



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
September 30, 2011

PTO Fun Run: The PTO is excited to announce the first annual UMS Fun Run for students, siblings and families on Saturday, November 5. It will be a 1 mile run on Middle Road starting at 9:00 AM with registration from 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM at UMS. More information will be sent home in the following weeks, and we look forward to seeing all of our UMS students, families and friends on November 5. If you have any questions or would like to help with the event, please contact Molly MacArdle at medwards@ccsuvt.org.

Picture Retakes: School pictures should be arriving soon. We will set the retake date at that time and will notify you as soon as possible.

Open House: **Our fall open house will be held on Thursday, October 6 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 so parking is usually an issue. Claussen's allows us to use their parking lot in the evening to help ease the demand. Please note, they cannot accommodate our overflow parking during their business hours.

October PTO Meeting: The October PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 PM in the library. All are welcome to attend these meetings. I hope to see you there.

Handicap Parking Spaces: There are two, clearly marked, handicap parking spaces near the main entrance. I have talked to a couple of parents about not parking there and, unfortunately, two people have been issued warnings by the Colchester Police. Also, please do not block these spaces unless you are with your vehicle and are dropping off your child. **You must find a legal parking space to park your vehicle if you need to enter the building to conduct business.**

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal

UPCOMING DATES

October 6	Open House (6:30 PM – 7:30 PM)
October 11	PTO Meeting
October 21	In-Service (no school for students)
November 5	PTO Fun Run (9:00 AM)

Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. When children aren't in school, or are late, they fall behind. Here are some tips:

- **Report In.** Schools are required to track attendance of every child every day. It is essential that you always contact the school if your child is going to be late for class, will need an early dismissal or will be absent.
- **Religious Absences.** It is inevitable that some families' important religious observances will fall on school days. Let your children's teachers know early in the year precisely which days your children will not be attending or will need to leave early.
- **How Sick Is Too Sick?** It's impossible to say categorically when a child should go to school or stay home. However, one typical guideline is that a child is usually fine to attend school if his or her fever is under 100° and there is no rash, "pink eye," nausea or diarrhea. If a doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to school.
- **Faking It?** A child complaining of nausea will probably be paler in color and slightly sweaty and will need to vomit more than once. Send your child to school if you don't see a real symptom, knowing the school nurse will contact you if things change.
- **Vacation Plans.** It's tempting to pull your kids from school for a family trip, but it's a bad idea. Why? First, it gives your children the impression that their schooling is not your top priority. And when they miss classwork, even if you ask for make-up work to be sent home ahead of time, they can fall behind because they're missing many hours of instructional time each day. Instead of thinking of how you can miss the crowds by taking trips during the school year, think about what it could be costing your child in the long run.
- **Check Those Appointments.** Schedule your kids' doctor and dental appointments for after-school or weekend hours unless there's an emergency.

Finally, remember to show and tell your children that attendance is important – whether it's as a child in school or an adult on the job. You'll be helping them succeed, both in school and in life.

SOURCE: Adapted from *NAESP Report to Parents* brochure.