

THE ELMWOOD EAGLE

Office: 586 - 435 - 1100

SLS Website: www.solake.org

Morning Entry into School

To ensure a calm and safe entry into school for all students, we ask that students line up at their designated entry in the mornings. Teachers are reviewing the following procedures with students:

- Line up at the entrance nearest the classroom. Teachers will be on door duty at 8:15 AM to ensure supervision of students prior to and during entry.
- Younger students who line up around the back of the building may ask a safety posted at the front entrance to walk them to their designated entrance.
- When we have an "indoor wait" due to inclement or cold weather conditions, students will be admitted to the building to wait in line outside their classrooms.
- Entrance doors will be unlocked for a five minute period after the bell, to allow students entry for a brief period after the bell rings. This allows students entry to the building who actually arrived at school before the bell rings, but don't reach their entrance on time.
- When no students and teachers are lined up outside, this means the morning bell has already rung. When this happens, students should enter through the front doors and check in at the office.

Nominations for Teacher of the Year

Each year, the South Lake School community is invited to submit nominations for the Macomb County Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. We invite parents to submit the name of an Elmwood teacher you would like to nominate for this honor. A nomination form (half sheet) was sent home earlier. Please fill out the form on the teacher you would like to nominate, and return it to the Elmwood School Office by **Friday, February 3**. You can also stop in the office to fill out a form. Thank you for nominating an Elmwood teacher!

Attendance Line (24 hours) 586-435-1150

For the safety of your child or children, please call by 8:30am to report their absence.

If your child will be late and needs a hot lunch, please let us know. Lunches are ordered by 9:00 a.m. [Thank you for calling in!](#)

Mid-Winter Break

School will be closed Friday, February 17 and Monday, February 20, 2012 for South Lake's Mid-Winter Break. School reopens Tuesday, February 21. Enjoy!

School Closings

Below is a list of stations South Lake Schools will contact in the event of a school closing:

TV: FOX (2), WDIV (4) and WXYZ (7)
South Lake's Website: www.solake.org

Spring Pictures

Students will have their pictures taken on Thursday, February 23. No money is needed at this time. You will receive information for ordering. [There will be no retake day.](#)

P.E. News

Want to know what the kids are doing in Mrs. Conlan's physical education class? Check out her website at www.schoolnotes.com. All you have to do is put in the district's zip code (48080) and you will find an updated schedule of units that we are working on. You will also find suggested homework for the kids to do, so that they stay active. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Conlan at mconlan@solake.org.

Upcoming Fifth Grade Transition Events

It's hard to believe it's time to begin preparing our fifth graders for life at South Lake Middle School next fall! We have some great events and activities coming up for upper elementary students and parents, to help prepare everyone for a smooth transition from fifth grade at Elmwood, to sixth grade at South Lake Middle School next fall.

Parent Orientation Meeting at SLMS: Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

Fifth Grade Student Orientation at SLMS: Friday, Feb. 3. Students will have a building tour, meet some SLMS teachers, rotate through a variety of classrooms, eat lunch, and participate in fun activities in the gym.

Two opportunities for Elmwood students to learn about learning opportunities as they transition to SLMS include the following. Dates have not been determined yet, but further information and permission slips will be sent home well in advance of these activities.

- **Fifth graders will attend a “Regatta” at SLHS, in which they will sit “pool-side”** to watch the middle school students compete in their boat regatta as part of their Forces in Motion class. This is a great way for elementary students to see their learning of forces in motion put to work in a real life application.
- **Fifth graders will also visit South Lake Middle School to see some classroom learning activities in action.** They will see a student debate, learn about Yearbook activities, and see a DNA activity in a science class.

We are also planning to have some of our outstanding South Lake Middle School students visit our fourth and fifth grade classrooms Wednesday, January 25. This will give our Elmwood students an opportunity to ask SLMS students questions about how things work at SLMS—from classes and homework, electives, to how to find their way around the school.

Finally, we will be hosting a Parent to Parent Meeting at Elmwood, at which time SLMS Parents can share their experiences and answer Elmwood Parents' questions about “life at SLMS” from a parent perspective. We'll send information about the date as soon as it becomes available.

Immunization Update for 5th Grade Students

Michigan law requires that all students be immunized against vaccine preventable diseases to attend school. **All current 5th grade students** will be subject to immunization reporting and updating of immunizations to meet current requirements, regardless of when the student entered the district. TD, polio, MMR, hepatitis B, chicken pox vaccine and meningococcal conjugate vaccines will be required.

Your child will not be able to attend school in the fall, even on the first day, if their shot record is not up-to-date.

