

October 1, 2009

Dear Prosperity Heights Families:

Now that school is underway for the 2009-2010 year, we've settled into the routines of the day and are beginning to catch our breath here at school. It has been a great start-up for us, and we're so glad you are sending your children to Prosperity. Any time you have questions or concerns about what is happening at school, please stop by to ask and talk to me or another staff member. We need and appreciate your feedback.

Good news: this year, we were named a *Lab School* for the district's new Mondo reading curriculum. As a *Lab School*, Prosperity Heights hosts professional development sessions for district personnel to learn about the new reading curriculum and to watch demonstration lessons. It is an honor for our school to receive this distinction, which our teachers have earned through their dedication and hard work. Way to go, Prosperity teachers!

Another piece of good news is that we are also working with the city of St. Paul to develop a free after-school program at Prosperity Heights for our families who need a safe place for their children while the parents are at work or school. This will be available five days a week for families whose parents or guardians work fulltime or go to school fulltime. Once the partnership is established, we will advertise it and let families know how to register. If you would like more information about the program now, please talk to me or the school secretary.

The morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times are running smoothly, thanks to the students, parents, and staff who are following the procedures and watching out for student safety. This is a reminder that we always drop off students on Prosperity Avenue where we have student patrols and staff members watching and helping with student arrivals from 7:30-8:00 A.M. Please do not drop off children on Ivy Street, as that area becomes very congested with traffic and parked cars during the winter. After school, the routine is slowly becoming smoother. Please pick up your children on Prosperity Avenue on the school side of the street where we are lined up and waiting. We will not let students cross the avenue unattended, and we ask adults to please NOT cross in the middle of the block between parked cars. If you are parked across the street, it is safest to walk to the crosswalk rather than to jaywalk in the middle of the block. We are always watching out for the safety of our families and hope you support our efforts by following the pick-up and drop-off routines we have established.

Next year, we won't have to worry about the heavy traffic on Prosperity Avenue, because we have been awarded funding for a paved drop-off area and a new paved parking lot! That means that we will have a safe place for drop-offs and pick-ups that is not located on a crowded, busy street. As soon as I learn more about the project, I will let everyone know the details.

If you notice men in white working around the school in the coming weeks, they are district painters who are giving our school a fresh coat of paint. They will be working away from children during the school day, using non-toxic, safe paint on our walls. The building will look even better when they are finished!

Prosperity Heights is an amazing neighborhood school that enriches this neighborhood and receives great support and nourishment from the community. As we work with you and your children, we are grateful to be here. As we welcome new families, we see the strengths within the community. We know that the strength and stability within this school becomes strength and stability within the neighborhood. We want your involvement with the school. Please attend our

Parent-Teacher Group and Site Council meetings to learn more about our program and to offer your insight to help us become better. As a team, we will make this the best neighborhood school around!

Sincerely,
Stacey Kadrmas, Principal