



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
November 11, 2011

Book Fair Sales: **The Fall Book Fair raised over \$900** for our students and the library. Thank you to all who patronized the event.

UMS Sling Bags for Sale:

The PTO is selling UMS sling bags (right) for \$9 each. You may purchase them in the main office.

Parent Conferences: If you have not done so already, **please sign up for a conference with your child's teacher.**

Conferences will be held from noon to 8:00 PM on Monday, November 21.

NO December PTO

Meeting: This is just a reminder that the PTO does not meet in December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10.

Teacher Blogs: We've had a school goal this year of blogging. Hopefully you've had the opportunity to visit your child's classroom teacher's blog. In addition to classroom teachers, specialists have been blogging, too. Even I have a blog! They can all be accessed from the main page of the UMS website.

Thanksgiving Recess: Thanksgiving recess will be longer this year. **Students will have the entire week off from school** and parent conferences will be held on Monday, November 21. This is a change from years past. Please plan accordingly.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal



With the recent events surrounding the Penn State football program, this is a good time to remember some things about child sexual abuse. Abuse is not uncommon. Here are some statistics:

- One in four girls and one in six boys will experience some sort of sexual abuse by age 18.
- Victims come from all socioeconomic groups and communities.
- 90% are victimized by someone the family knows and trusts.

Parents can help keep their children stay safe by teaching them the correct terminology to describe their body parts and what kind of touching and interaction is off-limits. Research shows that before the age of 9, a child is rarely going to tell an offender "no" because they have been taught to do what adults tell them to. They will, however, tell a trusted adult what happened. Although other anxiety-inducing events, such as divorce or death, can trigger any of these changes in a child, the following signs offer a good reason to begin asking questions:

- Has nightmares or sleep problems.
- Seems distracted or distant at odd times.
- Suddenly changes eating habits.
- Has sudden mood swings.
- Leaves "clues" that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues.
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images.
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places.
- Keeps secrets with an adult or older child.
- Talks about a new, older friend.
- Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts.
- Thinks of self as repulsive, dirty and/or bad.
- Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and/or knowledge.

For help, call:
National Child Sexual Abuse Helpline, 866-367-5444
Stop It Now! Helpline, 888-773-8368

To report abuse in Vermont, call:
Department of Family Services, 800-649-5285

SOURCE: Adapted from *USA Today* article, November 9, 2011

UPCOMING DATES

November 21 Conferences (noon – 8:00 PM)
November 21-25 Thanksgiving Recess