

April 2009

Dear Prosperity Heights Families:

The snow has melted and soon the plants will start growing and flowers will blossom. We are also watching the children learn and grow and are reminded of how fast time flies. Their yearly development results in amazing changes over a few short months. Think back to the beginning of this school year, and you will recognize how much your children have learned, how tall they have grown, and how much more capable they have become. It's good for all of us to realize that the children are developing into smart, strong young people, and we had a hand in helping them get here.

April is testing month in Minnesota. The MCA-II's will be administered to students in grades 3-6 on April 14, 15, 21, and 22. These tests measure how well students have learned grade level concepts and skills in reading and math. Please help your child prepare for the tests by getting a good night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast. We offer free breakfast at school, so encourage them to get to school early enough to eat breakfast on test days.

Next year, we would like to offer childcare at Prosperity Heights before and after school. This service would help parents whose work hours go beyond the school hours. If you or someone you know would be interested in putting their Prosperity Heights student in the before or after childcare program at school, please call Marilyn Lindstrom at 651-293-8695.

Speaking of before and after school, the new drop-off and pick-up routines are making the arrival and dismissal times much safer for our students. Thank you to the adults who have changed your habits to help us make these times safer. The only real danger we still need to address concerns the adults who walk across Prosperity Avenue at the end of the day in the middle of the block. Jaywalking is not only illegal; it's also very dangerous in heavy traffic. If you can't use the drop-off and pick-up zone on the school side of Prosperity Avenue, please send a note to your child's teacher asking for your child to cross at the crosswalk. Your child can cross the street with the patrols, and you can wait in your car for him or her to walk to your car. That way, our children will remain safe and learn to follow pedestrian laws, and you won't endanger yourself or your child walking in front of moving traffic. As always, I am open to your suggestions and help to figure out the best ways to make the arrival and dismissal times as safe and efficient as possible.

We are also hiring for next year. We are looking for three people who can work at Prosperity Heights next year as Minnesota Reading Corps members. Minnesota Reading Corps is part of the Americorps program. This is a great opportunity to advance your career, receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, and childcare, and receive money for education. Minnesota Reading Corps members work with students to help them learn to read. If this opportunity interests you, please check out their website at www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org and call me at 651-293-8695.

Happy Spring!

Stacey Kadrmas, Principal