

January 20, 2011

Dear Parents,

Happy 2011!

We are just three weeks into 2011 and Anson Elementary is already planning a variety of activities to make 2011 an exciting year to learn. The next weeks are already stacking up to be busy ones for us.

A special day that you should mark on your calendar is Friday, January 28th. That day will be the 100th day that we have been in school, by adding in our partial days. Do you have any collections of 100 items in your home? Can you fit 100 cheerios in a bowl? If you ate 100 M & Ms, would you get sick? How much would 100 cotton balls weigh? How much space would 100 marbles fill? We will certainly be answering those kinds of questions at Anson Elementary on Day 100.

The recent snowfalls and cold weather have reminded us what Iowa winters are like. Children of all ages love to play in the snow, so we will be having outside recesses if the air temperature and/or wind chill are 0 or above. This will be determined by the information given to us by our own weather station on the roof of Anson Elementary. (You are able to access our weather station on the Internet.) To play in the snow, children need snow pants, hats, mittens and boots. Boots can be any type of weather-proof boot. Students will need a different pair of shoes to wear in the classroom, as tracking snow from all-weather boots into the classroom makes the carpeting wet. Not only is it uncomfortable to sit upon, but the wet carpeting becomes smelly and wears more quickly. Therefore, as students change from boots to shoes, socks often get wet. I would encourage you to send a dry pair of socks to school with your child to keep in his/her desk or locker for just such a purpose. It is also wise to put your child's name in coats, hats, mittens and boots. Many items stray from their owner during the day and a name helps to identify the rightful owner quickly.

We have a small supply of clothing that we use at school for students who have an emergency. If your child comes home wearing any of the clothing from our emergency supply, please launder the item(s) and return it to school for use in another emergency. If your child is in need of that item of clothing, we encourage you to keep it and use it. We are always in need of sweat pants, sweatshirts, shirts and underwear of any size. If you have any items that might be of use to us, please feel free to send them to school with your child.

There may be times that severe weather conditions make it necessary to dismiss early, delay the starting time or close school. Please refer to the information given to you at registration regarding radio and television stations that will carry that information.

We encourage parents to come to school, every now and then, and visit their child's classroom or to eat lunch with their child(ren). It is important for you to notify the office by 8:25 AM if you are planning on eating lunch at school on any particular day. The secretary must notify the high school kitchen (where our meals are prepared) by 8:25 AM

the number of adults who will be eating lunch that day. If you are unable to call by 8:25 AM, it will be necessary for you to eat a student's lunch or bring a sack lunch with you.

We, also, ask that you call the office when someone different will be picking up your child(ren). That is especially important if the individual is not listed as an emergency contact on the cards that you filled out at registration. We cannot release your child to an individual that you have not identified either in writing or by a telephone call. Your child's safety is of utmost concern to us.

I would like to remind you of a few things staff members and others have asked me to share in my next parent letter. These things include:

Remember that our next preschool story time is scheduled for February 3rd. The story time takes place in our media center from 2:45-3:15 PM. Contact Beth Steffa at school if you have questions about preschool story time.

There will be no school for students on February 4th as that is a district-wide in-service day.

Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration at Anson Elementary is on March 11th. Watch for special news about the activities that will take place at Anson Elementary during that week! We certainly couldn't miss celebrating such a special day with our district's focus on reading achievement!

If you have changes in address, telephone numbers, emergency numbers and so on, please notify the office (754-1020) of these changes. It is necessary to keep our records current.

Remember that we have very few telephone lines at Anson Elementary. All of the telephones in teachers' classrooms use those same lines. It is difficult for us to have children calling home after school to make arrangements for rides. Please make an effort to make those arrangements with your child before they come to school in the mornings. We continue to save Campbell's labels, General Mills boxtops marked "Labels for Education" and Milk for Moola labels/caps. Remember to send those to school with your child when your collection drawer gets full. The General Mills boxtops and the Milk for Moola labels bring a cash contribution to us to support the work that we do with our students.

Miss Niblock