

February 17, 2011

Dear Parents,

January flew by and now we are nearly through the month of February! We have a number of things that will be happening at Anson Elementary in the last weeks of February and the first part of March.

Please remember our winter parent-teacher conferences scheduled for the first week of March. The winter conferences are equally as important as our fall conferences. Students and teachers take this time to share the growth made to this point and highlight those skills that must be mastered by the end of the school year. Your presence at these conferences is very important. Your input and participation is important to us!

The safety of our students is of great concern to us. That concern includes your child's coming to school and going home. Therefore, we make every attempt to call parents if a child is absent and we require that a parent notify us if the after-school plans have changed. Please remember to call the school in the event that your child is absent. It is equally important for you to notify us of changes in after-school plans. If your routine has changed for any reason, you must notify us of that through a note or telephone call. Otherwise, children will be required to do what they normally do after school. We cannot depend upon a child to tell us. That information must come from you. Please make sure that we have received those messages at least 15 minutes before dismissal. We need that much time to get the many messages that we receive to teachers and students.

The cold and flu season is in full swing. We ask that you keep your child(ren) at home if he or she isn't feeling well or running a temperature. Coming to school just exposes the rest of the class to illness. Because ill students have needed to go home during the school day, we have found that some of the emergency contact information that parents had given us at registration is no longer accurate. If you have changes in emergency contact information, please remember to contact us so that we might change our records. Also, changes in address and telephone numbers are important for you to share with the office staff.

Remember, also, that students should not arrive at school in the mornings until 8:10 AM. Supervision on the playground for all students does not begin until then. Also, remember that our regular dismissal time is 3:20 PM, except on Wednesdays when we dismiss at 2:20 PM for school improvement activities. When children need to wait much beyond that time, they become concerned that they have been forgotten. It is, also, important for you to note that supervision concludes 15 minutes after dismissal. It is, then, that teachers are in their rooms finalizing the events of the day or preparing for the next day. And, on Wednesdays, they are in in-service meetings.

We continue to collect Boxtops for Education. Some expiration dates are approaching. Please check your boxtops and send any that you have been saving for us – especially

those that are dated near the end of February or March. Our volunteer will collect those and get them mailed in for our cash refund, which will be added to our field trip and assembly fund.

A few other dates that you might choose to add to your calendar include:

March 17th – Chris Cakes is returning to us again this year for an evening of fun, laughter and pancake eating. Special math activities will be going on in classrooms after the meal. Watch a future Thursday envelope for more information about that event.

The current district plans include the beginning of a 4-year old preschool classroom at Anson Elementary in the fall. On April 2, preschool registration for the 2010-2011 school year will be held in the Lenihan commons area. Preschool classes are also held at the Franklin, Hoglan, Rogers and Woodbury sites. Sign-up will take place from 10 AM – 12:30 PM. There is a \$25 registration fee due when you sign up. Students must be 4 years of age by September 15, 2011. Families should bring a birth certificate to confirm eligibility. Please share this opportunity with your friends and family!

Miss Niblock