

Madison Highlights and Happenings*

January 15, 2017

No School on January 16 and 17!

January 16 is Martin Luther King Day – No School



January 17 is Teacher Professional Development – No School



First Semester Report Cards

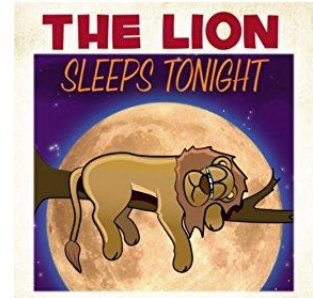
The first semester ends on January 13, 2017. Teachers are currently wrapping up end-of-semester assessments and will begin work on first semester report cards on Monday, January 16. Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, January 27, 2017. Conferences will be held on February 16th and 21st.

Kindergarten and First Grade Musicals

Tuesday, January 24



Kindergarten: "Groundpig Day!" - 6:00 in cafe



First Grade: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" - 6:45 in café

Iowa School Report Card

January 12, 2017



Dear Madison Families,

Knowing where you are and where you want to go is a key part of growth and improvement. Our school regularly uses education data to tell us how our students are progressing and to adjust instruction for better results.

This state of Iowa provides an annual report called the Iowa School Report Card. This is a web-based tool that was first launched last year. Rankings will be reported on an annual basis and provides a snapshot of every Iowa public school's performance on certain educational measures, such as student attendance and proficiency rates. Please keep in mind that the data used for the rankings is from 2014-15 and 2015-16 and does not represent data from this school year.

The goal of the Iowa School Report Card is to present certain education data in a way that makes it easier for the public to find and understand. The Iowa Department of Education developed this tool in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215).

Specifically, the Iowa School Report Card scores schools on up to eight educational measures and then assigns an overall rating to each school based on its performance on the measures. The attached guide provides an explanation of the eight measures. Our school's overall rating is Acceptable.

While I believe this information can add to conversations in our community about how we're preparing our students for success, these measures are based on data from a single assessment. In the Cedar Rapids Community School District, we use multiple assessments with students on an ongoing basis. As we know from other accountability initiatives such as the federal No Child Left Behind Act, schools are so much more than labels. Labels and ratings do not tell the whole story.

While I encourage you to explore the information provided in the Iowa School Report Card, I also urge you to get to know the school behind the label. Madison School is working toward improving student engagement in all academic areas, honing instructional strategies across all academic areas, increasing student awareness of their own areas of strength and growth, setting short-term and long-term learning goals, increasing communication with families via newsletters and phone calls and providing students with opportunities to serve others through community service projects. I encourage you to ask questions about our improvement efforts, and ask what you can do to support our teachers and students.

You can locate our school's results, as well as more information about the Iowa School Report Card, on the District website at www.cr.k12.ia.us. Several support materials have been posted with the report to help you navigate and understand the information. You can also find the report at www.educateiowa.gov/schoolreportcard

Thanks for all you do for our school.

Sincerely,



Madison School Principal

Counselor Corner

Check out Mrs. Druschel's online newsletter!

<https://www.smores.com/va6uf-counselor-s-corner>

Included are:

- New Year's "resolutions" for kids
- Classroom guidance lesson topics
- Community resource links
- Family Connections LIVE!

Upcoming PTA Events

Open Gym and Game Night – January 20 – 6:00 – 8:00

Please sign up to volunteer!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090E4BABA829ABF85-family



Calendar Reminders

No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 16

No School – January 17

Second Semester Begins – January 18

Early Dismissal – January 20

Kindergarten (6:00) and First Grade (6:45) Musicals – January 24

Early Dismissal – January 27

First Semester Report Cards Sent Home – January 27

Madison Gets New Computers – January 30 and 31

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/>

[Iowa Men's Gymnastics - Kid's Day - Event Date: \(1/22/2017 - 1/22/2017\)](#)

[UI Health Care STEM Education program - Girls Go STEM! - Event Date: \(2/11/2017 - 2/11/2017\) d](#)

[Cedar Rapids Ice Arena January Public Skate Calendar - Event Date: \(1/11/2017 - 1/31/2017\)](#)

[YMCA Spring 2017 Youth Sports Form - Event Date: \(3/20/2017 - 5/27/2017\)](#)

[YMCA Youth Sports Registration Spring 2017 - Event Date: \(3/20/2017 - 5/27/2017\)](#)

[Free First Saturdays for Students - \(free NCSM admission every first Saturday of the month\) - Event Date: \(2/4/2017 - 2/4/2017\)](#)

[MYFA Spring 7 vs 7 Passing League - Event Date: \(3/27/2017 - 5/28/2017\)](#)

[MYFA Spring 7 vs 7 Passing League - Event Date: \(3/27/2017 - 5/28/2017\) -](#)

[MYFA Spring Flag Football - Event Date: \(3/27/2017 - 5/28/2017\) -](#)

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



Project Linus

Madison Families,

We all know a child who dearly loves his or her blanket and carries it everywhere. It might be tattered and torn, a bit frayed around the edges, but to that child, it feels like love. One mother made a blanket for children in a Denver hospital, and Project Linus was born.

You are invited to participate in a Project Linus Community Service event at Madison Elementary School on

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 from 8:45 AM - 3:30 PM. We will be a building of “blanketeers”, making colorful and soft fleece blankets for children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of a blanket they can feel secure with. We will be working in grade level groups, tying layers of fleece together. Later that week, the tied blankets will be taken to a group that inspects and adds labels to each and every blanket, making them official Project Linus blankets!

We have the fleece; we need your help! Please consider coming to spend time with your favorite student, or class, as we work together to help children feel safe and warm. You may sign up for a particular time slot or several time slots! We will need a lot of help!! Our goal is to make at least 22 blankets on February 8th! We are encouraging families to invite extended family members (grandparents, aunts and uncles, older siblings) to join us for this project. Please share this invitation with interested family members. If you have a work or church group who might be interested in assisting, have them contact us as well!

Please complete the bottom portion of this form and return by January 25, 2017. We look forward to completing the Linus Project Community Service Event with your help on February 8th.

For more information about Project Linus, visit their website at www.projectlinus.org

I will volunteer for Madison Community Service Project Linus on February 8, 2017! I am available at the following time(s):

8:45 – 10:00 ____ (Mr. Casey’s 3rd Grade) 12:00 – 1:00 ____ (Fourth Grade) 2:30 – 3:30 ____ (Mrs. Mueller’s 3rd Grade)

9:45 – 10:45 ____ (Second Grade) 12:45 – 2:00 ____ (Fifth Grade) Other time-frame _____

10:30 – 11:30 ____ (Kindergarten) 1:45 – 2:40 ____ (First Grade)

My name _____

Do you have a special student(s) at Madison you want to work with? Their name(s):

Contact info: Phone # _____ or Email _____

Please return this form to the Madison School Office by January 25 or email Mrs. Suzanne Duthler, Coordinator, at SKlaasDuthler@cr.k12.ia.us or Mr. James Girdner, Principal, at JGirdner@cr.k12.ia.us with your available time(s).