

Dear Pembroke families,

This fall, we find ourselves in the fortunate position of having all of our standardized academic scores at or above the State average. This affords us the luxury of not having to "fix anything". Consequently, we can be more proactive, rather than reactive, as we plan teacher workshops that relate to best practices for teaching and learning. Our situation allows us to focus more on facilities and some other non-academic initiatives. School Safety is one such initiative that we are going to look at more closely this year. To that end, you will hear more about the following topics as we move forward. More detailed information can be found on these topics on the school website: www.sau53.org.

Student ID cards - Ident-a-Kid is America's largest child safety provider and has, for over 20 years, provided programs and services related to the safety of children. Each year, Ident-A-Kid issues over three million Immediate Response Child Rescue Identification cards for children throughout the United States. The Ident-A-Kid card is a driver's license-like card that contains a child's photograph, fingerprint and description. Parents keep the card with them at all times and, in an emergency, can provide law enforcement with crucial information for immediate response. Ident-A-Kid is a safety program available for any Hill or Village student on October 8th. The cost is \$7.00 and forms will be sent home soon. We hope to eventually see all of our students have this protection.

Complete Campus Security system - Through Ident-A-Kid, we are also installing a new campus security software system at both Hill and Village schools. This new system allows for a quick, self-service check in. A web cam printer produces an instant adhesive photo badge for visitors, volunteers, substitutes, and guests. This program helps us better manage visitor traffic in our schools. It provides us with a detailed database of visitor activity, and alerts us to any visitors listed as convicted sexual offenders. This excellent security upgrade is being funded by our parent organization, PALS.

Security Entrances- Village School needs an updated security system. I am budgeting to create vestibule entrances on both sides of the building, which means moving the office. I also want to upgrade the phone and intercom system at the same time. Success of these initiatives will depend on the degree of public support. We need our parents to help these improvements survive the budget cuts.

Safe Routes to School - There is a community committee to study and improve conditions for walking to school. New sidewalks, cross walks, and an access road behind Village School are initiatives. There will be a public meeting on October 5th at the Public Safety building at 6:30pm to look at initial start-up grants and plans.

Alert Now- Alert Now is a web based communication system that our parent group, PALS, is funding for the second year in a row. This will be the primary means of communication for

school announcements, such as weather cancellations/closings and special school announcements. It allows us to call 5 numbers for each student and lets us know how the call was answered. Please get your five numbers to the Hill/Village offices as soon as possible.

Flu- Please be extra vigilant this year. Children with temperatures over 100* will be sent home and must stay out for a full 24 hours after a fever has broken, and reducing a fever with Tylenol or any other medication does not count. It would be helpful if students had their own water bottle to use, rather than using drinking fountains, and we encourage students and staff to wash their hands frequently. The water bottles should go home frequently to be washed. Please help us reinforce these good habits.

Background Check- We rely on parents to serve as chaperones on many field trips and events throughout the year. For field trips, and for most volunteer situations, we are only able to accept help from people who have undergone an official background check, per School Board policy. Because we have many field trips right at the beginning of the year, and because the process takes some time, we are asking parents to get processed as quickly as possible. You can get the information online at www.sau53.org or in the school offices. Background checks are only good for two years.

We appreciate your support, and we look forward to a safe, healthy year. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Yours in Education,

Ryan Quinn

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 24	THURSDAY	EARLY RELEASE AT 12:05
OCTOBER 6,7,8 AND 13,14,15		NECAP TESTING FOR ALL THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES. PLEASE BE HERE ON TIME, WELL RESTED, AND FED.
OCTOBER 12	MONDAY	NO SCHOOL - COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 14	WEDNESDAY	PICTURE DAY AT BOTH SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 20	TUESDAY	EARLY RELEASE AT 12:05