



GRAND CENTRAL NEWS

March 5, 2010

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please read the following message from the Stoneham Police Department:

Parking/Motor Vehicle Fines Associated with the Schools

With the ongoing calls and complaints with the parking situation around all Stoneham Schools, I have decided to write a reminder article regarding the possible fines associated with the different traffic/parking violations.

Whether you are a parent of one child or several children, we all are in a rush in the morning. But that does not mean that we should forget the safety of our children and other people as well. Starting from the moment your child steps into your vehicle, both you and your children **MUST** be properly seat belted prior to placing the vehicle in drive. Failure to wear a seatbelt could result in a \$25.00 fine for each person not seat belted in the vehicle. After the vehicle is placed in drive, the speed limit must be obeyed for this could result in **AT LEAST** a \$100.00 fine if not more for the operator. Speed limits around the school zones are 20 mph and after ten miles over the 20 mph, the \$100.00 fine quickly increases by \$10.00 each mile per hour over that speed. Prior to arriving at the schools, an operator of a motor vehicle must yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or this could result in a \$100.00 fine. Once you arrive at the school it is very important to understand that no one is allowed to leave their vehicle while picking up or dropping off a child in the fire lane. Many schools (not all schools) allow parents to live park in the fire lane to drop off and pick up, but once you leave that motor vehicle, you are subject to a \$100.00 parking fine. There is also the recent law of the “no idling” the motor vehicle law within 100 feet of school property. I have recently written an article regarding this law, but for those people who missed it please refer to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts website: www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mg/90-16b.htm for more information. This idling law will result in a \$100.00 motor vehicle infraction.

Not only are these fines expensive, but so are the surcharges that follow these infractions. These surcharges could be added to your comprehensive policy for up to 7 years resulting in thousands of extra dollars a year.

Remember Safety First!

It is the policy of the Stoneham Public School not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin or handicap in its education program, activities, or employment policies as required by law.

****IMPORTANT MCAS INFORMATION****

Attached to this notice is a revised MCAS ELA schedule for March/April. Good News! Please note there is one less test session for each grade level. Please be sure your child is at school on the day of their test and arrives on time. The tests will be given early in the morning when the children are “eager and ready to go”. More information and helpful hints will be included in the next Grand Central News.

District Policy – Food in the Classroom and During the School Day

I would like to remind everyone that beginning this school year the School Committee adopted a policy regarding food in the classroom and during the school day. The full policy description can be found on the Central School Website. However, I would like to bring to your attention the first item listed on the policy:

1. ...all student parties and celebrations during the regular school day shall be food-free. This policy specifically prohibits homemade or store bought foods for birthday, holiday or similar celebrations.

Thanks for your help in continuing to provide a safe environment for all our students.

OPEN CIRCLE WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, March 9th Ms. Jessica Greene and Ms. Betsy Wendt will offer a parent workshop on the Open Circle Program. This workshop will provide you with information and the skills your children are learning and practicing in the classroom. It will also assist you in learning how to utilize some of these same skills at home. There will be two sessions. Session 1 will be from 4:15 – 5:15 pm. The second session will be from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Both sessions will be held in the Central School Library. Please see attached permission slip.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all that signed up for library through March – the kids really love it!! If you are interested in volunteering for April, May and June, please fill out the attached form. If you are on the schedule through March, and you wish to remain on the schedule thru June, you do not need to fill out a new form. However, if you would like to be taken off the schedule, please submit a form requesting to be taken off.

Please try to give your form directly to Michele Dufour or to me in the library by Friday – March 12th.

Thank you again... Kim LeDonne

HAITI RELIEF FUND

Thanks to the generous donations of Central School parents, students and staff, we collected \$330.00 for the Haiti Relief Fund! Thank you to all who donated to this worthwhile campaign!

Thank You

"The staff breakfast for March was sponsored by our Kindergarten parents. Thanks so much for the delicious food that was generously donated. The faculty appreciates all your efforts!"

Just a Reminder that the Book Fair will be open Monday, March 8 through Friday, March 12, 2010.

The Book Fair will also be open for Parent/Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, March 9 (4:00 to 7:00) and Wednesday, March 10 (1:00 to 4:00).

Please check the Book Fair Schedule as to when your child will be visiting the fair with their classroom.

Pennies for Patients

Just a reminder we are still collecting for Pennies for Patients. Last day is Friday, March 12, 2010. The container is located in the lobby.