

Van Buren Elementary School

PARENT NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY / MARCH 2018



Open Enrollment
Application Period
for
2018-2019 School Year
is
February 5, 2018 -
April 30, 2018.



4th & 5th Grade Winter Sing
Friday, February 9, 2018

4th Grade - 1:00 pm
5th Grade - 2:15 pm



Van Buren Elementary School
1515 Lapham Street
Janesville WI 53546

Office Hours 7:30 am. – 4:00 pm
Van Buren Website <http://Janesville.k12.wi.us/van>
Phone: 608.743.7100
Fax: 608.743.7110
Attendance: 608.743.7130

WI Forward Exam Miss Pope

It's hard to believe that it's almost time for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students to take the Forward WI Exam. This year, students have from March 19th-May 4th to take Reading, Math, Science (4th grade only), and Social Students (4th grade only) tests. Students have been learning and preparing all year, but before March, students will also set goals and look at practice tests in order to be prepared to take the assessment. You can help your child prepare for the test by ensuring they get a good night's sleep and a fulfilling breakfast the day of the tests. We know they are going to rock the test! Please contact me if you have any specific questions regarding the Forward WI Exam.

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

FROM: MRS. PAJERSKI



Dear Van Buren Families,

Warmest greetings to you and your family! We are busy working hard on our second trimester goals. It's great to see so many students attending our after school clubs, stretching their brains, sharing their talents, and participating in acts of kindness. All students continue to enjoy our FREE BIC (Breakfast In the Classroom) program, starting their day with a full stomach. For safety reasons, students should not be on the playground prior to 8:05a.m., when our supervision begins.

With trimester two ending on March 1, it will soon be time for parent-teacher conferences! This is a great opportunity for you to collaborate with your child's teacher to review his or her progress. Conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 21, and Thursday, February 22, 2018. Parents will be asked to update any contact information on our emergency cards and on Infinite Campus during your visit.

Progress reports will be sent home in early March. Please take some time to discuss your child's progress with them. Your praise for their hard work and your assistance with goal setting for improvement helps motivate our students to do their best in school!

We are always looking for ways to improve our school and encourage family involvement. We hope you are able to attend our next two **PTA Meetings**, February 20 & March 20 at 6:00p.m. Other events we hope you can attend:

2/16 @ 6:00pm	Van Buren Family Fun Night at Edison Middle School
3/1 @ 6:00pm	Seusstastic Family Reading Event at VB
3/13 @ 8:00am	Touring Tuesday ~Parent breakfast & school tour
4-8pm	Culver's Scoopie Night
3/22 @ 6:00pm	VB Student LEADERSHIP Night

Look for more information to be coming home about these exciting family events!

Thank you for your continued efforts in getting your child to school on time each day. We value your partnership in educating your child and preparing them for a bright future. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you are having. I am always here to listen and support you and your child in any way that I can. Stay warm! Spring will be here before we know it!!

With Kind Regards,
Mrs. Stephanie Pajerski, Principal



Winter Weather Reminders - As the weather continues to change and the cold weather continues to get colder, we have a few reminders for student safety at Van Buren. All students go outside each day for recess. Winter clothing is necessary every day. This should include a warm winter coat, hat, and gloves or mittens. Students in K - 5 must have snow pants and boots on in order to go into the snow. Otherwise they will be required to stay on the blacktop. If it is raining or snowing heavily in the morning when students come to school they are to go to the doors they usually line up at, not the front doors. There are staff members and safety patrol members to let them in and direct them to the location they should be at until the bell rings at 8:15. Remember: no student should be on campus until 8:05 a.m. (excludes bus students).

Temperature For Indoor Recess - All Janesville School District schools will be consistent about the temperature for indoor recess. The temperature will be “feels like” 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation, icy conditions on the playground or other unsafe weather situations will continue to be reasons to have indoor recess if the temperature is higher than 0 degrees.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Conferences— February 21 & 22, 2018

- Wednesday, February 21, 2018 4:00 pm—7:00 pm (No School for Students)
- Thursday, February 22, 2018 8:00 am-7:00 pm (No School for Students)
- Friday, February 23, 2018 (No School for Students & Staff).

