



Castle School

Castle Elementary School

6675 – 50th Street North

Oakdale, MN 55128

Castle Website:

<http://castleelementaryschool.weebaloo.com>

District Website: www.isd622.org

Phone #: (651) 748-6700

School Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Principal, Kerri Town

Issue # 1

September 2009

Cub Reporter

Dear Castle Families,

Welcome to the first edition of the Castle Cub Reporter. It is exciting to kick-off the start of a new year with our new mascot the Castle Cub! Since all students who live in the Castle attendance area will eventually go to North High School (the Polars), we thought a polar bear cub was a fitting mascot for our school! Keep your eyes out for the spirit wear for students and families coming soon!

We are off to a great start here at school. We hosted a Welcome Back assembly on September 11th. Ms. Filler spent the first week of school teaching the children the Castle School song during music class so we were able to sing along together. We had several students from North High come and share their enthusiasm for learning and continued practice of the skills it takes to be better students and athletes at school. They inspired our students! Castle staff presented school wide expectations for behavior. These expectations will help all students to have a safe and orderly learning environment. While each classroom creates their own classroom expectations for behavior, we need to have common expectations in the shared areas of our school. Ask your child what they know about Castle Expectations, they include guidelines for:

- On the bus
- In the hallway
- During Backpack Book Time
- During assemblies
- In the lunchroom
- In the lavatories
- On the playground

I have included a copy of our expectations in this newsletter. Please go over them with your child to help them understand the home/school connection around expectations. Thank you for your support!

We also introduced our Castle values: Accountability, Community, Courage, Embracing Individuality, Integrity, Respect and Trust. We will teach about what those look like at Castle School throughout the year. You will see this document displayed in every classroom at our school and other shared spaces. Please help your child uphold these values so that we can have a welcoming learning environment for all.

We have an opening for a Playground/Lunchroom Monitor during the lunch hour. This is a paid position. If you are interested in working from 11:00-1:15 Monday through Friday please contact Karla at 651.748.6700 or check the District web site at www.isd622.org then click on Human Resources.

Castle teachers are well underway with Reader's and Writer's Workshop. You should be able to ask your child how they find a "Just Right" book. We are also excited about our new math curriculum materials entitled Math Expressions. One of the things you may notice is that this program emphasizes the need for students to discuss their mathematical thinking as a way to increase understanding. If you are looking for ways to support your child's math learning at home or have math vocabulary questions log on to this free website www.eduplace.com.

We are looking forward to a rewarding year of growth and learning. We want to create a welcoming environment to all who enter our school. Thank you for your support!

See you in school!

Mrs. Town, Principal

**Notes from Mrs. Wentworth,
School Nurse:**

Health Office: 651-748-6715

*Please call the Castle School Attendance Line at 651-748-6717 every time your child is absent from school. **Please include your child's name, the reason for the absence and a phone number** where you can be contacted. The Attendance Line is available 24 hours a day.

*Please remember to update **Emergency Cards** if phone numbers change. It is very important to have accurate information in an emergency. ***Did you know?** Your child is tardy after 8:45 am. If your child is late to school (past 9:45 a.m.) they will be marked absent for ½ a day. Also, if they leave before 2:15 p.m., they will be marked ½ day absent. Page 10 of the Castle Calendar and Handbook lists the policy.

H1N1 Parents and caregivers should use the following questionnaire to assess the health status of their child on a daily basis.

Does your child have?

- Fever (100 degree or greater)?
- Sore Throat?
- Cough?

SHOULD I KEEP MY CHILD HOME?

- If you checked yes to fever AND one of the other symptoms, keep your child home for seven days after symptoms start, even if they no longer are ill. If your child is still sick after seven days, keep your child at home until well for 24 hours. If you have questions about your child's health or symptoms, call your child's healthcare provider.
- If your child has been diagnosed by a healthcare

provider with a different disease, such as strep, follow your healthcare provider's recommendation and school policy for when to return to school.

WHAT SHOULD I TELL MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

· If you checked "yes" for fever AND one of the other symptoms, tell your child's attendance office that your child is home with influenza-like illness.

· If your child has been diagnosed by a healthcare provider with a different disease, such as strep, tell your child's attendance office.

· No personal information about your child, including your child's name, will be shared outside of the school.