If you receive a letter from the Middle School office, please bring in a current shot record as soon as possible. Thank you!

Please Keep Dogs off School Grounds

***By law, dogs must be leashed and kept on sidewalks only during school hours.** Dogs are permitted on school grounds only during non-school hours (i.e., evenings and weekends).

*If it is important to you to walk your dogs to or from school with your children, please remain on the sidewalk with them. Please also be aware that some of our students are allergic to pets, and some may be frightened of even gentle animals.

***Please remember to clean up dog waste, as we have unfortunately had incidents of students needing to call home for clean shoes or clothes after stepping in dog messes. Thank you for your cooperation!**

Emergency Information

Whenever you have a change in any information (phone numbers, email address, work numbers or new address) please notify the office immediately so our records are updated and current. Thank you!

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your families enjoyed time together, celebrating and sharing the customs and traditions that you hold dear. During the month of December, our students had many opportunities to learn about the celebrations of many different cultures, increasing their understanding of the commonalities that exist between us all. Students were able to learn and share their findings through art, movement, literature, food, and music. The Primary Years Programme helps teachers to focus on the use of inquiry and fostering student curiosity to engage them in their learning. Additionally, the program allows planning that helps to develop the whole child ~ meeting social, emotional, academic, and physical needs. Please be sure to encourage your child to share their learning opportunities.

Excitement is in the air as we begin to plan and prepare for our Authorization Visits by teams from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) later this spring. Members of IBO will be spending two days at each building that is seeking Authorization. They will be meeting with students, staff, and community members to gain an understanding of our progress. The staffs have been working collaboratively to develop and implement the units of inquiry and completing training over the past several years. The visiting teams will provide feedback to each school, making recommendations of what needs to be accomplished (if anything) to become an authorized school. To become an Authorized School is a very prestigious accomplishment. **South Lake Schools are the only Primary Years Programme Candidate schools in all of Macomb County!** The Primary Years Programme provides the skills, concepts, and experiences that will prepare our students to become successful globally-minded citizens of the 21st century.

If you have questions, or would like additional information about the Primary Years Programme (PYP), please contact me at (586)435-1115 or email me at cmerivirta@solake.org.

Candice Merivirta, PYP Coordinator

Dressing Children for Cold Weather

As the weather turns colder, please be sure your children come to school dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Students will be more comfortable indoors with long sleeves and a light sweater or sweatshirt.

Students should arrive every day dressed to go out for recess. Most days, children will line up before school outside and have outdoor recess, unless the temperature or windchill is at or below 20° F. Please help us ensure the safety of your children in cold weather by sending them to school in warm jackets, hats, mittens, and leggings or ski pants.

The Closet is a great resource for warm, gently used clothes (see hours below). Please call Mrs. Dudas or Dr. Terry if you need further assistance providing cold weather gear for your children.

Finally, if you drop your children off or they walk to school, please make sure they are not arriving before 8:10 AM, as we do not want them waiting in the cold for longer than 10 minutes before school.

The Closet News

23500 Pare, St. Clair Shores
Hours: Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm
Donna Liccardello: 586-850-8522

The Closet will only be open on Thursdays until shut down, which will begin on February 24. This leaves five more closet visits to obtain the winter items you may need. When the Closet reopens in the spring, it will continue with its normal schedule. Watch for more information.

Ordering Lunch

Please remind your child or children if they are having a hot lunch to be sure they **order it with the teacher on the day they want it (daily)**. If a lunch is not ordered, your child will not receive the menu hot lunch.

Extra entrees cost \$1.25 for everyone and also should be ordered with the teacher. They must have the \$1.25 in their account to receive the extra entree. Thank you!

VIDEO GAME SAFETY

We have many children at school who talk about playing violent video games at home or at a friend's house. These videos can glamorize violence and desensitize children to its effects.

Parents and other adults may not always be aware of video game content and ratings. Please check to ensure your children are playing age appropriate video games. Video games that are rated "M" for "mature" and are not appropriate for elementary children.

Working together, we can ensure children are not exposed to violent video content. Please see the PTA article below and visit pta.org for more information.

PTA Parent - Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Guiding Your Family's Video Game Play

The fifth in a six-part series on media and technology use

If you have a video game system at home, it's likely to get a lot of use over your kids' spring break; if you don't, your kids may be playing video games at a friend's house.

Video games and interactive play are great ways for children to learn. Plus, some new video games can even help your children become more physically active. But video games can also involve violent content and may not be appropriate for all ages. Read on for more advice for making video games safer for your kids.

