

Around the Round!

November 2009

Round School Family!

As the fall season comes to an end, and the flu season starts winding down (we can only hope!), things continue full blast here at Round. Fall is my favorite season by far and the colors this year have been fantastic. Then the leaves fall and it gets depressing outside, but not inside, at Round.

I want to thank the whole staff who played a part in the MEAP tests for 3rd and 4th grades, which is basically everybody. Teachers did a great job preparing our students for the test. It's a stressful time for our staff and students but we made it through and hopefully had some success.

As always Halloween was a blast this year. The theme was cartoon characters. I veered from my usual "green" theme and pulled out Mr. Incredible (though the hair spray turned my hair green). It was nice not having to deal with face paint this time and I enjoyed my new found muscles! The staff looked great and we really enjoyed sharing the Halloween experience with our students.

There were several field trips to the Bulloch Farm for the first time this year. It was a great experience for our students at a place that is right next door. It was educational and fun. We also kicked off our Accelerated Reader Super Bowl competition for our 3rd and 4th grade students. High School football coach Marcus Dukes brought a few players to Round to talk about the importance of reading and teamwork. We are looking forward to another successful year with this program.

I would also like to thank our teaching staff for the dedicated work they do everyday for our students. I want to publicly acknowledge their efforts in making Round School the best it can be. Please read through the following information of guidelines and upcoming events. Our staff thank you for your support and all that you do for your child's education.

Dave Minsker, Principal



School Phone Numbers

Main office: (810) 626-2800

Absence Line: (810) 626-2805

***Please note that all calls concerning absences must be called in to the Absence Line, not the main office.**

School Hours

School Hours: 8:55 – 3:45

Half Day Dismissal: 12:10

***Please note that students are not permitted in the building until 8:50. For parents who drop off their children in the morning, there will not be supervision outside the doors until 8:40.**

Parking

As in years past, parking is limited to the two parking lots as you immediately enter school property. The drive directly in front of the building is reserved only for busses. For the safety of our children, please do not drive or park in the area in front of the building. A reminder that the parking spot labeled “VIP Parking” in the west lot is reserved for the Bester family and the spot on the east lot is reserved for the Waldron family. They won the parking spots at the celebrity auction last year. Please refrain from parking in those two spots. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Bus Stop Reminders

A reminder to all parents, it is required that parents wait at the bus stop with their child in the morning and be there to pick up in the afternoon. Supervision is extremely important at the bus stop. Please understand that the bus stop is considered school property, so negative behaviors that warrant consequences at school are also in effect at the bus stop. Every classroom will be addressed about negative behaviors at the bus stop and what could happen if school rules are broken there. Please reiterate that message to your children as we work together to make our bus stops a safe place to be.

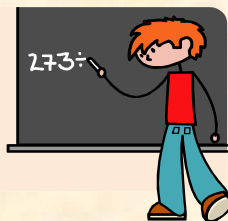


Sign-In Procedure

I would like to thank everyone for adhering to the safety and security plan we have here at Round Elementary School. We are dedicated in providing a safe environment conducive to learning. We will also ensure that all students acquire and use the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. We are looking forward to working with you to achieve those goals and we appreciate everyone's understanding of what it takes to make our building safe. We have also taken measures to maximize instructional time throughout the school day. Checking in at the office and monitoring all visitors going through the building is an important intervention to help ensure your child's safety and reducing classroom interruptions that effect your child's learning. I appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to maximize instructional time.

Parents entrust their most prized possession, their children, to us during the school year and we must do everything possible to keep our building safe. These guidelines are an important part of ensuring a safe environment for our children. They must be followed consistently and without exception.

- *After the bell at 8:55, parents must walk their child into the office and sign them in.
- *If you are picking your child up during the school day, please sign them out in the main office. You may wait in the hallway outside the office doors for your child.
- *During school hours, all parents and visitors must sign in at the office upon entering the building. Please do not walk through the building without signing in.
- *Instructional time is extremely important to the education of our children. Disruptions to that instructional time decreases the time your children are learning. **We ask that if you are dropping off items for your child during the school day, that you leave them with the office and we will take them to the classroom.** It is important that your child's teacher not be interrupted. Thank you for your understanding.



PTO

The next scheduled PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5th at 6:45 in the Round media center. If you are eager to help make Round a better place, please consider attending. Round's PTO has always done a fantastic job supporting our school, teachers and students throughout the year! I have been extremely impressed at their dedication and passion. The PTO is always looking for volunteers to help. There are a lot of fun things planned for this year!!

Hartland Coat Drive

The Hartland Education Association is holding a coat drive at Round Elementary. If you have used or new coats you would like to donate for people less fortunate, please bring them in Round and put them in the coat drive box located in the area outside the office. We thank you in advance for your kindness.



School Pictures

Retake day for pictures is November 12th. If you decide to do retakes you must bring back the packet you have. There will not be spring pictures this year so this is your last chance to get pictures taken.