For more information and on-going updates 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 or go to the MDH website at:

www.health.state.mn.us

Notes from the Kitchen:

*Families must reapply each year for free or reduced lunches. If your family situation changes during the school year (i.e. job loss, addition to family, etc.) you may become eligible. Please call us at 651-748-6700 for a form. Contact the Castle Kitchen staff at 748-6704 with questions.

*Please send lunch money in an envelope labeled 'lunch money'. Be sure to include your child's name and PIN number on the check. You can also pay on-line at www.paypams.com.

***Lunch/Breakfast PIN Numbers**
-Parents: please help your child learn their PIN number. Several students don't have their

number memorized and it slows up the line for all students.

*If you are driving your child to school or they walk to school and are eating breakfast, they must be at school by 8:30 am.

*When the cook stamps your child's hand, it means that they are out of money in their account. When this happens, your child will receive a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk until a deposit is made to their account.

Lunchroom Volunteers

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped in the lunchroom the first few weeks of school! We would love to have this continue! Whether you can help once a week, or once a month, we would love to have more help all year! Let us know if you can help – 651-748-6700.

Castle Calendar

Please review the Castle Calendar and Handbook for important information. Page 6 of our Calendar lists Staff and Voicemail numbers. The Calendar and Handbook is also available on our web page at www.isd622.org under Links to Schools.

Notes from Ms. Schultz, Phy. Ed. Teacher

*Please be sure your child has tennis shoes at school EVERYDAY for Phy. Ed. Classes.

*Classes will be outside when possible, be sure your child has a jacket/sweatshirt each day.

Notes from the Main Office:

Please help us to continue to provide a safe and secure atmosphere for your children.

Here are a few reminders:

- *All Castle Visitors: please check in at the office and receive a green Visitor's Pass.
 - *If you want to visit a class, please contact your child's teacher in advance (via e-mail, note, phone call) to see if the day and time fits with the teacher's schedule.
 - *If you need to talk with the teacher, please schedule a time with the teacher that is mutually convenient, rather than asking the teacher to stop teaching to answer your quick question.
 - *Occasionally, parents need to take a child out of school before the end of the day.
- Please send a note to your child's teacher so your child has everything ready for dismissal.** If you didn't send a note, please contact the school office at 651-748-6700 by 2:45 pm.
- *If you need to drop off an item (lunch, school work), the secretary will contact the classroom teacher.
 - *Students should not arrive before 8:25 am for school if you are dropping them off. There is no supervision until this time.

Vacation Forms

If your child will be out of school for 2 or more days due to vacation, a Vacation Form must be completed. Please call the main office at 651-748-6700 for a form. Please complete the form before you leave on your trip.

Castle Backpack

Our on-line Castle Backpack is a convenient communication tool. Parents can sign up to receive e-mail announcements. To sign up, send an e-mail to: [*listsrv@isd622.org](mailto:listsrv@isd622.org);
*leave subject line blank;
*in the body of message include – Castle-Backpack last name, first name (i.e. Castle-Backpack Doe, John).

Castle Collectables

Castle School collects several items to raise money or receive free merchandise. These items include:
-Campbell Soup UPC codes
-Land O'Lakes and Kemps Milk Caps
-General Mills Box Tops for Education labels
-Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
-Old cell phones, printer cartridges, and laptops for recycling
Please place items in separate bags and put in bins by the main doors.

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 25: PTO Sally Foster Fundraiser begins
- Oct. 8: PTO Saints North Roller-skating 6:00-8:00 pm
- Oct. 9: PTO Sally Foster Fundraiser ends
- Oct. 12: PTO Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- Oct. 15-16: No School – Education MN Teacher Convention
- Oct. 22: Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-8:00 pm)
- Oct. 22: PTO Hometown Creamery Night 6-8 pm
- Oct. 23: No School – Conferences 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Oct. 30: PTO Fall Harvest Dance 7:00-9:00 pm

Bike Riders

Students who wish to ride their bikes to school, may do so with parent permission. A note giving permission must be sent to the main office signed by a parent. See page 12 of the Castle Calendar and Handbook for more information.

Picture Retake Day

If your child missed picture day, picture retake day will be October 29th. Parents please watch your child's backpack for ordering information.