



Russell Elementary School

May 2017

A note from Mrs. Hamilton...

Once again we find ourselves in the final stretch of the school year! We are so pleased to know that we have one more year to look forward to here at Russell Elementary School! Every day we marvel at the beauty of our surroundings and the community of learners that has grown during the past two years. We are grateful to the families who continue to support our school at finance meetings, with their participation in our PTC, volunteering in classrooms and in the cafeteria.

Some friendly reminders:

- ❖ Now that the warm weather has arrived it is important that the children dress appropriately. Sneakers and other closed toe shoes are best and safest for outdoor play. Flip flops are not safe for running and playing on the playscape. Sandals with a strap securing the heel are acceptable.
- ❖ Dressing in layers is helpful with cool mornings and warmer afternoons.
- ❖ We have quite a collection of sweatshirts, hats and mittens left over in our lost and found, if your child is missing something please encourage them to check out the items in the cafeteria. We will be donating any remaining items to Goodwill at the end of the month.

Arrivals, Dismissals and the Wheels on the Bus:

- Please let us know if there is any change in your contact information, it is important that we have at least two alternate emergency contact numbers on file.
- If your child will be dismissed early, going on a different bus or being picked up at the end of the day **please send a note or email to the office no later than 9:30 in the morning.** If you have a consistent schedule of days you will be picking up you are welcome to write a note to that effect.
- Please continue to reinforce for your child that it is their responsibility to ride the bus following all of the safety expectations: staying in their seats at all times; keeping hands

and arms away from windows; keeping feet out of the aisle and using quiet voices while talking to their neighbors. Our bus drivers are the best! They work with us daily to get the children to and from school safely. Students who do not follow safety rules will be written up and the consequence for multiple bus conduct reports may result in loss of bus privileges.

Mr. Ted and Hitchcock Center Update:

We are so fortunate to have another year with Mr. Ted coming to spend time with children in each grade! Ask your student what they have been working on...there are seeds sprouting, compost composting and a number of cool projects happening inside and out.

TICKS!

Unfortunately this is a very, very bad year with ticks! They are everywhere! As you know this is not unique to Russell. We try to be vigilant and encourage visual inspections whenever children have been outside. Our best advice is to do a careful head to toe check each and every day that your child plays outside both at school and at home. As I did last year, I am sending along the fact sheet about these pesky critters so that you have accurate information.

Toys and fidget gadgets:

In the past we have requested that your student NOT bring toys and gadgets into school. We are asking again – certainly we understand that some of the fidget tools are beneficial for some children – however, they also have the potential to be very disruptive to the teaching and learning in classrooms.

Save the date!

May 22, 2017 – Memorial Day Program 1:30 in the caf-a-gym-a-torium featuring our 3rd graders. More information to follow!

May 26, 2017 – Early Dismissal for elementary students 12:00

June 8, 2017 – Spring Concert at Westfield Technical Academy featuring grades 4 & 5 Band and Chorus at 6:30PM

June 9, 2017 - Early Dismissal for elementary students 12:00

June 22, 2017 – FIELD DAY! – More information coming

June 28, 2017 – Last Day of School