Hearing Screening

Hearing screening for Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade students only will be on Tuesday, November 17 at Round.

Child Find

Each school building in the Hartland Consolidated School District has an Instructional Consultation Team (ICT) / Child Study Team process in place, which is a vehicle for staff members to review student performance, concerns, and collaboratively develop interventions. If you have concerns about your child's development and are interested in more information on special services, contact your school. If you have concerns about the development of your infant, toddler, or preschooler, contact Sue Pearson, Director of Special Education at (810) 626-2102 for more information.

Counselor's Corner by: Mary Day

Hartland Schools counseling department recognizes parent education as an important tool in helping each child reach their potential academically and in life in general. Therefore, the counseling department has started an initiative called *'THE HARTLAND PARENT NETWORK'* which is a series of FREE parent information nights and parenting classes designed to re-create that feeling of a village around families living in the Hartland community. There will be a brochure of offerings scheduled for this school year available at parent-teacher conferences next month, please consider joining us for one or more of these programs sponsored by Hartland Schools.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Making the most of parent conferences

In a couple of weeks we will be attending annual parent-teacher conferences at our child's school. For some parent's this is a time for celebration of the good work that our children are producing, for other's conferences can be a source of anxiety as we anticipate hearing about our children's difficulties or remember struggles we ourselves had as students. In either case, preparing for the meeting with your child's teacher in advance can help you to make the most of your time together.

To prepare for your child's conference try the following:

1. Plan to be 5+ minutes early to the conference.
2. Prepare any questions/concerns you have in advance by writing them down so you do not forget to ask the teacher.
3. Enter the classroom with an open mind; remember that the teacher has your child's best interest at heart.
4. Listen to what the teacher has to say, and offer to share your perspective of your child's progress as well.
5. If you run out of time, schedule a follow up conference so you are able to keep communication going with the teacher.
6. If you get home and think of another question, or something mentioned at the conference is bothering you, call or e-mail the teacher to ask your question or discuss your concern.

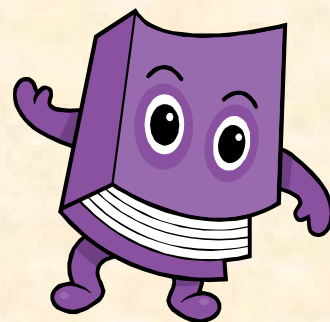
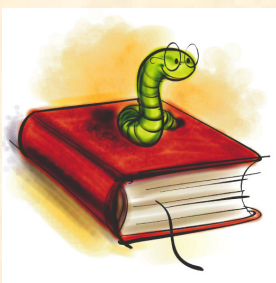
Round Elementary School Media Center (by Mrs. Benford)

One of the best parts of my job as a school library media specialist involves ordering new material. I never have enough money to order every book that the students at Round would like to read. Many of you have donated generously to the media center in the past. I am also most appreciative of the money budgeted by the PTO for the library each year, which helps supplement the book budget. Thank you. I am pleased to announce that we have joined with Cromaine Public Library here in Hartland to create an interlibrary loan system this school year. This system will enable students to check out materials from Cromaine without having to go to the Cromaine to pick them up. Here's how it works:

1. Parents need to complete an authorization form at Cromaine on the second floor allowing me as the Round School media specialist to check out material for their son or daughter. Cromaine will keep these forms on file.
2. They need to make a photo copy of the student's Cromaine library card. I will use these cards to check out books that a student selects from the Cromaine website during media time. (I can only check out books if parents have signed the authorization agreement.)
3. I will collect the books from Cromaine and deliver them to students at Round saving parents a stop. Books will be checked out to the students and be the responsibility of the students if lost or damaged.

Interlibrary loan will allow students access to more titles and multiple copies... enlarging our collection beyond the walls of Round Media Center. The first year will be limited to 3rd and 4th grade students. I anticipate students using it for research and for accelerated reader.

Sign up on the second floor in the Youth Department. Third and Fourth grade students only this first year.



Events to Remember

- November 5: PTO Meeting
November 10: Parent/Teacher Conferences (5-8) by appointment
November 12: Movie Night (6-8)
November 13: Parent/Teacher Conferences (8-3) by appointment
November 17: Hearing Screening (kindergarten, 2nd, 4th grades only)
November 18: Parent/Teacher Conferences (5-8) by appointment
November 25: No School
November 26-27: Thanksgiving Break
November 30: School Resumes



Movie Night

Movie Night here at Round will be on Thursday, November 12th from 6:00 - 8:00 in the gym. The movie will be *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Pizza, drinks, and snacks will be available for purchase. There are a few rules that need to be enforced to make this an enjoyable evening for all. One parent must be present per family. Also, students will be required to sit and watch the movie. It's hard for students and parents to watch and hear the movie when children are running around the gym. Please keep this in mind and thanks for your understanding.