



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3709 S. 46TH ST., LINCOLN, NE 68506 • 402-436-1130

August 26, 2009

Dear Calvert Families,

We are off to a terrific start, thanks to the efforts of our students, staff and you! We will have a great year!

Communication is the Key-to making the most of our partnership on behalf of our children. Please look for this bi-weekly letter, printed on goldenrod paper, to come home with your child in the Wednesday Folder. We always invite your calls, emails and visits.

Monthly Menu Information-The breakfast and lunch menus will be sent home at the end of every month for the next month's meals. A calendar of special events and the specialists' schedule are also listed. We hope you find this information helpful!

Schedules-Thank you for making our beginning of the year schedules work! With the early dismissal and Professional Learning Community days, you had to make special arrangements for your child. We appreciate your support.

No School-School will not be in session on Monday, September 7, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Student Update-We currently have 382 students including our 47 students in the ExCite preschool program. Class sizes range from 18 to 25 students.

Arrival/Dismissal Plan, Census Forms, Interest Inventory, and Parent Provided Information-Families received a mailing in early August with these forms enclosed. Many of you have returned the four forms and we thank you. We need a response for every child, and we will be sending out new forms to those of you who have not yet returned the information. We need and appreciate the information you share!

Assigned Doors for Arrival and Dismissal-We thank you for your efforts to see that your child arrives at his/her assigned door each morning between 8:00 and 8:10 a.m. Students who participate in the breakfast program are escorted to their rooms by supervising staff. When students begin the day in a calm, supervised space, they are better able to focus on their important job of learning.

Influenza Prevention-Please look for the letter from Superintendent Gourley regarding influenza prevention in today's Wednesday Folder.

School Rules and Behavior Expectations-Our efforts are focused on the following research based tenets.

- Teaching and supporting appropriate behavior will facilitate the academic achievement and healthy social development of all children.
- If the entire learning community (parents included) clearly understands the school rules and behavior expectations, we can make significant progress in ensuring a supportive learning environment for all students.
- Research shows that positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior supports the continuation of such behavior.

Calvert staff has worked to develop clear student rules and behavior expectations. Last week, staff focused on teaching our students the behavior expectations for all areas of our school. Our goal is to “catch kids being good”. When students know that their positive behavior is clearly defined, recognized and reinforced, they are more likely to respond with positive behavior choices. All staff members will be handing out “Reward Tickets” to students displaying appropriate behaviors. The tickets are then placed in the classroom “fishbowl”. Teachers are implementing a reward system for students when they reach classroom and/or individual goals. We will continue to work on supporting student behavior, and with your help and input, we will develop a strong system of positive behavior support for students. Please let me know if you have questions.

PTSO Budget Meeting and News-The Parent Teacher Student/Staff Organization (PTSO) will hold their annual budget meeting at El Toro Restaurant in the Van Dorn Plaza on September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

The first PTSO meeting of the school year was held last night with over 20 members attending. First time attendees and committee chairs were recognized. We invite all parents to attend the next meeting which will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

The annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held on October 1 and 6 during the first semester parent/teacher conferences. Please watch for more information!

To Think About-Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. *Helen Keller*

Sincerely,

Michelle Suarez
Principal