



# UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter  
*September 18, 2009*

**PTO Fund-Raiser:** The annual fund-raiser begins this Friday and will run one full week, ending next Friday, September 25. This large fund-raiser provides the majority of money for PTO events such as the spring concert, artist in residence program and buses to transport students on field trips. Please help support our students by participating.

**Open House:** Our fall open house will be held on Thursday, October 8 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. This is an opportunity for the students and their families to come and see some of the wonderful learning that's been happening since the start of the year. We always have a great turnout at nightly events and parking is usually an issue. Claussen's lets us use their parking lot in the evening to help ease the demand.

**October PTO Meeting:** The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13 starting at 6:30 PM in the library. The focus of this meeting will be to brainstorm ideas the PTO can sponsor that promote school-wide community. We'll then narrow the ideas down to one or two feasible endeavors.

**PTO Volunteers Needed:** Even if you aren't able to attend the monthly PTO meetings, you can still volunteer for some of the PTO sponsored events. Please fill out the attached sign-up sheet and return it to your child's teacher by Monday, October 5. Thank you!

**Parking Lot Traffic:** This is just a reminder that our parking lot is one-way traffic. All vehicles are to enter through the east end of the parking lot and exit through the west end. Though you are susceptible to being ticketed by the police, our bigger concern is the safety of our students, especially during dismissal. I understand how challenging it can be if there are several buses waiting to board students, but I appreciate your patience.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci  
*Principal*

These tips may help your child's reading skills and make reading fun.

- Get a library card for your child. Children love seeing their names on the cards and choosing books they either want to read or have read to them. Many libraries offer story hours and computers for public use.
- Read with your child for at least 20 minutes every night from a broad selection of children's books, including fairy tales, songs, poetry, fiction and nonfiction.
- For beginning readers, point at each word as you read it. This helps children learn that we read from left to right. It also helps children understand that the word they say is the word they see.
- Let your beginning reader read to you.
- Talk with your child about the pictures and what is happening in the story to help develop comprehension skills.
- Read your child's favorite book over and over again. Children love hearing certain stories many times and the repetition helps them connect the sounds they hear with the written words.
- Invite your younger children to join in when you read stories that have rhyming words and lines that repeat.
- Point out new words and explain what they mean.

SOURCE: Adapted from *Summer Reading Achievers* brochure.

## UPCOMING DATES

September 18 – 25	PTO Fund-Raiser
October 8	Open House (6:30 – 7:30)
October 22 – 23	NEA Convention (no school)

