

**WALT DISNEY MAGNET SCHOOL**  
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January 19, 2011

To: Disney Parents  
From: Kathleen Hagstrom, Principal  
Re: Assorted Matters

**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**  
**Friday, January 28 – Staff Development Day**

We want to tell you more about two exciting programs being developed here at school. Our newest program, Calm Classroom, is being utilized in kindergarten through fourth grades. This program trains children to develop focusing and calming techniques.

You also may have heard your children talk about the “big white screens” that are now in place in their classroom. Each homeroom teacher has a Promethian Board. This interactive white board connects teachers and students with the internet options for students and teachers to have a creative, interactive and expansive learning opportunity.

Congratulations to the Disney chess team which recently competed with 34 other schools in the Youth Chess Federation of Chicago Tournament. Our 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade team took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the team event! Special recognition to Charles Dickson who placed 4<sup>th</sup> and Saneer Kassam who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the individual event. We applaud all the team members and coach, Trevor Scott, for their dedication and hard work.

- **PAC** – The next monthly Coffee Time meeting of the PAC will be held **Friday, January 21**, at 8:15 a.m. All Disney parents are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

- **Second grade CAC Unit** – All second grade parents are invited to the culminating performance of the CAC unit “Journey Into Sound”; the performance is **Friday morning, January 21 at 9:30 a.m.** The SW door of the CAC will open at 9:15 for parent admission; no children under 5 years old allowed.

- **Local School Council** – The regular February meeting of the LSC is changed to **Monday, February 7**, at 5:30 p.m. There is a parent vacancy on the Local School Council. If you are interested in applying, please see Ms. Mitchell in the main office to request a nomination packet. Applications are due by February 4. Candidates will speak to the LSC on February 7; the LSC will fill the position at the February 7 meeting. There is also a newly created staff representative position, for non-teaching staff. Disney ESP staff is welcome to attend the candidate forum on Wednesday, January 26 at 3:15 p.m.

- **School Wide Spelling Bee** – All 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms will participate in the school wide Spelling Bee on **Monday, January 24**. The Spelling Bee is a great opportunity for students to review with their parents the spelling words they have worked on this year. Spelling words are an important tool for expanding vocabulary and for building phonics and memory skills.

- **Young Authors’ Project** – All Walt Disney students participate in the annual Young Authors’ Project. Students are currently working in class Writing Workshops to brainstorm ideas and to decide on a topic. Writing can be poetry, narrative (story) or expository (informational). The first draft is due **Friday, February 4**; final drafts are due **February 18**. Submissions may be typed or clearly handwritten. Illustrations may include photographs, drawings, or pictures published in magazines, newspapers or on the internet. All submissions must include a cover and an identification card. Please see the Disney website [www.Disney.cps.k12.il.us](http://www.Disney.cps.k12.il.us) for additional information; click on the link: Young Authors Quick Reference Guidelines.

- **Late Students** – We just want to remind families that all students should be at school by 8:00 a.m. when classes begin. Students that arrive late need to be dropped off at the back door (door 6) between the playground structures. Students enter the building and sign in for a tardy pass in the first floor lunchroom. After 9:00 a.m., late students enter the main office through the front door and receive a tardy pass.

- **After School Sports** – We are currently in the girls and boys basketball seasons. We want to encourage family support but remind parents that children, whether a Disney student or not, must be accompanied by their parent while watching a game at school. This policy is in place for the safety of all students, since we have no adult supervision for audience members.

- **Future Dates/Events** – Please mark your calendars for upcoming activities of interest and important dates:  
8<sup>th</sup> grade pictures – **Tuesday and Wednesday, January 25 & 26**; students will pose in cap & gown and regular clothing  
Pod 110/Pre-School Field Trip to Adler Planetarium – **Monday, January 31**  
ISAT Simulation/Practice Testing (Tentative) – Thursday and Friday, **February 3 and 4** - students in grades 2-8  
Staff Development Day – No School for Students – **Friday, February 11**  
Pod 120/Kindergarten CAC unit – February 7 – 18; culminating performance morning of **Friday, February 18**  
Presidents’ Day – No School for Students/Building Closed – **Monday, February 21**  
ISAT Testing – **March 1 through March 11** – students in grades 3 through 8  
Pulaski Day – No School for Students/Building Closed – **Monday, March 7**  
Spring Break – No School for Students/Building Closed – Monday through Friday, **April 18-22**