

Madison Highlights and Happenings*

April 30, 2017

Madison's Outstanding Building Volunteer

Shawnee Owens is a vital part of the Madison Elementary community. Everyone knows her by name, as well as her enthusiasm for school and helping students learn. Shawnee dedicates a lot of her time to Madison, some days working as much as eight hours. Students at Madison benefit from positive experiences while increasing their reading, writing and math skills when they work with Shawnee. For those students who need extra help she is their biggest cheerleader! Her warm smile and helpful personality shine as she builds confidence in the students she works with. Shawnee also thrives at building positive relationships with staff at Madison. Teachers appreciate her ability to step in and help whenever needed. Shawnee also supported our students and staff when our building was being painted. It was Shawnee that helped many teachers move to and from the temporary room. She made the transition for our students and staff run smoothly. The Madison community is grateful to Shawnee Owens for her many talents.

Incoming Kindergarten Spring Visit

On Thursday, April 27, we welcomed next year's incoming kindergarten students and their families. Future kindergartners and their families toured Madison together and then the kids had a chance to meet Mrs. Engelbrecht and Ms. Yanda, do some learning activities, get a snack and play outdoor. The adults met in the library for an information session. Twenty-five of the 42 students enrolled were able to come to the event. If you, or someone you know, was unable to attend, please give the office a call and we can arrange for a meeting. New kindergartners always bring such a smile to our faces!

Western Day and Learning Celebration

Each May Madison School enjoys 'Western Day'. On Western Day (May 26) staff and students dress up in their western gear and enjoy a grilled hot dog lunch outdoors. We always greet and eat with many parents on this fun day. This year we are adding another layer to the day: Learning Celebration!

The idea behind a 'Learning Celebration' is to continue to great conversations students have with their families at the October and February Parent/Teacher Conferences. At both the conferences, students show and share their learning using their Data Binder/Folder. Madison staff continue to assist students to add to their Data Binder/Folder after the February conferences but felt little emphasis placed on the students' hard work and parents did not get to enjoy seeing the growth of their child from August to the end of the school year in May.

Please make plans to join us on Friday, May 26 during your child's lunch hour for a time to eat together, and be dazzled by your child's learning and enjoy one another's company. More details to follow.

School Start and End Times Changing for 2017-18 School Year

The Cedar Rapids Community School District will adjust start and end times by five minutes for elementary and middle schools **for the 2017-18 school year**. The revised schedule will provide bus drivers a full hour instead of 50 minutes to complete their elementary routes, ensuring that all students arrive to school in time for breakfast and start the school day with their peers.

“Under the current schedule some students are arriving late for breakfast, making for a rushed start to the day,” explained Val Dolezal, Executive Administrator of Preschool – 8th grade.

“Adjusting the school times slightly is expected to resolve this. In addition, all of our schools will start at 50 minutes after the hour, which is easier for everyone to remember.”

Starting with the 2017-18 school year:

- Elementary schools will **begin classes at 8:50 a.m. and dismiss at 3:50 p.m.** Early dismissal time will be 2:20 p.m.
- Middle schools will **begin classes at 7:50 a.m. and dismiss at 2:50 p.m.** Early dismissal time will be 1:20 p.m.
- High school classes will continue to **begin at 7:50 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.** Early dismissal will be at 1:30 p.m.

The 2017-18 calendar can be found on the District website at www.cr.k12.ia.us

Upcoming PTA Events

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 1 – 5

PTA Meeting – May 4 – 5:30 – Library

Walk-A-Thon and Running Club Races – May 19 – 12:30 - 2:00

Spring-A-Thon Carnival – May 19 – 6:00 – 8:00

Calendar Reminders

May 5 – Early Dismissal – 2:15

May 12 – Kindergarten Author’s Luncheon

May 12 – Early Dismissal – 2:15

May 19 – Walk-A-Thon and Running Club Races– 12:30 – 2:00

May 19 – Spring-A-Thon Carnival – 6:00 – 8:00

May 19 – Early Dismissal – 2:15

May 26 – Western Day and Learning Celebration

May 26 – Early Dismissal

May 29 – No School – Memorial Day

June 1 – Mad-I-Sun Day

June 2 – Last Day of School – Early Dismissal – 2:15

Every Friday is Early Dismissal at 2:15!

Virtual Backpack

Check out the CRCSD Virtual Backpack for information and opportunities for families. Go to the link below to access information on the events/opportunities listed below.

<http://webapps.cr.k12.ia.us/virtualbackpack/FlyerLinks.aspx?school=Madison>

[Cedar Rapids Ice Arena May Skate Events - Event Date: \(5/1/2017 - 5/31/2017\)](#)

[Jump Rope Camp - Event Date: \(6/7/2017 - 6/9/2017\)](#)

[Mathnasium Summer Programs - Event Date: \(6/1/2017 - 8/18/2017\)](#)

***You can access Madison Highlights at <http://madison.cr.k12.ia.us/>**