

Cougar Tales

Central Elementary School Newsletter ♦ 324 S. Water ♦ Olathe, Kansas 66061
PH: 913-780-7370 ♦ FAX: 913-780-7370 ♦ <http://schools.olatheschools.com/central/>

Our Mission:

Together we will empower our students to be accountable for their academic and social future.



Greetings to our Central community!

I would like to thank you for your participation and involvement in your child's education. The success of Central students is due to a real "team effort". It takes families, students and staff members working together to see these achievements. Once again, we had outstanding participation at our conferences, even though some families were being hit by the flu bug.

Conferences are a valuable communication activity between the home and school.

Parents are a child's first teacher, and that role of teacher will continue throughout your child's school years. For this reason it is very important that you be involved in your child's education.

At Central, we encourage parent volunteers and offer many ways that you can participate: Conferences, Room Parents, Field Trip Chaperone, Watch D.O.G.S. Dad Program, and PTO. Parents are key factors as to how well a child will do in school. Thanks for being involved to ensure your child's success.

While we know that our new secure entry is taking some getting used to, for you, and for us, we hope you still visit Central to participate in our special activities.

Stephanie



CENTRAL RECEIVES CHALLENGE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Central has been recognized by the Kansas Confidence in Public Education Task Force for our 2008-2009 Assessment scores! This award recognizes Kansas schools that are making a notable difference in student achievement despite facing significant challenges in their school population. The award recognizes schools for outstanding achievement and uncommon accomplishment based on Kansas Assessment results, the sample size and the socio-economic status of those taking the test.

The Confidence in Public Education Task Force, created in 1981, is a not-for-profit corporation whose primary purpose is to strengthen confidence in Kansas public education and to increase awareness of the positive aspects of public education in this state.

NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, Nov. 25th
Thanksgiving
Break Begins

NO SCHOOL
Thursday, Nov. 26th
Thanksgiving Day

NO SCHOOL
Friday, Nov. 27th
Thanksgiving
Break Continues

MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURES ON WEBSITE

Want to know what the sixth grade will look like next year, when students are moved to the middle school? You can find a detailed description of the district's plans for both students and parents on the district Web site (www.olatheschools.com). Go to the yellow "6/9 Moving Up" button and click on "What Will Sixth and Ninth Grade Look Like?" You will find a 20-page brochure with complete details of the academic program, core classes and electives, physical education and health classes, plus student services, athletics and activities, the school day and class periods, safety procedures, school climate, transition activities and parent involvement opportunities.

EARLY ARRIVING STUDENTS

Since school officially begins at 8:20 a.m., students should arrive between 8:00-8:15 a.m. Students who must arrive prior to 8:00 a.m. are required to go into the breakfast program. Parents/guardians will be contacted if their child is not following these expectations. There are NO staff members on duty to supervise students until 8:00 a.m., so we appreciate your help to keep these numbers of students to a minimum.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Regular school attendance is a primary foundation upon which school success is built and it is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

- 1) If a student must miss school or be late, please call (780-7370) by 9:00 a.m. to report the absence.
- 2) Voice mail will take your message prior to 8:00 a.m. We will be happy to have assignments sent home with a sibling or another student.
- 3) If you do not call in, we will contact you to make sure the student is not absent without your permission or knowledge. Students may not call themselves in to the school as absent.
- 4) Accumulated unexcused absences of 3 consecutive days, or 5 school days in any semester, or 7 school days in any school year will be classified as a child who is not attending school as required by state law.



WE ARE LEARNING SO MUCH IN SPANISH!

Mrs. Claudia Cox, International Language Associate (ILA)

Kindergarten - different feelings, singing a counting song and learning colors.

Gr. 1 – Numbers to 20, how to ask and answer, "What is your name?" and listening to a story in Spanish.

Gr. 2 – Colors, reviewing months and dates on the calendar, learning more places in the school.

Gr. 3 – Colors, vocabulary for parts of the house, and counting to 80.

Gr. 4 – Clothing vocabulary and adjectives to describe objects and people.

Gr. 5 – How to say "I" am doing an action like, I speak, I walk, I run, I write and more. We can say the time of day also.

Gr.6 – We are doing Unit 3, *Los Deportes* students are learning sports played in Spanish speaking countries.

HOW CAN I REACH A TEACHER AT CENTRAL?

All Central staff members have access to e-mail. Parents are welcome to communicate with teachers via e-mail however; the teacher's first responsibility is to the children under his/her direct supervision. Teachers will make every effort to return e-mail and/or phone calls within 24 hours. You can visit the school website for a link to teachers' email addresses under **E-MAIL DIRECTORY (Click on the teacher's name) or FACULTY (Click on the teacher's name)**. You can also use this formula: **first initial, then their last name, then CE@olatheschools.com** (**tjonesCE@olatheschools.com**). Teachers also have voicemail. If you call school during instructional time, you may request to leave a message in the teachers' voicemail. Be sure to leave a current call back number!

To discuss a student's progress via email a parent must sign permission to utilize e-mail as the method of communication!

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER . . .

If Bad Weather Occurs During the School Day:

It is our district's policy NOT to dismiss students early due to bad weather. We must be mindful of such safety issues as transportation, particularly for those students who normally ride the bus or are driven to and from school; lack of supervision at home because of an unscheduled dismissal; and the uncertainty of sending children away from a protected school environment and out into hazardous weather conditions.

If Bad Weather Occurs At Dismissal Time:

Sometimes bad weather, such as an electrical storm, will occur right at dismissal time. If that happens, we will **not dismiss** students until it is safe.

