



Marion Cross

Principal's Newsletter

September 7, 2005

Marion Cross
Website

www.marioncross.org

Calendar

- 9/7 School Board Meeting 7:00
(Marion Cross Library)
- 9/13 Curriculum Night
Grade 1 5:30
Grade 5 7:00
- 9/14 Bike-to-School Day
- 9/14 Curriculum Night
Kindergarten 5:30
Grade 4 7:00
- 9/20 Curriculum Night
Grade 2 5:30
- 9/22 Curriculum Night
Grade 3 5:30
Grade 6 7:00
- 10/25 K-3 Open House
4:30-6:00
- 10/27 4-6 Open House
4:30-6:00

School's In!!!!!!!

With only a few glitches, mainly involving our buses, the school year has opened on a very positive note. Our opening day assembly featured some of the best all-school singing that has been heard around here in many years. Credit goes to our older students for setting a terrific example with their participation and conduct during this assembly.

By Day 2, students and teachers were right back in the routine, and it felt as if we had never left. I'd like to thank all of the parents for having the kids so well prepared for the start of school. Or should I be thanking the kids for having the parents so well prepared?

Please make sure Emergency Cards and other information is returned to us as soon as possible.

Bus Issues

We have been short one bus driver so far. This was an unanticipated problem that has led to some scrambling to make everything work. As a result, some students have been getting to the Middle and High Schools a bit late in the morning. We should have this worked out soon, perhaps by the time you read this.

Parents dropping off Middle and High School students need to use the Church Street drop-off point or the St. Barnabas Church parking lot rather than coming in the bus driveway. When cars are in the way of buses trying to enter the school grounds, the whole system gets backed up. Thank you.

Trivia Results

Mrs. Voake's favorite
book is.....

The Once and Future King
by T.H. White

Congratulations to:

Ellie Gorham	Grade 6
Rupert Barraclough	Grade 4
Alina Kline-Schoder	Grade 3
Ellen Marcus	Grade 6



Mother Nature, a.k.a. Donna Mackall

On the weekend before school started, several MCS families joined together to help “green up” the school grounds. Thanks to the efforts of Donna Mackall (Meredith grade 3, Henry grade 1, Michael kindergarten, Hillary sometime in the future) we had a tremendous amount of pruning and weeding done along the Church St. entrance and along the front of the school. Donna was also responsible for coordinating the planting and care of the gardens along the first grade/kindergarten side of the building. Families shared the watering responsibility throughout the summer, and results speak for themselves! I was shocked at the beautiful cucumber delivered to me by Peter Bensen this summer while he was here helping with the watering and weeding. Many thanks to Donna, the PTO, and the many families who pitched in to make the school look terrific!

Parent Handbook

Please take a few minutes to look through the Parent Handbook sent home last week (bright green book...if you don't know what I'm talking about, please refer to the cartoon at the end of this newsletter). Even if you have been here for a few years, you may wish to refresh your memory on items such as **Emergency Closing/School Cancellations** (p.7) or the **Local Action Plan** (p. 26 & 28). I often find that people ask me questions that can be answered right in the Handbook. Don't get me wrong, it's not that I mind answering questions, but you might get answers to questions you don't even have yet if you take some time to peruse the Handbook. If you find that the Handbook is missing information that would be useful, please let me know, and I will see if it can be included in the future.

Curriculum Nights/Open House

The calendar section on the first page of this newsletter has the dates for the various grade level Curriculum Nights and the two Open Houses. The Curriculum Nights are intended for parents (without kids) to meet with their children's teachers to review the basic curriculum plan for the year. Curriculum Overviews will be handed out that night. These color-coded pamphlets are, I believe, unique to Marion Cross as a way for you to have a basic outline of what to expect this year. These overviews are also available on our website.

The Open Houses are for both students and parents (and siblings, grandparents, favorite aunts, etc.) to come in and see what the students have actually been working on during the first part of the school year. These will be held on two nights, grades K-3 coming on one night and grades 4-6 on another. The open houses are set up so that families can come and go throughout the designated time.

Homework Club

We will be starting up our Homework Club, however, due to schedule changes, we have to find an alternative staffing arrangement. I hope to have it up and running by next week.