



L.E. STARKE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January, 2003
1610 Holiday Drive
Phone 477-4714



TARDIES & ABSENCES

Please make sure to follow the below guidelines for reporting absences to the school.

Call the school office at 477-4714 at any time day or night to report your child's absence. You may leave the message on the answering machine if you call after hours. Please include your child's name, teacher, & reason for the absence.

Send a brief note with your child when he/she returns to school explaining the reason for the absence.

All absences will be marked as unexcused unless the above steps are followed.

State law identifies absences exceeding 10% as chronic absence or truancy, therefore, students meeting or exceeding this 10% limit will be receiving correspondence from the school addressing this issue.

We also ask that students arrive at school by 8:40. Students who arrive later than 8:40 must be checked in through the office. Late arrivals are also disruptive to the classrooms and take away important educational time.

Thanks to all parents for their cooperation.

Important dates

January

- 6-SCHOOL RESUMES 8:40AM-3:10PM
- 7-Hearing & vision re-screening
- 8-PTA Meeting 5:30pm-Learning center
- 10-pt a popcorn & pencil day
- 17-11:40am dismissal (sip day)
- 20-no school
- happy mart in luther king day!!

PROJECTED CLASSES FOR 03-04

We are beginning to project our classes for the 2003-2004 school year. Please make sure that you keep the school office notified of any address or phone changes. We must ALWAYS have a current address and phone number for all Starke School students.

Any students at Starke who currently live out of the Starke School area will be projected for their home school for next school year. All students are required to register at their home school on registration day in August. Thank you for your cooperation.

PTA MEETING

Please feel free to join the Starke School PTA at our next meeting, **Wednesday, January 8, in the Starke School Learning Center at 5:30pm.**

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to all family members and special guests who attended our holiday programs in December. This event was a great success with our students giving stellar performances.

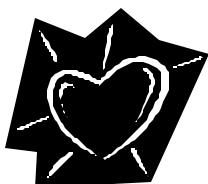
Special thanks to Mrs. Sommer for organizing the programs and to the Starke School PTA for sponsoring the raffle and Santa's Secret Shop. Thank you also to those who donated items for the raffle. These items were much appreciated & brought much needed dollars to the Starke School PTA to help them in their effort to support our children!!

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January, 2003

THANK YOU!!

Thanks to all who participated in our holiday charity activity by providing warm mittens, hats, and socks to those in need. The Salvation Army was very appreciative of our efforts to warm hands and hearts.



JANUARY BAKE SALE DATES

(All on Wednesday)

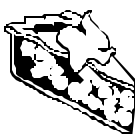
8-Mrs. Sciortino

15-Spirit Committee

22-Literacy Bake Sale

29-Spirit Com-

mittee



PTA SPONSORED RUMMAGE SALE

Starke School PTA will be sponsoring our our first ever school rummage sale Saturday, April 26 from 8:00am-1:00pm. If your closets are overstuffed after the holiday season, please bring items to school to be dropped off in the main foyer drop box. If you have items too large to be dropped off, please contact Karen Frazier at 347-2432 for storage. If you are interested in helping with set up the night before the sale, or are willing to help the day of the sale, please contact Tami Hyatt at 346-5252.

NURSING NEWS

Please make sure that we always have a current phone number where you can be reached or another responsible adult contact in case your child is ill. Without your written permission, no one may pick up your child.

Please also remember that due to state & district policy, medication cannot be dispensed at school without a medication permit signed by both the prescribing physician & a parent/guardian.

Both prescription medication & over the counter medication require this permit. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.



BRRRRR...IT'S COLD

Please remember to dress your child appropriately for the winter weather with a warm coat, hat, & gloves. Weather permitting, the children do go out for recess each day.

STARKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2002

HELPING STUDENTS LEARN

Recently, our school completed the update of our long-range school improvement plan.

You might wonder what a long-range school improvement plan is, and why it is important. Our long range plan consists of two parts. First, the Mission Statement specifically states the basic purpose for our work with children. It provides the motivation for why we are here and what we are striving to accomplish as a school. The second part includes the Vision. This portion addresses what we want to do to increase the level of quality with regard to important values related to teaching and learning. In general terms the long range plan provides the framework for the culture of the school and how we go about better meeting the needs of students.

L.E. STARKE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2001

Helping Students Learn

In the October Newsletter we indicated that our school goal this year is to help students become better writers. As we continue work on improving students' writing skills we look for trends in their performance. Traditionally, writing was thought of only in terms of spelling and grammar. Although these components are essential to write well, it is important for students to learn key strategies so they can be well organized, thorough, and fluent writers. Typically, students are assessed according to their progress related to specific writing features. These features include: (1) Focus; (2) Support; (3) Organization; and (4) Conventions. Beginning In 3rd grade a fifth feature, "Integration," is assessed. Guidelines specific to each grade level to are used to assess students' progress related to these features.

By analyzing students' progress from last year and since the beginning of this school year, we have decided that our efforts should be on the organization feature of writing. To improve organization, teachers are taking proactive steps to emphasize learning more about this feature. Students are learning a planning process called the "Four Square" model. This process serves as an organizer to help students plan their thoughts and supporting details in an organized way before they begin to write a rough draft. You may have already heard about this writing process during the November Conferences.

If you have any question about the grade level guidelines for writing or four square planning process feel free to contact your child's teacher.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to write whenever they have the opportunity. Students become better writers by writing frequently.