



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
February 3, 2012

“Go Fish” Musical: The UMS whole school musical “Go Fish” is scheduled to be performed at Colchester High School in the theater on Tuesday, February 21 (Anderson, Mulcahy, Hughes, Kelly, Davis and Thibault) and Wednesday, February 22 (Barnes, Helfrich, Barnett, Sorenson, Howard and Marshall). Ms. Mutz has been sending home information. I hope to see you all there for this wonderful annual tradition.

Parent Conferences: Parent conferences are being held from noon to 8:00 PM on March 6 this trimester. Please contact your child’s teacher to schedule a 20 minutes time slot. Last trimester we had a 94% attendance rate. **I’d love to see 100% on March 6!** Staying informed about your child’s progress in school is critical to his or her success.

February PTO Meeting: Our February PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 PM in the library. Please note, we will not be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month (as usual) due to Valentine’s Day.

Picking Your Child Up Early: I want to remind you of something I shared in an earlier newsletter. We understand, from time to time, parents need to pick their child up early from school. **Our procedure is for parents to stay at the front of the building and have the front office call the student down.** This helps us keep accurate records and reduces the number of distractions a classroom teacher has during learning times. I appreciate your support in following this procedure. I would also ask those of you with children in classrooms near the middle doors to refrain from knocking on the windows and/or peeking into the room. It is proving to be disruptive.

CSD Spotlight Blog and Facebook Page: Subscribe to CSD Spotlight (www.csdspotlight.org) and follow Colchester School District on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Colchester-School-District/122128144546675?sk=wall>) for information about our programs, special projects, initiatives and general school-related information.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal

UPCOMING DATES

February 7	PTO Meeting
February 8	Money Smart Workshop at CHS
February 21	“Go Fish” Musical at CHS
February 22	“Go Fish” Musical at CHS

National studies show that the average age when a child first tries alcohol is age 11; for marijuana, it’s 12. Here is some important information to help you talk to your child about alcohol and drugs:

- **Listen carefully.** Student surveys reveal that when parents listen to their children’s feelings and concerns, their kids feel comfortable talking with them and are more likely to stay drug-free.
- **Role play how to say, “No”.** Role play ways in which your child can refuse to go along with his friends without becoming a social outcast. Try something like, “Let’s play a game. Suppose you and your friends are at Andy’s house after school and they find some beer in the refrigerator and ask you to join them in drinking it. The rule in our family is that children are not allowed to drink alcohol. So what could you say?”
- **Encourage choice.** Allow your child plenty of opportunity to become a confident decision-maker. As your child becomes more skilled at making all kinds of good choices, both you and she will feel more secure in her ability to make the right decision concerning alcohol and drugs if and when the time arrives.
- **Provide age-appropriate information.** Make sure the information you offer fits the child’s age and stage of development.
- **Establish a clear family position on drugs.** It’s okay to say, “We don’t allow any drug use and children in this family are not allowed to drink alcohol.”
- **Be a good example.** Children will do what you do more readily than what you say.
- **Discuss what makes a good friend.** Since peer pressure is so important when it comes to kids’ involvement with drugs and alcohol, it makes good sense to talk with your children about what makes a good friend.

SOURCE: “Talking with Kids about the Tough Issues.” *Principal Communicator*, December 2006.