Attendance - Regular school attendance is so very important. It is only through regular attendance that students are able to take full advantage of their learning opportunities. The responsibility for elementary school attendance rests upon the student and the parent/guardian.

Under state law a parent/guardian may only excuse their child's absence from school for 10 days during a school year. This includes absences related to excuses for part of a school day. Absences related to student medical needs, funeral, or an out of school suspension are not counted against the parent/guardian excused absences. However, please schedule routine appointments outside the school day as much as possible.

Please make sure your child is here on time every day ready to learn. Establishing a consistent morning routine which includes getting to school on time when your child is young will help him/her for an entire school career and beyond.



**Please remember students should not arrive to school
until 8:05**

Spring Track Meet - 5th Grade - Tuesday, May 23
4th Grade - Wednesday, May 24
Rain Date - Thursday, May 25

What time is Lunch - Parents are always welcome to eat with their child

Kindergarten / 1st Grades	10:55 - 11:45
4th & 5th Grades	11:35 - 12:25
2nd & 3rd Grades	12:20 - 1:10

What is Going on - Please click Van Buren or District calendar, they will let you know what is happening at Van Buren and the Janesville School District.



Van Buren
[Calendar](#)



District
[Calendar](#)

Infinite Campus Updates - Please keep the school office informed of changes of address, phone numbers, and emergency information that occur during the school year. It is extremely important that we are able to contact parents in the event of illness or other emergencies. All families should be sure to update information directly through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal system as it changes. If you do make a change, please notify the school to inform them that a change was made. If you do not have computer access, please contact the school to assist. Please check your information periodically. The following can be updated on line through Infinite Campus:

Household Information – addresses and phone numbers, as well as preferences on how you prefer to be contacted (Phone Call, Text Message, or E-mail).

You may send requests for address changes online, but as in the past, you will need to provide proof of residency to the school office (during the school year), or come to the New Student Enrollment Office at the Educational Services Center (during the summer when school is not in session). It is a requirement that you prove who you are and where you live. Please provide a driver's license/picture ID, Proof of Residency (One of the following: Address change form that the US Post Office sends to your new address, current bill with address and date, or a lease agreement with date and address on it. Closing paperwork from purchase of new home with address and purchase date.) The proof of residency must be linked to your new address with the past month. It is always important to update your address as soon as possible.

All of the elementary school teachers took 3 art pieces yesterday to the city hall to be displayed for the month of Jan and Feb.

The artwork is shown in art he council chambers on the 4th floor. The following students have art on display from Van Buren!

Nevaeh Nelson 1- Miss McCool

Katelynn Hoch 4- Mrs. Carter

Nicholas Washburn 5- Mrs. Giron



Art News

Kindergartener Sebastian Salto was our Artists of the Month for December and January! Aidan Loves to draw, is very eager to try new things, and is always using his creativity in art class. His artwork was displayed in our main office at Van Buren. He drew a beautiful chalk drawing of holiday lights. Kindergarteners learned about how chalk pastels can be smeared with their fingers to make them look like they light up! We also had 3 students show artwork in our downtown City Hall, 5th grader Nicholas Washburn, 4th graders Katelynn Hoch, and 1st grader Nevaeh Nelson. Their artwork was displayed with many other elementary art students in the district in the Council Chambers. Congrats to all of these Van Buren art students!

In 3rd through 5th grade, we have finally opened up our studio centers! We have been working on procedures and techniques all year and have now been able to use what we've learned in our independent choices. Choosing their own media helps them take more control of their own learning, empowers them to become independent artists, motivates them to work with their own interests, and allows them to explore and practice art media like true artists! They are choosing studio centers such as: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Fiber Arts, Paper Sculpture, Paper Collage, Ozobots, Computer Art, and Shrink Art. We will be adding more centers as the year progresses.

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Square 1 art project! The students loved getting their free "squickers" of their artwork. And thank you to everyone that ordered custom products with their artwork printed on them. We raised \$695 this fall!!!!!! We will be using all of the funds to order supplies for an acrylic painting centers. Some of these supplies include: easels, brushes, various acrylic paint colors, acrylic mediums, storage containers for supplies and of course....canvases! Can't wait to see what they create!