Snow Line: 780-8000:

If school is cancelled due to snow or bad weather, the information will be available on the District Information Line (780-8000); on the District Web site: www.olatheschools.com and through local television and radio stations.

WATCH D.O.G.S. DADS PROGRAM



We are pleased to offer this program as a way to get Central dads or father figures such as grandfathers, uncles, or other male adults involved more at school. **WATCH D.O.G.S. Across America®** started after a 1998 middle-school shooting in Jonesboro, Ark., prompted one father, WATCH D.O.G.S. founder Jim Moore, to get involved. He wanted to help prevent such violence from occurring at his child's school – or at any school. He suggested to the principal a way to involve fathers, help create a safer, stronger school setting and provide positive male role models for students. Today **WATCH D.O.G.S.** is a 501(c)3 educational organization helping thousands of fathers reconnect with their children at hundreds of schools across the country. **WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dad's Of Great Students)** perform a **variety of tasks** during their day. Examples are: monitoring the school entrance, assisting with buses and cars, reading to classes, small groups or individual students, assisting with recess, eating lunch with the students and other activities that engage the **WATCH D.O.G.S.** with not only their own children but other children. **If interested, please contact the school at 913-780-7370 for a Registration Form.**

**ZERO TARDY REMINDER
SCHOOL HOURS ARE 8:20 A.M.–3:40 P.M.
PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL ON TIME!**

Central PTO News



CENTRAL HOLIDAY SHOP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

9 AM – 12 NOON

The Holiday Shop gives our students a chance to do their own holiday shopping and gift wrapping with the help of volunteers! This year, we will also have more craft items that they can make as gifts and pictures with Santa!

To try something new, we will be selling Krispie Kreme Donuts by the dozen to be picked up during the holiday shop. More information and pre-order forms will be coming home soon. Of course, we will have individual donuts and drinks available for sale.

If you would like to help with the holiday shop or have any questions, please call Marianne Harra at 764-4683.



Thank you Deana Funk who coordinated the dinner for staff during conferences. She did an incredible job with her organization!

Central staff would like to thank all the parents who donated their time and amazing talents to share the conference dinner with us. The dinner was incredibly helpful and tasty!

Central Night at Applebee's

Please join us for Central Night at Applebee's



Tuesday, November 10th

5:00-9:00 PM

Great Mall Applebee's location.

Watch for flyers coming home soon. You must present a flyer for Central to receive funds from Applebee's. Thank you!!!

SITE COUNCIL NEWS

As promised in earlier communication, our Site Council has been working on the issue of the community sidewalks along Cedar Street. With the help of our long time friend and advocate, Susan Sherman, Assistant City Manager of Olathe, the City is conducting a new "Safe routes to school" plan for Central based on the new entrance that has been built. They are adding these sections of sidewalks to the Community Development Block Grant listing. It is unclear how many funds are available but the city is working to solve our dilemma

Our next Site Council meeting will take place at **Oregon Trail on Wednesday, November 18th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be meeting in the Oregon Trail Junior High Library.

If you are not on Site Council but are interested in hearing more about the 6th and 9th grade move to the junior high and high school, please come to this meeting.

FOOD PRODUCTION HOLIDAY LUNCH DEADLINE

- The deadline to make reservations for December 16th Winter Holiday Lunch is **NOVEMBER 23rd**
 - **Adult Holiday Lunches are \$3.55 each will NEED TO BE PRE-PAID!**
- Any parents/guardians who plan to come after these deadline dates will need to bring their own lunch.
 - **NO LATE LUNCH RESERVATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED.**



H1N1 UPDATE

Parents: During this pandemic of H1N1 flu, the Johnson County Health Dept has mandated that the schools hold their own immunization clinics for their students and staff and the health dept is not supplying any manpower. This means that each nurse in every building will have to organize and hold their own clinics. As you can imagine this is a huge undertaking and something that could not be accomplished by one person alone and not in 1 day. It has been estimated that each student would require 10 min from start to finish.

Because of this, I am asking that if any of you know of RN's, Drs. or Dentists that would be willing to donate their time and be available during the school day to assist with administering the flu shot, please have them contact me. We will also need non-medical volunteers, so if you are willing to donate some time helping children relax during their wait for their shot, please let me know.

Here's some general info: The H1N1 vaccine is free. We don't know when we will have our clinics or when we will receive our supply, but right now they are saying November/ December time frame. Children under age 10 need 2 doses.

Congratulations to our winners who will represent us well for Kansas and Master Teachers of the Year

Susan Kempin - Kansas Teacher of the Year

Tracie Wright - Master Teacher of the Year

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends "Fall Back" 1 Hr.	2 B CSI: Olathe – 3:40 Intramural Soccer- 3:40	3 C Math Wings-3:40	4 D	5 E Chess Club – 3:40	6 A	7
8	9 B CSI: Olathe – 3:40 Intramural Soccer- 3:40	10 C Math Wings-3:40	11 D Chess Club – 3:40	12 E Gr. 3 & 4 Music Program- 2:30 & 7:00pm Chess Club – 3:40	13 A	14
15 American Education Week 	16 B CSI: Olathe – 3:40 Intramural Soccer- 3:40	17 C Math Wings-3:40	18 D	19 E Chess Club - 3:40 6:30 - 5 th Grade Parent Night in Library	20 A	21
22	23 B Intramural Soccer- 3:40	24 C	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break Begins	26 Thanksgiving	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break Continues	28
29	30 D Intramural Soccer- 3:40			Chess Club - 3:40		