

FORT RIVER PARENT NEWSLETTER

SUCCESSFUL LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS

December 18, 2009

Dear Fort River Families,

On Monday December 21st (7:00-8:30pm), Fort River will host an informational meeting on the ***Redistricting and Transition*** process. We are pleased that Superintendent Rodriguez, Marta Guevara, Maria Geryk, and Kathy Mazur will be joining us to answer questions and provide information on how the transition process will be handled. All are welcome to attend, but this is especially important for those families who may be leaving Fort River for another building next year.

All of our teachers, specialists, and staff members continue to work very hard for all children during very difficult financial times in our town and across the nation. I continue to be impressed with the daily work that happens at Fort River. I witness firsthand every day the hard work, dedication, and the positive effects that this work has on your children. Please join me in thanking this terrific group of professionals and wishing them a well-deserved break ... and I wish all of you a safe, peaceful, and restful holiday.

-Ray Sharick

Safety Update:

Please do not walk in-between the buses. Use the crosswalks, please. We do not permit children to walk between the buses for obvious safety reasons, and we want to be sure that all adults model the appropriate safety routines for children. Thank you for your cooperation.

Safety First!

On Thursday December 17th, the school ran a new practice drill. The **lock down drill** (necessary in the event of a weather emergency, a medical emergency or any other type of emergency that may require us to account for the safety and well-being of each student and adult in a short amount of time) went well. The halls were calmly cleared, attendance was taken in each instructional space and teachers and students continued with the learning that was underway. The entire process took place in under 5 minutes and so the school's response was highly effective. Safety planning at the central office with Dave Slovin and Ron Bohonowitz, along with direction from Lt Bob O'Connor, ensured we were prepared to conduct this drill at this time. Thanks to students and staff.

Staffing Update:

Carolina Rothkegel, one of our terrific ELL teachers, is leaving us for personal reasons to return to her home and family in South America. Carolina has been an important member of our staff for many years, and she will be missed by children, families, and staff. We wish her the best in her new endeavor. We will be welcoming Terri Geffert as the new ELL teacher, taking over for Carolina. We feel very fortunate that Terri will join us mid-year. Please join me in welcoming Terri to the Fort River community.

FUTURE DATES

Fort River Redistricting Informational Meeting...Mon., Dec. 21st...7:00-8:30
Holiday Break...December 24th - January 1st (Last day 12/23; School reopens 1/4)
Coffee With A Principal...Friday, January 8th...FR Cafeteria...8:30 am
Parent Council Meeting...Monday, January 11th...Fort River Library...7:00 pm
Teacher Curriculum/Workday.....Friday, January 15th.....NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....Monday, January 18th.....NO SCHOOL
School Committee Meeting...Tues., Jan. 26th...High School Library...7:00 pm
School Council Meeting...Thurs., Jan. 28th...5:00-6:30...FR Conference Room

FYI - Chorus Concert Dates

- Thursday, January 14th...7:00 pm...Middle School auditorium
- Thursday, May 6th...7:30 pm...Middle School auditorium

SNOW DAY INFORMATION

IN THE EVENT OF STORMS OR CHANGING WEATHER, PLEASE TUNE IN TO THE FOLLOWING RADIO AND TV STATIONS FOR POSSIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS OR EARLY DISMISSALS.

RADIO: WRNX (Holyoke) 100.9 FM/1400 AM
WHA1 (Greenfield) 98.3 FM
WHYN (Springfield) 93.1

TELEVISION: WWLP (Springfield) Channel 22
WGGB (Springfield) Channel 40
WSHM CBS Channel 3

SCHOOL CANCELLATION LINE: 362-1898