Enrollment begins for



for children who turn four years old on or before September 1, 2018.

Saturday, February 3, 2018

**8:00am-12:00pm at the Educational Services Center
527 S. Franklin St. Janesville, WI 53548**

Regular enrollment hours continue Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
with extended hours on Monday, February 5th from 7:30 am - 6:30 pm

To expedite the enrollment process, P4J enrollment paperwork will be available at the Educational Services Center beginning January 15th to pick up to complete in advance.

NOTE: No completed paperwork will be accepted prior to Saturday, February 3rd.

Open House

available at P4J Community Sites

Tuesday, January 23rd

9:00 am - 11:00 am

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Public School Sites will be available from

9:00 am - 11:00 am & 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm

Or call specific P4J sites for other available times

Enrollment paperwork will be available at P4J sites on this day if you wish to take it to complete prior to enrolling.

P4J Enrollment Process

Please Bring:

- *Proof of residency
(copy of lease/purchase agreement or utility bill)
- *Parent Identification (Drivers License/State ID)
- *Child's Immunization Records
- *Child's Birth Certificate



P4J Questions contact
Angela Lynch, P4J Coordinator, or Peggy Karleski, P4J Secretary
Educational Services Center
527 South Franklin Street



Las inscripciones para



para los niños que cumplen cuatro años de edad

Sábado 3 de febrero de 2018

de 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. en el Centro de Servicios Educativos
527 S. Franklin St. Janesville, WI 53548

El horario regular de inscripciones será de lunes a viernes de 7:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m.

Para agilizar el proceso de inscripción, el papeleo para inscribir a P4J estará disponible en el Centro de Servicios Educativos a partir del 15 de enero para recogerlo por adelantado.

Puertas Abiertas

en todos los sitios comunitarios de P4J el

Martes 23 de enero

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Los sitios de escuelas públicas estarán disponibles de

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. y 1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

o llame a los sitios de P4J para otros horarios

El papeleo para la inscripción estará disponible en los sitios P4J este día, si desea llenarlo antes de venir a inscribir

Inscripciones para P4J

Favor de traer:

- * **Comprobante de domicilio**
(copia del contrato de renta/compra o factura de servicios)
- * **Identificación con foto del padre/madre**
(licencia de conducir o identificación del estado)
- * **Registros de vacunación del niño/a**

Para preguntas de P4J, comuníquese con:

Angela Lynch, Coordinadora de P4J o Peggy Karleski, Secretaria de P4J
Centro de Servicios Educativos
527 South Franklin Street



Public School Open Enrollment Timelines

The State of Wisconsin has announced the application period for open enrollment (also known as public school choice) begins in February for the following school year. Open Enrollment laws permit children to attend a public school in a school district other than the one in which they live. The open enrollment application period for the 2018-2019 school year is from February 5, 2018 – April 30, 2018. Parents are encouraged to apply on-line at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district after January 15, 2018 and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the non-resident school district during the application period. Paper applications to attend Janesville must be submitted to the Administrative Services Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 30th (a postmark does not constitute timely submission). Applications turned in prior to February 5th will be returned as not valid and must be resubmitted after February 5th but before April 30th. Enrollment in a requested school or program is subject to space and other limitations and is not guaranteed. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent. Under School District of Janesville board policy, students who attended the district under open enrollment the previous year are not required to reapply for the following school year. An application is required for each sibling in the family. For example, if a family has one child in elementary school that has been approved for open enrollment and a new student entering kindergarten next year, the student entering kindergarten must apply for open enrollment in order to attend the School District of Janesville. Parents will be informed in June whether their open enrollment applications have been approved or denied. The student's school or program placement will be provided in June. If you have questions, please contact the Administrative Services Office at 743-5006.

**The open enrollment application period for the
2018-2019 school year is from
February 5, 2018 – April 30, 2018**

2nd and 3rd Grade News

Have you ever wanted to do something different for just one day? Well our students DID just that before Winter Break. The day was called "Do Something Different Day!" What did they do? You'll have to ask your son or daughter that question. There were projects, experiments, creating an actual culture and city on computers, etc. It was a great day of learning "differently".

