

September 5, 2007

Dear Calvert Families,

As we enter our third week of school, we marvel at how our Abbott experience is coming together to ensure high levels of learning for your child! Students have learned new routines and behavior expectations. Staff has adapted to any challenge that our new location brings, and I know they will continue to make our Abbott adventure work for your child. Parents, you are getting the children to bed earlier and getting them up earlier to catch that bus. Below you will find more bus information. We are all learning together in our new Abbott adventures. We thank you for your phone calls, emails and visits! We truly appreciate everyone's efforts and flexibility!

Student Learning-is our main focus at Calvert School. Research indicates that influences on student achievement can be categorized in the following way.

- 49% of student achievement can be determined from home/family influence
- 8% of student achievement can be determined from class size
- 43% of student achievement can be determined from the quality of education provided

When children come to us who are well-nourished emotionally and physically, they are better able to focus on their learning. We thank you for sending your child ready to learn!

Reading at Home—We will begin the “Calvert Reads” school wide reading program today. Students have been asking about it and some teachers may have already started this program with their students. Again this year, we expect that every student will read at home each week. Reading at home will be a part of your child's reading homework and your child's efforts will be reflected on the quarterly report card. Students in grades K-2 read for 10 minutes for five nights of the week for a total of 50 minutes per week. Students in grades 3-5 read for 15 minutes for five nights per week for a total of 75 minutes each week. A blue recording sheet will be sent home each Wednesday.

The ability to read well is the foundation for success in school and in life. We know that there is a dramatic correlation between the reading done at home and your child's reading achievement at school. The more your child reads at home, the better reader your child is and the better s/he achieves at school. You play a critical role in shaping your child's reading habits. Thank you in advance!

Reading on the Bus!-Your child should have the “Bus Bag” with him/her each time he/she boards the bus. It should contain a spiral notebook, a personal reading book and a pencil. Beginning Monday, September 10th, students will be asked to read on the bus ride for 10 to 15 minutes. These reading minutes can count towards the “Calvert Reads” program as shared above. Once we get our reading and journaling in place, students will be provided sketchbooks to be

used under the direction of our Creative Expression Specialist Amy Allerheiligen. Please encourage your child to take good care of his/her bus bag because we will be adding activities throughout the school year.

Bus Evacuation Drill-The Transportation Department will conduct bus evacuation drills on Tuesday, September 18th on the afternoon routes. Students will arrive at their home bus stop approximately 15 to 20 minutes late.

Bus Safety at Bus Stops-We ask you to require that your child practice good safety procedures when getting on and off the bus each time. A parent has called to express concerns about children crossing in the middle of the street with oncoming traffic. Children should use the nearest crosswalk, or at a minimum, be escorted across the street by a parent.

Bus Communication!-We take morning and afternoon attendance on each bus so that we know where all students are at all times. If your child will not be riding the morning bus, a note or call is appreciated. If your child will not be riding the afternoon bus, a phone call or note must be provided to the office staff. If you need to make a last minute pick-up at Abbott, please just call the school office to let us know! Thank you!

Mourning Hope-is a non-profit grief support network for children, teens, young adults and their families who are grieving the serious illness of a family member or death of someone significant in their lives. Registration is being accepted for a Sept. 10-Nov. 19 series, and an Oct. 30-Jan. 15 series. Mourning Hope is located in University Place at 4919 Baldwin Avenue. For more information or to register, call (402) 488-8989.

School Rules and Behavior Expectations-As explained in the August 22nd newsletter, we are focusing on teaching and reinforcing positive student behavior. Staff members hand out “reward tickets” to children who display appropriate behaviors during each week. The reward tickets are then placed in a classroom “fishbowl” from which two lucky winners are drawn each week. This week’s prizes are t-shirts that were donated to Calvert School by the Abbott Sports Complex staff!

Grill Out Day-is coming! Please join your child on Friday, September 14th at your child’s lunch time for a meal that features hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a towel or blanket on which to eat because we will sit on the floor of the cafeteria, or weather permitting, we will eat on the grass outside. Also, the cafeteria staff requests that you bring small bills and/or exact change for the \$2.65 meal charge.

To Think About-In time of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future. Those who have finished learning find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists. Ron DeLong

Sincerely,

Michelle Suarez
Principal