

WALT DISNEY MAGNET SCHOOL
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January 5, 2011

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

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Monday, January 17 – Martin Luther King Day (Building Closed)
Friday, January 28 – Staff Development Day

Happy New Year; we welcome everyone back to school! We hope all of our students are energized and ready to work hard as we approach the end of the 2nd quarter Friday, January 28. We extend congratulations to 5th grade student, *Laura Blumensaadt*, who successfully competed in the 37th Annual All American Team Competition, held at the Skokie Park District earlier this winter. We applaud Laura's hard work and her figure skating achievements!

- **2nd Quarter Progress Reports** – Progress Reports were sent home today with all students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade. The Progress Report gives you an indication of your child's work and growth midway through the second quarter. The quarter ends Friday January 28; 2nd quarter reports cards will be sent home with students Wednesday, February 2.

- **Local School Council** – The regular January meeting of the LSC is scheduled for **Monday, January 10**, at 5:30 p.m.

- **PTA** – The next Movie Night will be this **Friday, January 14** from 6-8 pm; the Movie is "Despicable Me". All Disney families are welcome; we remind you that children must be actively supervised by their parents. February's Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, February 18. If you have any questions regarding PTA activities or how you can become more involved, please contact the PTA via email at waltdisneyschoolpta@gmail.com.

- **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. First Friday workshops will be this **Friday, January 7**.

- **Second grade CAC Unit** – All second grade students will participate in the 2-week arts integrated unit, "Sound" starting **Monday, January 10**. The unit's culminating performance will be **Friday, January 21** at 9:30 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend the performance; please consult with your child's teacher on volunteer needs during the 2-week unit.

- **School Wide Spelling Bee** – All 1st through 8th 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 Author's Project** – All Walt Disney students participate in the annual Young Author's 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 for additional information; click on the link: Young Authors Quick Reference Guidelines.

- **Parental Supervision of Internet Usage/ Cyber Bullying** – The wonders of technology also have a downside. Some students use cell phones, e-mail, Facebook, etc. in ways that are inappropriate. To reiterate, cell phones are not allowed at Disney. Technology is sometimes used to harass, bully, and misrepresent other students. Please monitor your child's use of technology and advise and discipline as needed.

- **Future Dates/Events** – Please mark your calendars for upcoming activities of interest and important dates:

Pod 120/Kindergarten Field Trip to Adler Planetarium – **Friday, January 14**; permission slips will be sent home tomorrow; completed slip and payment are due Monday, January 10.

Pod 110/Pre-School Field Trip to Adler Planetarium – **Monday, January 31**; permission slip is due by January 26.

Pod 120/Kindergarten CAC unit – February 7 – 18; culminating performance morning of **Friday, February 18**

Staff Development Day – No School for Students – **Friday, February 11**

President's Day – No School for Students/Building Closed – **Monday, February 21**

ISAT Simulation/Practice Testing (Tentative) – Thursday and Friday, **February 3 and 4** - students in grades 2-8

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**

Last Day of School – **Friday, June 17**

(over for January calendar)