Mrs. Schur has scheduled for our unit to do some STEM activities during our LMC time. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. 2nd Grade will be working with Tangrams which deals with Base 10 skills. 3rd Grade will be working with BLOXELS which deals with Fractions.

Our testing window for STAR has opened. Make sure that your child gets a good night's rest during this important time. How can you prepare at home? Help them by explaining real world math problems. These could include using maps, using money, taking measurements, planning a garden, practicing flashcards, or any other real life experiences that you can share.

On April 3rd, our unit will be going to UW-Whitewater for the play "How I Became a Pirate." Keep your eyes open for the permission slip that will be coming soon!



THANK YOU to Parents who DO NOT PARK in the Van Buren Bus Loop or the Staff Parking Lot You are helping keep all of our students safe!

FRC News

Family Resources Center provides games, toys and books that will encourage family communication and enhance a child's learning. The Family Resource Center is a lending library for students and parents. We provide an opportunity for children to develop independence and responsibility. We also provide a supportive environment at school where parent involvement is encouraged.

In December, in collaboration with Ms. Shurr and the Tech team, the FRC hosted a Family Tech/STEM night. Parents were shown how tech and STEM is used in our classrooms. Some of our students demonstrated using the green screen, GoNoodle, Kahoot and Google Classroom.

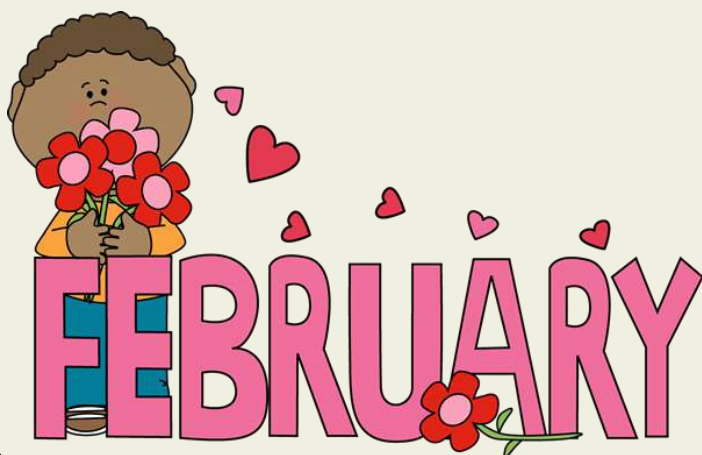
Save April 12th for Van Buren's Family Game night! We have lots of fun planned. Please watch for a hand out/RSVP coming out in May.

If you have any questions or are in need of parent resources, please contact Melanie Utecht at 743-7127 or email melanie.utecht@janesville.K12.wi.us

The child supplies the power but the parents have to do the steering. ~ Benjamin Spock, Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care"

5th Grade Happenings

5th grade will have a few field trips coming up before the end of the year. We will be sending a form home soon to let you know the dates and arrival times for each. That being said, we will be looking for volunteers to join us on our adventures. If you are still in need of filling out a volunteer form, please get that in so the district has enough time to process the form and approve you. The students will be performing their sing on February 9th at 2:15 in the MPR. We look forward to seeing you there. Finally, we appreciate you having your child read each night and working on their stamina. When they finish, have them write down their time on the Six Flags and Magic Waters slips. They are due to their teacher February 2nd.



Music News

Kindergarteners will begin to learn about how the steady beat of a song is different from the rhythm of a song. They will be learning this concept through the use of games and instruments. Second and third graders will be learning about the instruments of the orchestra. They will learn about instrument families, historical aspects of musical instruments and how sounds are produced on instruments of the orchestra. Third graders are practicing reading the lines and spaces of the treble clef in preparation for learning how to play the recorder. I will be sending home a note shortly about the details of our third grade recorder unit. Fourth and fifth graders are preparing for their upcoming program called, "Discovery." The performance is on February 9, 2018. The fourth graders will perform at 1:00 pm and the fifth graders will perform at 2:15.

Kindergarten News

Dear Families, In Language Arts, kindergarten students are continuing to work on letters, sounds and sight words. Some students are even starting to learn how to read basic words! Students are becoming better writers too. They are learning to write the sounds they hear in words and are making sentences. In Math, the children are learning how to add and subtract. They are continuing to count to 100 by 1's and 10's. They cannot wait until the 100th day of school! In Science, the kids are learning about forces (push and pull). In Social Studies, the children will learn about President's day. We are having a fun time learning and growing in kindergarten. Thank you for your support and taking an active role in your child's learning. Sincerely

The Kindergarten Team

Moving in P.E.

