

Superintendent's News

December 2011

Keith Oates, Superintendent
Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3



MISSION

*Community and schools
working together to
support the highest level
of student learning.*

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dec 5, Board Study Session
- ◆ Dec 6, 5-6th Grade Band/Chorus Concerts
- ◆ Dec 9, Early Dismissal
- ◆ Dec 10-11, Madrigal Performances
- ◆ Dec 12, Board Mtg
- ◆ Dec 19-Jan 1, Winter Break
- ◆ Jan 2, School Resumes
- ◆ Jan 13, End of 2nd Qtr, 1st Semester
- ◆ Jan 13, Institute Day, No Students
- ◆ Jan 16, NO SCHOOL
- ◆ Jan 17, Board Mtg
- ◆ Jan 18, Early Dismissal
- ◆ Feb 6, Board Study Session
- ◆ Feb 15, Early Dismissal
- ◆ Feb 20, NO SCHOOL
- ◆ Feb 21, Board Mtg
- ◆ Feb 23, HS Choral & Band Concert

Superintendent's News

Welcome to the second quarterly edition of Superintendent's News. The fall semester has gone quickly and Winter Break is just around the corner with only a handful of weeks left in the first semester.

Our students, staff and parents have made this first semester a very enjoyable and successful one. Students continue to experience success in our classrooms and extra-curricular events due to the tremendous support they

receive from our staff and community.

In this issue, you will find information concerning the new Early Childhood Center, new District website, District finances, winter weather reminders, and a few other quick notes of information.

As always, on behalf of the Board and staff, thank you for your continued support.

New Early Childhood Building Update

Over the summer, a Building & Design Committee was assembled to begin the process for the planning of a new Early Childhood Center. The group is comprised of Board Members Cheryl Melchi and Becky Ryherd, MECC staff members, District administrators, and community members with applicable backgrounds. Eighteen architect firms responded to the District's request for proposals, and the Committee narrowed down the field to three firms. Those three firms each made detailed presentations to the Board during

September, and in October, the Board selected Wm. B. Ittner, Inc. as the architect for the project. Ittner specializes in school planning and design and has completed over 4,000 projects since 1899. They have started meeting with the MECC staff and the Building & Design Committee to begin the design phase. The design phase will continue through the summer with bids being released fall of 2012. The building will primarily be funded with county sales tax revenue.

Did You Know?

- ◆ Lincoln Trail students honored World War II Veterans by raising \$2,017 for the Honor Flight Program.
- ◆ The PTO Dawgwalk raised over \$73,741 for the elementary classrooms.
- ◆ The Jr. High Boys Cross Country team placed 4th at State. This is the best finish in school history, and caps off Head Coach Tom Appenzeller's 26th year of coaching and teaching. Mr. Appenzeller is retiring at the end of the 2011-12 school year.



Lincoln Trail Students on the Dawgwalk



Jr. High Cross Country at State

New District Website



Over 80 Veterans Attended the Sangamon Program

After many months of work, the District proudly launched a new website on Monday, October 17th. Under the leadership of Technology Director Ric Rose, and with the consultation of VE Websites, the entire site was updated and improved. VE Websites was founded by 2003 MSHS graduate, Nathan Cruse. Working with Ric Rose, the VE

Websites' team trained numerous District staff members in the use of Drupal, a content management system which allows many users to create and edit web pages.

If you haven't already done so, check out the new site at www.ms.k12.il.us.

District Financial Update

The FY12 Budget was constructed this past summer with the expectation that the State of Illinois would not neglect financial responsibilities in two key areas of funding: General State Aid and Transportation. At this point in time and with the veto session all but passed, I am confident the District will not receive 100% funding in either area. The District planned for one year of deficit spending in the Education Fund in an effort to retain all current staff and programs. However, with the very real possibility of General State Aid

being prorated, our District stands to lose another \$405,795. This amount will add to our deficit spending this fiscal year and greatly reduce our ability to construct the FY13 budget without reducing staff and programs.

In the area of transportation, it is very likely that given the continued reductions in state Transportation funding, the District will not be able to support many of the trips currently provided for extra-curricular groups and classrooms.

Board of Education

Terry Greene, President

Vicki Niswander, Vice-President

Cheryl Melchi, Secretary

Merle Giles, Member

Max McComb, Member

Becky Ryherd, Member

Valerie Woodruff, Member

Science Day in Elementary Buildings



MECC



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Winter Weather Reminders

As we approach winter, please remember to make plans for your students in the event of an early dismissal or a Snow Day. If school is cancelled or dismissed early, announcements are posted immediately on the local TV and radio stations, the website, and on the Closings listserv. Calls are also launched using SchoolReach, the parent notification system. The decision to cancel school is made as early as possible and is generally announced by 6 a.m. If weather conditions develop during the school day that endanger the safety of students and staff, school may be dismissed early on a staggered schedule. MECC and Sangamon are

dismissed at the announced time; Lincoln Trail is dismissed 10 minutes later; the HS is dismissed 20 minutes after the announced time, and the JH is dismissed 30 minutes later than the announced dismissal time. Every effort will be made to provide at least one hour notice to parents. *During times of inclement weather, please do not contact the Transportation Dept. or your child's school unless it is an emergency.* For more information, including information on Kids Club and Kangaroo Kids, or to sign up for the Closings listserv, visit the website. See "Receive our e-news" on the left margin at www.ms.k12.il.us for the listserv.