

August 17, 2009

Dear Echo Lake Families:

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer. Echo Lake went through a transformation while the students were gone, and now we have new flooring! Our 25-year-old carpet has been replaced with Mondo, an environmentally friendly and long-lasting product, in the hallways and in the intermediate classrooms while the primary classrooms have new carpet and a single strip of Mondo near the sink.

We are excited to welcome back Allison Bowhay to fifth grade! We are delighted to get her at Echo Lake for a second year. Also returning to Echo Lake this fall is Shari Bronsther, formerly Wennik. Shari is returning from maternity leave and will be teaming in a 5/6 split class.

We also welcome three new teachers to Echo Lake this year! Teresa Holmes, a veteran kindergarten teacher from Ridgecrest Elementary, will be teaching our second AM Kindergarten class. Kelly Ubaldi will be teaming with Tricia Downey in the Resource Room. Kelly joins us from Lake Forest Park Elementary where she worked in Special Education, Title I, and as a third grade teacher. And Donny Ballard will be teaching sixth grade. He wore many hats at Room Nine last year, including 6/7/8 math teacher, webmaster, and department chair.

This year we will continue our partnership with our local YMCA. There will be opportunities for students after school to participate in Kids University, a YMCA program housed at Echo Lake and jointly planned by Echo Lake and YMCA staff. This program is tuition based, but there are many scholarships available. Additional information is included in this mailing. Echo Lake will continue to offer before and after school activities that are run by staff and are tuition free.

School officially begins on Wednesday, September 2. Our **General Information Handbook** which will serve as a guide for your questions throughout the year, is posted on our website at www.shorelineschools.org/echo_lake. If you would like a hard copy, they will be available in the office. In this packet we are including several items that we need you to complete and return to the office. One is the **Update Form** that gives us current information for our office files. Also enclosed are the **Emergency Plan Form** that is kept in your child's classroom and in the office and the **Application for Free and Reduced Lunch Form**. If you are interested in the YMCA/Echo Lake Kids University classes, please return the **Registration Form**. In addition, we have enclosed our **Echo Lake T-Shirt/Sweatshirt** order form. For students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 our **Internet Access Form** is enclosed.

We hope by mailing these forms to you now you will have time to gather the information needed and bring these with you to our Open House on Monday, August 31, from 3:00 – 4:00.

School Day:

The school day will begin at 9:10 and end at 3:30. Students may arrive no earlier than 9:00 AM. A bell rings when students are able to enter the campus. Students are to walk home, take the bus, or be picked up promptly at 3:30. Students who are unsupervised in the morning or afternoon will be sent to daycare, and parents will be charged for this service.

Crossing Guards will be located at the following intersections:

192nd and Wallingford Avenue North
195th and Meridian Avenue North
195th and Wallingford Avenue North
195th and Ashworth Avenue North
200th and Wallingford Avenue North

Buses:

We have attached a current bus list for students in ADK – Grade 6. (A mid day bus schedule for students in AM kindergarten will be sent in a separate kindergarten mailing.) This information will also be available on the web and in the Shoreline Enterprise. It is very important that each student report to the correct bus stop at the correct time.

Student Loading Zone:

If you plan to drop-off or pick-up your child, please be aware that buses load and unload in the front parking lot. **FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS, CARS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE FRONT PARKING LOT BETWEEN 8:30 AM AND 9:30 AM AND BETWEEN 3:00 PM AND 4:00 PM. IF YOU ARE DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP STUDENTS, PLEASE DO SO ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SCHOOL (195TH AVENUE NORTH) OR IN THE BACK LOT ON ASHWORTH.**

Breakfast and Lunch:

Breakfast will be **\$1.60**, and lunch will be **\$2.50**. Juice and milk will both cost **50 cents**. Students may purchase a second entree for an additional **\$1.75**. A single breakfast/lunch may be purchased, or meals and milk/juice can be paid for in advance. Each child may have their own “breakfast/lunch account” that is maintained by the kitchen staff. Money is withdrawn and deposited similar to a bank account. The deposit amount does not need to be the exact amount of a specific number of meals.

Open House:

All parents and students are invited to an informal Open House on Monday August 31, from 3:00 to 4:00. Please enter the school through the gym doors on the Wallingford Avenue North side of the building. Students will be given their class assignments at that time. Do not call the school for class assignments prior to that time because they will not be ready. If you are unable to attend, class lists will be posted on the windows on Tuesday, September 1. **Please be prepared to turn in your Emergency Form, T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Order Form, the Application for Free and Reduced Lunch Form, the Internet Access Form (K – 3), and the Update Form** at the Open House.

Echo Lake T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Sale:

We are selling Echo Lake T-Shirts and Sweatshirts again this year! They are royal blue with our Echo Lake eagle logo. If you are interested in purchasing one, you may bring your order with you to Open House on August 31. Samples will be available for you to see at the Open House. PLEASE NOTE: Sizes run small. Be sure to take this into consideration when placing your orders. We will not be able to take returns or make exchanges. Checks are to be made payable to Echo Lake Elementary. The last day to order T-Shirts and Sweatshirts is Friday, September 25.

Supplies:

A school supply list is enclosed. We request that students have these on the first day of school. The Back to School Consortium is having their annual back-to-school event on Saturday, August 29, from 1 – 3 PM at Ridgecrest Elementary. This event provides children in the Shoreline School District with school supplies, hair cuts, and gently used clothing. Register for the event online at www.btsconsortium.org

Emergency Information:

Please refer to pages 11 – 17 of the General Information Handbook (on our website) for complete details regarding emergencies. In the event of an emergency or disaster, all students will be asked to follow their emergency plans. It is very important that you complete the enclosed Emergency Plan/Student Information Form and have your child bring it to school at the Open House. The PTA will again be providing Emergency Packs for all our students this year. You do not need to provide them.

Kindergarten – Grade 3 Internet Access Form:

Echo Lake students use the internet extensively at school. We need all primary students (Kindergarten – Grade 3) to have Internet Access Forms signed by their parents and returned to school. Students in Grades 4 – 6 have different permission forms as part of the laptop rollout process.

Update Form:

Enclosed is a copy of the information we currently have on file in our office. It is very important that we have the most up-to-date information available should your child become ill or injured at school. Please review the information, draw a line through anything that is incorrect, and complete new

information on the same line in the blank space provided. **Please have your child bring this to Open House.**

Directory Information – Student Information Release Denial:

There are many times throughout the year that we recognize students and their activities on our website and/or class websites as well as publicity through newsletters and news releases. In addition we release student information to organizations such as the PTA for school directory or photo labs for the school annual. If you **DO NOT** want this information released, you **MUST** fill out the DENIAL form. They will be available in the school office.

We are asking parents to join us for **Back to School Night** on Thursday, September 24. This is a very important evening where parents meet the teacher and learn about the curriculum for the year. This night is for parents only, so plan to leave students at home.

We are looking forward to the year with you and your children! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at 361-4338. In addition, you may refer to our website at www.shorelineschools.org/echo_lake for school information. We will see you soon!

Sincerely,

Mary Koontz, Principal
Echo Lake Elementary School

Paul Shanahan, Principal
Echo Lake Elementary School