Our students are doing a wonderful job so far in physical education class. We are learning about the importance of physical fitness as well as enjoying various games/activities. During the months of December and January, we did a tumbling & gymnastics unit, bowling, and floor hockey! Each unit is two-three weeks long and consists of six-nine 30-minute long P.E. classes. In February, we will do a two-week basketball unit and rollerblading unit. During our rollerblading unit, we will provide knee pads, elbow pads, and wrist guards however we do not supply helmets. It is not mandatory to wear a helmet but it is strongly encouraged! At the end of February we will do our Jump Rope for Heart unit so be on the lookout for donation forms! In the month of March, we get the opportunity to learn about the human heart as we do the "Heart Course Obstacle Course!" Also, if any families have extra gym shoes that no longer fit their child who would be willing to donate to our "extra gym shoe box" in the gym I would greatly appreciate it!

Go Eagles!

Mr. English

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) in the LMC

We've started our STEM activities in the LMC for all grades. Students are learning, investigating, observing, and creating. Some of the activities going on include:

- Creating shelters that protect from heat
- Making sound sandwiches to learn how sound is made
- Designing shapes with Tangram puzzles
- Developing video games and reviewing fractions
- Observing refraction, reflection, and absorption to learn more about sound
- Designing 3D models of solids, liquids, and gases

Be sure to ask your son or daughter what they are doing during STEM in the LMC!

Mrs. Schur

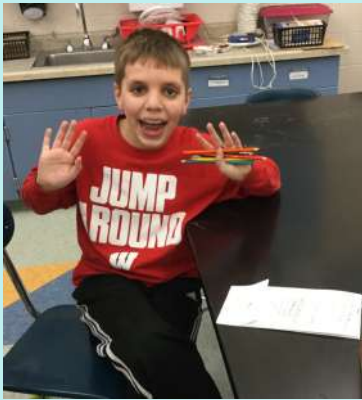
K-Kids Sharing Kindness!

Miss Henrichs & Mrs. Hogue

K-Kids is a club focused on service to our school, community, nation, and world. In December, we wanted to support soldiers and people in hospitals who might not be able to be home for Christmas, so we made cards and gifts and gave them to the VA hospital in Madison to share with their patients. Thank you to all kindergarten and 1st grade families who donated materials to make our projects! Now we are working on a "random acts of kindness" project that we're going to share with our whole school.

Any second- through fifth-grader who is interested in helping other people is welcome to join our club. Permission slips are hanging on Miss Henrichs/Mrs. Hogue's classroom door.

Our meeting schedule through the end of the year is after school until 4:00 on these Wednesday afternoons: February 7, February 28, March 7, March 21, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23.



4th Grade News

Fourth grade has a lot of fun field trips coming up for the remainder of the year! In February we are headed to The Milwaukee Museum on the 16th for the whole day (return time of 4:00 PM). Make sure to send back permission slips and fees. Also, consider chaperoning that day if you can.

Conferences will be held February 21-22nd.

Don't forget the 4th Grade Sing is February 9th at 1:00 PM.

Make sure students are dressing for the weather and playing outside at recess with warm coats, boots, hats, gloves, and snow pants.

Spring Break starts March 24th and school resumes on April 3rd.

Early Childhood

We have 3 new students in Early Childhood who are adjusting well to their new environment and classroom friends. We are working on building our social skills through choice time, fine motor skills with weekly arts and crafts, and letter and sound knowledge with Jolly Phonics!

1st Grade News

First Graders began the New Year with excitement and new learning goals. Students are practicing reading independently with fluency and comprehension. They respond daily to sentence starters in their journals. Students are practicing informational writing about an animal. Many students are using Google Slides to create a presentation. First graders are learning phonics, for example, "Magic e" and spelling patterns (igh), that are used to spell words.

Please spend 10 minutes a night reading at home. After reading, work on retelling events or facts from the story. Thank you for working with your child!

