



Midland Elementary
Lacon, Illinois

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Mrs. Kimble, Mrs. Snow to Retire at End of School Year

When the 2008-2009 school year comes to a close, it will also mark the end of Pre-K teacher **Cecelia Kimble's** teaching career. Cecelia began teaching in the Mid County School District in 1972, taught for two years at Sparland Grade School, and then spent time at home raising her three children. She returned in January of 1990, teaching Pre-Kindergarten for 18.5 years to the children of the Midland School District. During her time as Pre-K teacher, she noted that the most significant change she saw was how the program changed, growing from one ½ day class of 12 to the 2 ½ day classes of 20 students each! Favorite memories for Cecelia included home visits, the fun children had in preschool, the excitement the children showed when they learned something new and all of the smiles and hugs that she received! She joked that she will NOT miss all of the Pre-K grant paperwork, reporting and budgeting! Cecelia is looking forward to staying at home, relaxing and taking care of her grandchildren. As for advice for others, Cecelia added, "enjoy working with the Midland students; don't work long hours at school, and remember my mother's famous words- '10 years from now, no one will ever know what you didn't get done!'" Thank you Cecelia for your dedication to our children, your years of service and your giving heart!

After 17.5 years in the Midland School District, elementary library aide **Sue Snow** will retire at the end of the year. During her years in our district, Sue worked part time for 6.5 years as a classroom aide and then full time for 11 years as a library aide. Looking back on her time in our district, Sue recalled that her favorite memories included hearing all of the voices recite the Pledge of Allegiance at Morning Assembly, all of the funny stories that she has heard from kindergarten students and the staff volleyball game held during Spirit Week this year. Sue added that during her 17.5 years, she has worked for five different principals and five different superintendents! She will miss reading to the students and introducing new books to them, the camaraderie of the teachers and staff, and her lunchroom friends. She will definitely NOT miss putting books back on the shelves again and again! Following her retirement, Sue is looking ahead to traveling with her husband; visiting her grandchildren and spending more time at her family home in Wisconsin. Words of wisdom from Sue- "I hope you all enjoy what you're doing as much as I've enjoyed working at Midland!" We share our sincere appreciation to Sue for all that she has done to engage students in reading and helping students foster a love of reading.

We thank Cecelia and Sue for their dedication to our students, their friendship and their years of service to our school district. We will miss you both and wish you well in your retirement! Congratulations!!

Important End of Year Reminders

It's hard to believe that there is less than a month left in the school year! Here are some important reminders about the end of the school year.

Breakfast and Lunch Charges: The last day that students will be able to charge for a breakfast or lunch is Friday, May 15th. If a student does not have lunch money or remaining lunches left after May 15th, they will not be permitted to charge their lunch; they will be given a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk.

Library Books and Fines: All library books should be returned no later than Monday, May 18th. If your child is missing a library book, you will be responsible for the cost of that book.

Report cards will be held in the office until all outstanding book charges, lunch/breakfast charges and registration fees are paid.

Please help us to make sure all outstanding fees are paid in full before summer vacation!

Student Awards to be Presented on May 26th

The end of the school year signals several different activities as we wind things down. One of these is the annual Student Awards Assembly, which will be held in the elementary school gym on Tuesday, May 26th, starting at 9 am. During this special time, children will be recognized for their accomplishments in the following areas:

- Perfect Attendance
- Accelerated Reader Comprehension
- Accelerated Reader Points
- Midland Foundation Walk-a-thon
- St. Jude Math-a-thon
- Six Flags Reading
- Pizza Hut Book It Reading
- Citizenship
- Presidential Academic Excellence (4th grade)

You'll be receiving information before the 26th to let you know if your child will be recognized. We look forward to seeing you!



It's So Hard to Say Good Bye...

Many of us know friends and family members who have been affected by our economy. Whether it is lost jobs, reduced working hours or unplanned relocations, we all know someone who have been impacted. Our school district is no exception to this. Unfortunately, several employees district-wide were released from their employment at the end of the school year, due to the projected financial outlook of our school district for next year.

Our School Social Worker, **Lauryl Newell**, will be leaving us at the end of this school year. Lauryl is finishing her second year with us and has done an **OUTSTANDING** job as our social worker. She has positively impacted the lives of so many students and staff as well. I could always count on Lauryl to go above and beyond what I asked of her. She fostered caring relationships with our students, helped families in need throughout the school year and was an excellent role model for students in both our building and the middle school. I can honestly say that I don't know what we will do without Lauryl next year!

We will also be saying good bye to **Kyle Anderson**, our PE teacher, at the end of the year. In one year, Kyle has developed good, caring relationships with our students. He could often be seen as the big kid in the gym playing with all of the little kids! And our students **LOVED** that he participated in PE activities with them. Kyle fit right in with our staff from Day 1 and was a welcome addition to the Cardinals/Cubs staff rivalry! We will definitely miss Kyle's sense of humor (remember April Fool's Day?), his great smile and the positive energy that he brought to school. Our school will be very different without Kyle next year.

Also leaving us this year will be **Tracy Cotton**, who will move to the kitchen at the high school and part time aide **Gwen Balensiefen**. We also appreciate all of their work with our students and will miss them in our school. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The end of the school year is an appropriate time to offer our gratitude to all of the parents, guardians and family members who have volunteered and donated their time during the school year. We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful parents and family members who help and support us each and every day! Perhaps you chaperoned student on your child's class on a field trip; maybe you worked at the carnival; you may have helped at a class party or baked cookies or donated other treats; maybe you listened to children read or helped them with AR tests; you may have helped copy materials for teachers; perhaps you worked at the Book Fair or are planning to volunteer at Field Day, or maybe you purchased Scrip cards or made a financial donation to the PTO. In whatever way you helped us here at school this year, we are extremely grateful!

I especially want to thank the work of our PTO Board Members: President Terri Lambrecht, President Elect Lisa Stewart, Vice President Carrie Schupp, Secretary Rachel Bickel, Treasurer Sonia Morrison, Volunteer Coordinator Molly LeQuia, Communications Director Lori Blackburn and Past President Denise McMahan. Their leadership and dedication to our PTO benefits our students and school community in so many ways! We are so grateful for all of the support and help from the entire school community!



Fairness Emphasized During the Month of April

During April, each "Word of Week" focused on words that describe a person who is fair. We have learned that students who practice fairness follow the rules, listen to another person's side when they disagree, share and take turns. These students were recognized by their teachers for demonstrating fairness:

Generous: Sydney Sevcik, Steven Daily, Tiffany Compton, Sophia Shanklin, Mady Darlington, Brody Putnum, Maddy Bergman, Kailie Richardson, Sidnei Oser, Josh Lahl, Madison Sagaser, Gavin Darlington, McKayla Martin, Cameron Wendler, Hunter Smith, Nathaniel Schackow, Nick Bogner.

Equality: Trevin Yarger, Georgia King, Sarah Schuyler, Tyler Davis, Noah Fairall, Austin Gobert, Kayla Smith, Cole Phoenix, Isaac Hopper, Izzy Schoepke, Sean Spradling, Zack Weber, Mitch Martin, Brenda Beaver, Logan Pyles, Tiffany Compton.

Forgiving: Katie Lewandowski, Christopher Strong, Megan Kelley, Jacob Burkhalter, Calli Clare, Kate Wiest, Hailey Smith, Amy McConnell, Clayton Klehm, Keil Endress, Tabby Jeffers, Dallas Strawn, Kody Morrissey, James Junker, Trent Weiland, Kayla Smith.

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