

# ELEMENTARY edition

A PUBLICATION FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS



## Get an **A** in Attendance

*It's the first class period of the day, and out comes last night's homework for review. Then some independent journal time follows as students write about an article they were assigned to read. Then it's on to math for a practice exam followed by a group science experiment. As the day winds down, some students stay on for an elective club or activity, or meet with a teacher for some extra instruction. This may sound like a typical day in college, but more and more it's also a typical day in an elementary school.*

The academic demands on today's youngest learners require them to tackle increasingly challenging subject materials, any number of quizzes and tests, and an average of an hour or more of homework each night—and don't forget the rigorous state exams that measure their skills and knowledge in English language arts, math, science, and social studies.

This high-level of learning and testing is why every hour that a student misses from school is a learning opportunity lost.

"Even one missed day of school can mean having to tackle two or more hours of homework the following night," says an elementary teacher who stresses that when students are absent from school they can permanently miss out on vital hands-on activities, direct instruction, and group projects. "This type of classroom involvement and peer learning opportunities can't be replicated at home by doing worksheets."

Research further shows that students who attend school regularly learn more, have fewer discipline problems, acquire better study habits, and are gen-

erally more successful than students who do not.

### Excellent attendance records start at home

Good attendance practices are formed early in life—and typically by example.

"Parents play a huge role in setting good attendance and tardiness examples," explains an elementary school principal. "Parents who enforce the importance of being in school every day and on time tend to have children who value education—a trait they will likely carry with them throughout their education years and beyond."

Parents can set a positive example at home and make family choices that will help children arrive at school each day ready to learn. Here are some ideas:

### Show your children you, too, are bit by the "learning bug."

When children are young, parents' interest and enthusiasm in learning new things can be "catchy." Bone up on what your kids are learning in school so you can ask questions and offer additional information. Attending open houses and parent-teacher conferences will give you information you can talk with your children about. For example: "Your teacher said you planted flower seeds in class. How do you care for them? Have they spouted yet? Would you like to start a flower garden in our yard? Let's go to the library and get some books on growing flowers."

### Set consistent waking and bedtime schedules—and stick to them.

This may be hard to do coming off of summer vacation, but in order for children ages five to 12 to perform well in school,



## When you should keep your child home from school

- ▲ **If they have a fever.** This means a temperature at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. "With a fever at this level, even if your child doesn't have additional symptoms, he or she is probably battling an infection," says one pediatrician.
- ▲ **If they have vomited in the last 24 hours.** Children who are experiencing vomiting should remain at home until they are healthy enough to return to school.
- ▲ **If they have diarrhea.** If this is occurring you're likely dealing with a virus, meaning you should keep your children at home and make sure they drink lots of water.
- ▲ **They are coughing or having any sort of breathing trouble.** Coughing spreads infection. And a cough that keeps your children up at night means they'll be too tired to learn the next day.
- ▲ **They have a rash that is spreading.** Check with your doctor to determine whether the rash is contagious before sending your children to school.
- ▲ **They have signs of an eye infection, such redness, discharge, or itching.** A condition such as "pink eye" can be very contagious among young children.

they need between 9 ½ and 11 hours of sleep each night. Going to bed and waking at the same times each day—including weekends—will help ensure that children not only get enough sleep, but have plenty of time to eat a nutritious breakfast, gather their school supplies, and get to school on time.

### Get your children organized.

A sure way for kids to be late for school is to have them running around in the morning trying to find their backpacks, shoes, or yesterday's homework assignment. Clear a space in your home for your kids to store their school bags and supplies, coats, and other outdoor accessories so getting ready for school is

less of a chore. You could also try creating a "to-do" list with "night-before" tasks (i.e., put homework, permission slips, lunch money, etc. in book bag) and "morning" tasks (make bed, brush teeth, put lunch in book bag, pack gym clothes, etc.). It makes for a much easier school day if children—and parents alike—start the day in a calm manner.

### Ensure your children attend a full day of school.

As often as possible, try to schedule medical and other appointments during non-school hours. Plan family vacations during school recesses so your children are not missing important academic lessons.

# Stellar Students

# mark your Calendar

## Who had Perfect Attendance in 2007-08?

It's not always easy to have perfect school attendance, especially when students are at the age where childhood "bugs" abound. Still, several students at the Jefferson, Mariaville and Woestina elementary schools were able to maintain a perfect attendance record during the 2007-08 school year. The students listed below are to be congratulated for maximizing their educational opportunities. Their names, as well as their grades in 2007-08, are listed in alphabetical order.

