



# Clara Peterson Elementary School

## Panther Press

February 10, 2012

Dear Clara Peterson Families:

With all the different things going on at Clara Peterson, I wanted to take this time to share a few pieces of information with you about some important programs and other activities going on at your child(s) school.

**January Reading Shapes:** For the month of January we had 38% (112) of our students from Clara Peterson turn in their reading shapes. I was impressed with some of the book titles I saw on the reading shapes and I always enjoy checking out the students' art work and creativity. Our winners in each grade level for the January reading shape were *Kindergarten-Ms. Jensen*, *1<sup>st</sup> Grade-Mrs. Lemenager*, and *2<sup>nd</sup> Grade-Mrs. Johnson*. These classrooms have earned a 15 minute recess with me. Our overall school-wide winner with the most reading shapes turned in was Mrs. Jensen's kindergarten classroom. The school-wide winner receives a pizza party. Mrs. Jensen's classroom has won 3 months in a row now!

**January Perfect Attendance:** For the month of January we had 40% (134) of our students earn perfect attendance. We honor perfect attendance each month at Clara Peterson. Students earn a perfect attendance award by being on time each day and here for the whole day. As I went around and handed out these awards it gave me a chance to talk with students about healthy habits. I explained to students that at times we all get sick, but we can give ourselves the best chance to be here everyday by getting plenty of rest, eating the right foods, keeping our bodies clean, and by drinking plenty of water.

**Student Kickoff:** Starting on January 30<sup>th</sup> (100<sup>th</sup> day of school) we began a school-wide student kickoff to address an area of concern we have had as of late. We are working with our students to help reduce incidents of physical aggression at Clara Peterson. What is physical aggression? Physical aggression involves incidents that have hitting, punching, kicking, or other actions where a student could become injured. Each week our teachers are teaching behavioral lesson plans called *cool tools*. These lesson plans include topics like safe hands, how to deal with anger, friendship skills, etc. Overall, we are creating a common language to teach our students expectations. Our goal is to have 3 or less office referrals each week that involve physical aggression. We are attempting to make this goal for 5 out of 7 weeks. We have a bulletin board at the front of school to chart our progress. Each week we make our goal there will be a Panther Paw Print put on the bulletin board. This is our school's first time doing a goal based program like this and we can use as much support from you at home as possible. Ask you child(ren) at home about what the *cool tool* for the week is and create a discussion from there. Our *cool tool* for the upcoming week is on friendship skills. We are running this program until Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Valentine's Day Parties and Classroom Treats:** On Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> we will have classroom parties for Valentine's Day starting at 1:30 p.m. I know our students love this holiday with the cards and treats. I can't lie; I do too! With that being said I thought I would explain a little more about the approved classroom treats in PBL. On the back of this newsletter I have included the list of approved peanut safe foods. Here are some highlights:

- ✓ **All treats, snacks, and birthday treats should have nutrition labels on them. No home baked goods.**
- ✓ **Store purchased cup cakes are not allowed because that may contain nut oil.**

Please be sure to review the list on the back of this newsletter. The one thing I noticed is that all fresh fruit and vegetables are approved. These policies were adopted by our district to keep students who have peanut allergies safe. If you have any questions you can contact me or stop by.

Yours in Education,

Joshua M. Didier, Principal

### Important Dates

- February 14 Valentine's Day Parties to start at 1:30 p.m.
- February 14 Early Dismissal 2:15 p.m. for preschool and kindergarten and 2:20 p.m. for first and second grade
- February 20 No School – Presidents' Day (*School Messenger phone call coming home about Family Fun Night*)
- February 21 Family Fun Night shows at 5:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Clara Peterson gymnasium
- February 28 Early Dismissal 2:15 p.m. for preschool and kindergarten and 2:20 p.m. for first and second grade

**Suggested Peanut Safe Food for Classrooms on Back**