



Midland Elementary
206 N. High Street
Lacon, Illinois
www.midland-7.org
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Open House Set for Thursday, September 6th

We are two weeks into the 2007-08 school year, and in spite of the heat, the children are transitioning well back into the routines of school, schedules and school work. We have just completed two weeks of 2:10 pm early dismissal and will begin following our normal dismissal schedule on Tuesday, September 4th.

Our **Open House/Back to School Night** is scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 6th**, starting at **6:30 pm in the gym**. Our format for Open House will be somewhat different than in past years. While we will still gather in the gym for a welcome and introduction of teachers, the format in each classroom will be different. Parents and students will be seated in each classroom for a 10-15 minute presentation from the classroom teacher about the upcoming school year, including information about the year's curriculum and activities, expectations for students, classroom procedures, etc.

After 15 minutes and a 5 minutes "passing time," parents can visit another classroom to hear similar information from another child's teacher. There will be another passing time and then a final presentation by teachers in their classrooms.

Also during the evening, our new computer lab will be open so that families can view the new lab. Families can also stop into our music room, visit with our Title I, Reading and Gifted teachers and visit other parts of the school. We hope to conclude our evening activities by 7:30 pm. **We hope to see everyone on the 6th!**

School Day Begins with Morning Assembly

We have begun the year with a new start to our day-**Morning Assembly**. Each morning, we gather in the gym (K-4th) to begin the day together. We recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, announce student and teacher birthdays, celebrate special student achievements and recognize the accomplishments of our classmates. The assembly usually lasts for no more than five to ten minutes, then students return to their classrooms to begin their academic day. Our Morning Assembly helps to build a sense of community among students and teachers alike, and gives us a positive start to our day! As the year progresses, we will include music and other special student activities to get our day off to a great start!

NED Assembly Coming to MES

The **NED Assembly** will be presented to K-4th grade students on Tuesday, September 11th, starting at 10 am. NED is an acronym for **N-Never Give Up; E-Encourage Others and D-Do Your Best**. This assembly combines the positive message with yo-yos, humor and audience participation to teach our students how to develop these three valuable characteristics. In this newsletter, you will find information about the assembly and the NED items that will be available for purchase for five days after the assembly. You can even visit www.thenedshow.com to see a sneak preview of the show. It will be a fun and positive morning for our students!

School Communication-When and Where to Get It!

Communication is so important between school and home, especially at the elementary level, when many things are new and unfamiliar to parents. There are several ways in which you can receive information about school dates, activities and events.

At the beginning of each month, a school newsletter will come home, highlighting important information for the upcoming month (you're reading the September issue!). Along with the newsletter, which is always on colored paper paper, we will include an updated activity calendar for that month along with the breakfast and lunch menus for that month.

Not good with keeping track of the newsletter and calendars? You can always find the same information on our school website. Just go to www.midland-7.org, and click the elementary school link. There will you will be able to access our newsletter under "School News", the calendar and meal menus. Classroom teachers often send home weekly and/or monthly class newsletters and notes to keep you informed about particular activities in your child's class.

Still have a question? You can call our office at 246-7215 to check with Patti Kargol, our secretary or Sherry Schoepke, our office assistant. Please try to call after 9 am as the first part of the day is busy with absence phone calls, attendance and selling of lunch tickets.

Procedures for Purchasing Lunch and Milk Tickets

Each morning, lunch and milk tickets are sold by Mrs. Lambrecht at a table outside of the main office.

Parents, you can help make this process go smoother by remembering a few important things:

-Lunch is \$2.00 for full price and 40 cents for those who qualify for reduced price. Tickets can be purchased for 1 day (\$2), 5 days (\$10), 10 days (\$20) or 20 days (\$40). Checks should be made payable to Midland Elementary School.

-Milk tickets are \$1.25 for five milks or \$5 for 25.

-Children often don't know how many days of tickets they are purchasing. If you write the number of days and types of tickets you are purchasing on the envelope or check, you will help us speed up the ticket purchasing process.

-Breakfast tickets are purchased separately from lunch tickets. Breakfast is \$1.50; 40 cents for reduced students. These tickets are purchased in the cafeteria from Mrs. Thompson during breakfast hours, which are 8:00 am to 8:25 am.

-We know sometimes children forget their lunch money; that's understandable! We permit a child to charge for a meal three times. After that, the student will be given a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fruit and milk until the outstanding fees are paid.

Thank you for your help!

Volunteer and Directory Forms Requested

At registration, many parents picked up two forms that our Parents Club was handing out. These were a Volunteer Form and a Directory Form. If you have not had a chance to complete and turn in these forms, please return them with your child to school. Parents Club uses these forms when planning for school activities and will be using the Directory Form right away as they begin to put together the 2007-08 school directory. If you did not receive either form, please have your child stop by the office to pick them up. The Parents Club thanks you for returning the forms promptly.

Principal's Advisory Committee Needs You!

Parents at Midland Elementary School have an opportunity to participate on a committee which helps to keep parents informed about school policies, discusses curriculum, examines school handbook changes and identifies needs in our school community. This committee, the **Principal's Advisory Committee**, usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the school's library. The first meeting is set for Tuesday, September 11th at 7 pm. Meetings typically last an hour to an hour and a half. An agenda is set by Ms. Albers before the meeting, but there is also time for discussion about parental concerns and future planning. We have several parents that have committed to attending these meetings, but additional parent input is always welcome. If you would like to participate on this committee, please contact Ms. Albers to let her know of your interest.

Your Character Counts at Midland Elementary

Character education is integrated into our daily curriculum. Each month of the school year is dedicated to focusing on a particular character trait. Teachers discuss the trait with their students, share the type of qualities a person with that trait possesses, and highlight that trait throughout the month. You will see posters around school and signs in each classroom displaying our monthly trait.

In addition, each week, we emphasize a "Word of the Week". This word is one that can be used to describe the particular character trait we are focusing on that month. Each teacher selects a student who exemplifies that quality at school, and the student receives a certificate and a pencil, has his/her name announced during the Morning Assembly on Friday and has a picture taken for future publication in the Lacon Home Journal.

Our character trait for September is **Responsibility**. During our Morning Assembly, we define the word and provide examples of responsible students.

The "Words of the Week" for September will be hard working, persevering, organized, accountable, considerate and role model.

You can assist us by reinforcing these positive character traits at home too.

Notification of Teacher Qualifications

Midland Elementary School is a Title I school. This means that based on census information and our economically disadvantaged population, we receive federal funding to assist us in our curricular needs. This funding is "to ensure that all children have fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education."

Because we receive this financial support, schools must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher. This information includes:

- whether the teacher has met the State requirements for licensure and certification for the grade levels and subject-matters in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the college major and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree
- whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If you have additional questions or would like more information regarding teacher qualifications, please feel free to contact Ms. Albers.