First Grade Teachers

Band News

Hello from the Band Room! With Mini Pep Band over with, band students are returning to learning songs in their book. We have many new concepts coming up in the next few weeks, including new time signatures, ties, slurs, new notes, and a new key signature. Looking towards the future, we will have a couple more performances coming up in May. As always, please keep reminding and encouraging your child to practice at home. Consistent practicing is essential to success on an instrument. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about how your student is doing in band.

Are You Moving or Have You Moved???

By: Tami Carlson, Administrative Services Secretary

If you will be moving from your current home address please contact Van Buren Elementary Schools office at 608-743-7106 as soon as possible to determine what paperwork you will need to fill out for your child to continue attending his/her current school. Please note: if you are moving to an address outside the School District of Janesville in most cases your child is eligible to continue attending the School District of Janesville as long as you complete the appropriate paperwork within the required timeline.

If you have any questions about school placement for a particular address please contact Administrative Services Secretary Tami Carlson at 743-5006. The Administrative Services Office is open year round.

If you are the parent of an elementary student and will be moving over the summer months when the elementary schools are closed, please contact Administrative Services Secretary Tami Carlson at 743-5006 or the New Student Enrollment Office at 743-5152 to complete the appropriate paperwork.



MUDARSE!!!

Si piensa moverse de su dirección de casa actual por favor comuníquese con la oficina escolar de Van Buren Elementary School al 608-743-7106 lo mas pronto posible para determinar que formularios tendrá que llenar para que su hijo(a) continúe asistiendo su escuela actual. Por favor note: si esta moviéndose a una dirección fuera del Distrito Escolar de Janesville, en muchos casos su hijo(a) es elegible para continuar asistiendo al Distrito Escolar de Janesville, siempre en cuanto usted complete los formularios apropiados dentro del tiempo requerido.

Si tiene preguntas sobre colocación de escuela para una dirección en particular por favor comuníquese con la Secretaria de Servicios Administrativos Tami Carlson al 743-5006. La Oficina de Servicios Administrativos esta abierta todo el año.

Si es padre de un estudiante de primaria y se estará moviendo durante los meses de verano cuando las escuelas están cerradas, por favor comuníquese con la Secretaria de Servicios Administrativos Tami Carlson al 743-5006 ó con la Oficina de Inscribir a Nuevos Estudiantes al 743-5152 para llenar los formularios apropiados.

Si es padre de un estudiante de primaria y se estará moviendo durante los meses de verano cuando las escuelas están cerradas, por favor comuníquese con la Secretaria de Servicios Administrativos Tami Carlson al 743-5006 ó con la Oficina de Inscribir a Nuevos Estudiantes al 743-5152 para llenar los formularios apropiados.



TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL

One of the problems most often confronting parents of school-age children occurs when a child complains of not feeling well on a school day. A decision must be made as to whether the child stays home or goes to school. How do you make the right decision? The following information are guidelines to assist you in making the decision as to when your child should stay home from school.

Fever of 100 degrees or above. A student needs to be **fever-free for 12 hours without medication before returning.**

Rash or “spots” may cover the entire body or may appear in just one area. Before a student returns to school a doctor needs to say it is safe to do so. Notify the school immediately if the child developed an illness or disease that could be contagious.

Diarrhea, vomiting, stomachache (ache persistent and severe enough to limit activity, call a doctor) are all situations where students need to be kept home until they are able to digest food properly. Students may return to school if they have had a **12 hour period without vomiting.**

Cold, cough, and sore throat are all situations where students need to be kept home if it would limit your students ability to function efficiently. If white spots can be seen in the back of the throat or a fever is present, contact a doctor.

Conjunctivitis or Pink Eye is uncomfortable and very contagious. A student may have a whitish discharge and complain of burning or itching. Pink eye usually requires prescription eye drops. Students should not return to school until they have used the drops for 24 hours.

Pain – Toothaches go to the dentist, earaches call doctor without delay, headaches student may go to school if it is the only complaint.

When students are at school they are asked to participate in all activities including outdoor events, recess, gym etc. unless the student has written doctor’s excuse.

SICK CHILDREN BELONG AT HOME. WELL CHILDREN BELONG AT SCHOOL!