



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
September 9, 2011

School Opening: WOW – What a great opening to the school year! We've had a wonderful first couple of weeks of school. The open houses and kindergarten orientation were all well attended and the students and teachers all seem happy and eager to learn. Everyone knows how important it is to get off to a good start. This is going to be a great year.

PTO Organizational Meeting: The first PTO meeting of the new school year will be held on Tuesday, September 13 starting at 6:30 PM in the library. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow PTO members and learn about the various volunteer opportunities. The PTO traditionally meets on the second Tuesday of the month. I hope to see you there.

Fall PTO Fund-Raiser: You should receive a packet from Meadow Farms with gift catalogues and an order form in your child's backpack this afternoon. Our Fall Fund Raising Event ends on September 23. Our school gets up to 50% from each sale and our sales target this year is \$8,000 yielding \$4,000 in net profits. If you choose not to buy anything and would rather make a donation, by all means we would be grateful for any contributions. Please make checks payable to UMS PTO.

Title I Screening: For the next few weeks, the Title I staff will be screening students in reading and math. Students are screened based on referrals from the classroom teachers. You will be notified in writing if your child qualifies for Title I support.

School Pictures: School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 14. Please note picture packages must be purchased in advance. If the money and envelope are not received before the picture is taken, your child will have to do a make-up in order to receive a package. If you choose not to purchase a package, your child's picture will still be taken for the yearbook and all children receive a copy of the class picture. Finally, we will set the make-up date once the pictures arrive.

Family Handbook: We no longer have the family handbook professionally printed. This results in an annual savings of \$750 and a better environment. I am asking that you avail yourself of the electronic handbook, but we will distribute hard copies for those who require one. Simply call Ms. Burgess in the front office and she will send one home with your child.

Picking Your Child Up Early: 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.

Walking Your Child Down in the Morning: Some parents like to walk their child down to his or her classroom in the mornings. Though we allow this, we do ask for your cooperation about a couple of things. First, this is an incredibly busy time for a classroom teacher and she can't be caught up with a lengthy discussion. Also, separation is hard for some students and the teacher can't be expected to negotiate that every day. Saying "Goodbye" to your child on the playground when the bell rings fosters independence and makes for an easier transition.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal

UPCOMING DATES

September 13	PTO Organizational Meeting (6:30 PM)
September 14	School Pictures
September 23	PTO Fund-Raiser ends
October 6	Open House (6:30 PM)