

## A Message from the Elementary/Middle School Principal

While it may be cold outside, and some might think it's the season to hibernate, things are certainly happening at the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah Elementary and Middle School this winter season! Students are currently involved in a wide variety of special activities, including annual Spelling and History Bee, Career Day and Student/Staff basketball game. Watch for the winners and presenters to be featured in the next issue of the *Resorter Reporter*. We currently have Drama Club for fourth, fifth and sixth grade, Robotics Club, basketball, cheerleading, wrestling, and volleyball going on in the middle school.

Just a reminder that our parent/teacher conferences will be held Monday, February 5, from 2:00-4:00 and 5:00-8:00. I do have a couple of suggestions regarding conferences. First, if the conference format does not work for you and you would rather stay in touch with teachers via voice mail or email, that is certainly fine – we encourage you to use whatever communication method works best for you. Second, I do encourage you to let teachers know what is happening at home with your child, particularly about assignments. Teachers cannot always tell if that C+ represents a tremendous amount of hard work and effort on the part of a student or if the student is doing little work and could do more. Your collaboration with the teachers creates a good partnership that helps your child achieve. Finally, if there is a problem, please bring it up at conferences and approach the issue as an opportunity for positive collaboration with the teacher. I firmly believe that there is no problem that we cannot solve working together; what is essential though is honest, respectful communication and a willingness to work together. Thank you for your part in this!

With the winter months upon us, it is important to dress your child appropriately with winter coats, hats, and gloves or mittens daily. When snow is on the ground, students are expected to wear boots. Students in grades K-3 are required to wear snow pants as a great deal of their winter play involves playing in the snow. Fourth and fifth grade students are required to wear snow pants if their recess activities involve playing directly in the snow. We will be going outside in cold and snowy weather, and proper clothing will make this activity more enjoyable for students.

In the event of adverse weather, the district will need to make decisions on late starts, early dismissals, or school cancellations. If a weather and/or emergency notification is required, Blackboard

Connect/Alert Now will deliver to parents and staff messages via voice calls, text messages, and emails quickly and easily. Also, go to our school website or stay tuned to the following stations as announcements will be made on: TV stations—WTMJ-TV4, WFRV-TV5, WLUK-TV11 (NOT cable), WISN-TV12 and radio stations—WTMJ-620AM, WKTJ-94.5 FM, WLUK-98.1FM, WXER-104.5 FM, WHBL-1330AM, and WWJR-93.7 FM. In the event of a two-hour delay, there would be no AM Jr. Kindergarten, and daycare would open at 7:30 a.m.

As we are half way through the school year, your children should be showing academic growth in the state standards. Students will be taking the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test in late January or early February in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. The tests are aligned with the Common Core State Standards. They cover the main goals within each subject area. MAP test reports provide information for each goal in each subject for each student. This makes it possible for teachers to help students on an individual or small group basis and increases the usefulness of the tests for improving and enriching student learning. Because each student takes a test tailored to him or her, each has the opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. If you have any further questions or would like more information regarding the MAP tests or your child's results, please contact your child's teacher or me. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We will soon begin planning for summer school! Watch for materials to come out in March regarding this enrichment-based program available for all children grades 4K-8. The tentative starting date is June 18<sup>th</sup>, with the program running for five weeks.

Enjoy the winter months and try to stay warm! I am looking forward to seeing you at parent/teacher conferences on the 5th of February.