kids can grab a book whenever they want.

## Dress Conduct

The community takes pride in the appearance of its youth. A high correlation exists between dress and attitudes. Boys and girls who are proud of their appearance usually take pride in their behavior as well. Students are encouraged to be clean and dress comfortably. Parents/guardians should be aware of their children's attire and make sure that clothing is appropriate for school. Because our playgrounds have muddy areas, boots are required during wet and snowy weather. The following will apply:

1. Shirts with designs or writing on them should not be offensive (for example, racial slurs, sexual implications, obscenities, or alcohol and tobacco promotions).
2. Shirts must cover the entire torso. Bare midriffs are not appropriate for school.
3. The appearance and clothing of the student should not cause interference or disruption of the learning atmosphere of the school.
4. Students who wear inappropriate clothing will have to make arrangements for appropriate clothing to be delivered to school.
5. Caps, hats, hoods, and bandanas must be removed upon entering the building.
6. No wigs are allowed at school.
7. Please see the Dress Conduct section of the *Student Responsibilities Handbook* for additional information

# Be a Part of the Band & Choir!

Hello Almost-Middle Schoolers!

Welcome to OMS. We are excited to see you in class next year.

The MUSIC Department WANTS YOU to join Band & Choir as sixth graders. You have never been in a Band or Choir class before and might be wondering: WHY join? Trying new things is what Middle School is all about!!!

Music has a positive impact on a student's school career. Research shows that enrollment in music is associated with **higher academic success, improved mental health, and increased social skills.**

Most of all. **MUSIC IS FUN!!!** What opportunities exist in Band and Choir?

In Band, OMS students perform both in concert and marching band settings.

- 6th Grade Band Concert: November. The 6th Grade band students perform at OMS demonstrating all of the skills they have worked on during the first few months of the school year.
- OMS/MHS Band Holiday Concert: December. The Olson Middle School and Mauston High School Band students perform a combined concert featuring holiday music selections.
- OMS/MHS Band -O- Rama: March. This combined concert between Olson Middle School and Mauston High School features varied repertoire that students have worked on throughout the winter season in one jam-packed, fun-filled band evening.
- OMS Band and Choir Concert: May. The 6-8 grade band and choirs perform together in one last concert to kick off the end of the school year!
- Marching Band: As Summer approaches, marching band instruction begins! During this time, students will continue to build on their knowledge of rhythm, dynamics, phrasing, interpretation, intonation and tone quality with an emphasis on physical fitness and teamwork.

If you are interested in Band, make sure to mark your calendar for the **Beginner Band Meeting & Registration Night** on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00PM in the OMS Auditorium. In order to register, students must attend with a parent or guardian at the meeting.

In Choir, OMS students perform both in concert and musical settings:

- **Fall Concert:** Monday, October 21. The 6-12 grade choirs perform at MHS in the Auditorium. We also perform as a 6-12 finale choir for one selection at the end of the concert.
- **Holiday Concert:** December 19. The 6-8 grade choirs perform in our very own Theatre! This performance includes our traditional Silent Night singalong.
- **Festival Concert:** March 18. This is where the sixth grade choir does an in-class musical. We will learn all about blocking, movement, choreography, acting, singing, and present our show to the public on March 18.
- **Spring Concert:** May 15. This final concert shows all of the skills we have worked on during the year. We do a combined 6-8 finale number and include some popular literature as well. What a great way to finish the school year!

Make sure to include band, choir or both in your schedule for sixth grade. You will have the opportunity to perform, build relationships, excel at public speaking, and form great friendships: See you in Fall!

OMS MUSIC Department