### Jefferson Elementary School

- ▲ Breanna Autrey, second grade
- ▲ Matt DeFilippo, third grade
- ▲ Dante Gallucci, fourth grade
- ▲ Nicolette Greisler, third grade
- ▲ Timothy Kitchner, second grade
- ▲ Ben Masick, first grade
- ▲ Anthony Pasquarella, third grade
- ▲ Justin Starker, second grade

### Mariaville Elementary School

- ▲ Preston Paige, first grade

### Woestina Elementary School

- ▲ Matthew Archambault, second grade
- ▲ Rebecca Haws, fourth grade
- ▲ Lyndsey Yager, fourth grade

Some elementary students may not have made it to this list due to unavoidable illnesses that kept them at home. All Schalmont schools maintain sick-student policies, which can be found in parent handbooks, on most school Web sites, and by contacting a school nurse's office. Parents' help in ensuring the health of our students through adherence to these policies is greatly appreciated.

### October

- 3 Woestina – Morning Program, 9:15 a.m.
- 6 Jefferson – Picture Day
- 6-17 Woestina – Fall Fundraiser
- 7 Woestina – Preschool Story Hour, 2:25 p.m.
- 8 Woestina – Skating @ Rollerama, 4 p.m.
- 9 NO SCHOOL – Yom Kippur (observed)
- 10 Mariaville – Family Movie Night, 7 p.m.
- 10 Woestina – Picture Day
- 13 NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day (observed)
- 14 Board of Ed. Meeting @ Mariaville, 7 p.m.
- 14 Jefferson – PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Mariaville – PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Woestina – Preschool Story Hour, 2:25 p.m.
- 15-31 Jefferson – T-shirt Sale
- 21 Woestina – Preschool Story Hour, 2:25 p.m.
- 24 NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day
- 27-31 Woestina – T-shirt Sale
- 27 Board of Ed. Meeting @ MS LGI, 7 p.m.
- 27 Mariaville – T-shirt Sale
- 28 Woestina – Preschool Story Hour, 2:25 p.m.
- 30 ½ Day Elementary Conferences
- 31 Jefferson – Halloween Parades, 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
- 31 Mariaville – Halloween Parade and Parties, 2 p.m.
- 31 Woestina – Halloween Parade and Parties, 2 p.m.

### November

- 3 Jefferson – Fundraiser Pick Up, 3-6 p.m.
- 4 ½ Day Elementary Conferences
- 5 Jefferson – Preschool Story Hour
- 7 Woestina – Morning Program, 9:15 a.m.
- 7 – Picture Retake Day
- 7 FOM Musical Chairs/Karaoke Night @ Jefferson, 6 p.m.
- 10 ½ Day Elementary Conferences
- 10 Board of Ed. Meeting @ Woestina, 7 p.m.
- 11 NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day (observed)
- 12-13 Grade 5: NYS Social Studies Exam

- 12 Jefferson – Preschool Story Hour
- 12 Mariaville – PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Woestina – PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 14 Mariaville – PTO Gift Auction, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Woestina – Movie Night, 7 p.m.
- 18 Jefferson – PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 ½ Day Elementary Conferences
- 24 Board of Ed. Meeting @ MS LGI, 7 p.m.
- 24 Jefferson – Grade 2 Sing & Give Thanks Concert @ HS, 7 p.m.
- 26-28 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday Recess

### December

- 1-12 Jefferson – Food Drive & Giving Tree
- 1-5 Woestina – Giving Tree & Hat/Mitten Drive
- 2 Mariaville – Concert @ HS, 7 p.m.
- 3 Jefferson – Preschool Story Hour
- 3 Woestina – Concert @ HS, 7 p.m.
- 4 Jefferson – Holiday Concert @ HS, 7 p.m.
- 6 Lunch w/ Santa @ Jefferson, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (benefits all elementary music programs)
- 6 Jefferson Craft Fair, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 8 Board of Ed. Meeting @ MS LGI, 7 p.m.
- 8-12 Mariaville – Holiday Sharing Basket Collection
- 8-12 Woestina – Santa's Workshop
- 9 Jefferson – PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Mariaville – PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Jefferson – Preschool Story Hour
- 11 Jefferson – Grade 1 Concert, 7 p.m.
- 12 Mariaville – Family Movie Night, 7 p.m.
- 12 Woestina – Parent Night Out, 6 – 9 p.m.
- 18 Jefferson – Grade 3 Concert, 7 p.m.
- 18 – 1/9 Woestina – Pizza Fundraiser
- 22 Mariaville – Holiday Party, 2 p.m.
- 22 Woestina – Holiday Parties, 2 p.m.
- 23 Mariaville – Holiday Sing-along
- 24 - 1/2 NO SCHOOL – Holiday Recess

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FALL 2008 • Elementary Edition

Jefferson Elementary  
355-1342  
Principal, Joby Gifford  
Assistant Principal, Beth Bini  
Mariaville Elementary  
864-5411  
Principal, Brian Hunt  
Woestina Elementary  
887-5600  
Principal, Shari Lontrato  
Schalmont Central School  
District  
355-9200  
Superintendent, Dr. Valerie Kelsey  
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**Schalmont** CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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