Always check game ratings before you let your children play a particular game, and take advantage of the built-in parental controls most new game systems have to make monitoring what your kids play a little easier. Some of the more advanced games involve the use of computer and Internet networks, so be sure you also monitor who your child is connecting with and how.

Here are a couple more tips to help you make sure your family enjoys video games without the risk of exposure to something inappropriate:

Play the games with your children.

Establish a **media use contract** with each child in your family.

Go to pta.org/ to learn more.

Visit the [Media Safety page](#) at PTA.org to watch short videos about the ESRB Video Game Rating System, Parental Controls, and Online-Enabled Video Games. You can also download A Parent's Guide to Video Games, Parental Controls and Online Safety ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).

Other Media Tip Sheets:

[Music](#)

[Television](#)

[Movies](#)

[Internet](#)

PARENTS: Please read the South Lake Board Policy 9150 for important guidelines about visiting school.

We welcome your interest in your child's education, and deeply appreciate what our parent volunteers do for our students and staff.

We know that teachers have previously communicated with parents about volunteer opportunities and arrangements in individual classrooms. This policy is not meant to change those arrangements. As always, please check with your child's teacher about how they set up volunteer work in classrooms.

As always, our top priorities are the safety of our students and preserving instructional time in classrooms so children may learn. The Board policy was developed with these priorities in mind.

Please note: all visitors to school must sign in at the school office (see item B).

9150 - SCHOOL VISITORS

In order to protect the educational program of the schools from undue disturbance, each principal shall establish guidelines and procedures for visitors which shall include the following:

- A. Persons wishing to visit one or more schools are to make arrangement in advance through the school office of each school to be visited.
- B. Every visitor to a school must register at the school office. Sign-in lists showing name, time, person visiting, and time departing shall be maintained by the office. Any person who does not register with the school office is on school property without authorization and should be asked to identify himself/herself properly and obtain permission or to leave the school grounds. If the visitor refuses to leave the school grounds or creates any disturbance, the building principal should request aid from the Superintendent.
- C. No visitor may see a student in school unless it is with the specific approval of the principal. If an emergency situation requires that a student be called to the office to meet with a visitor, a member of the administrative staff must be present during the conference. A student is never to be permitted to leave the school with anyone who is not clearly identified as his/her parent or an appropriately authorized person.
- D. Students may not bring guests to school unless permission to do so has been granted by the principal.
- E. Parents, other than those who have been asked by a teacher to be in the classroom, who wish to observe learning activities taking place in their child's classroom are to confer, in advance, with the principal and the teacher and state the purpose of the visitation.

It is important that each parent understands that because classroom visitations can be distracting to the students, the following guidelines have been established:

1. Visitations will not be allowed during examinations and independent study periods.
2. A visitation should be no longer than fifty-five (55) minutes or one (1) class period.
3. The number of visitors at any one (1) time should not exceed two (2) parents.
4. The frequency of visits for any student's parents should be no more than one (1) every four (4) weeks and the aggregate number of nonstaff visits per week should not exceed two (2).
5. Parents are to be silent observers and are not to create any type of disturbance or disruption to the learning process.
6. Copies of instructional materials being used by the students or teacher may not always be immediately available during the visitation.

7. Any comments made by individual students are to be maintained in confidence by the visitor to the activity.

8. Use of audio or visual equipment to record classroom activities must be approved by the principal and the teacher. No visitor shall be allowed to videotape students in the classroom, without the prior consent of the principal, as it may violate the privacy rights of students unrelated to the visitor. Recording of other school activities to which the public is invited will be in accordance with AG 9160 - Attendance at Public Events.

9. Any comments or concerns are to be discussed with the teacher before or after the school day when students are not present.

A copy of these guidelines (Form 9150 F1) is to be given to and signed by each nonstaff visitor to a classroom as an indication that s/he understands the guidelines.

Visitors are to be encouraged to meet with the principal and teacher during noninstructional hours to discuss the observation and to obtain answers to their questions. If a parent has a concern about what may be transpiring in his/her child's classroom, s/he should follow the Board's Policy 9130 which states that the parent is to address the matter first with the teacher and, if not rectified, to then meet with the principal.

F. No staff member is to transact business with a visitor who

1. does not have visitor's pass.

2. has not duly registered at the school office and received authorization to be present for the purpose of conducting business.

If a disabled person should visit a school and request accommodation and s/he has not submitted the Request for Accommodation Form 9160A F1, in advance, the principal should ask the person to allow the school adequate time to arrange for the accommodation, providing such accommodation is reasonable (see AG 9160A).

Each principal shall post in a conspicuous place at each entrance, the guidelines and procedures to be followed by visitors.