January 10, 2020

Dear Picotte Parents/Guardians,

What a wonderful week we’ve had. It has been so good to see your children’s smiling faces. As I tell your children, there is lots of learning to do this semester! This week, teachers have worked hard getting everyone back in the routine of school. Students have begun their winter MAP testing. Soon teachers and students will be reviewing goals they set around the fall test and setting new goals for the spring. Be sure to ask your students about MAP testing. You can help them prepare by making sure they get a good night’s sleep and talking to them about the importance of doing their best.

With Pinto Pride,

Valerie Schovanec,
Principal

WINTER WEATHER

OPS Families: As winter continues, we want to remind you that we have two new options in our winter weather toolkit. The evening before a weather event, Omaha Public Schools may call for a two-hour late start or a two-hour early release if weather is predicted to affect part, but not all of a school day. We shared information about the new options earlier this year. OPS would communicate the schedule adjustment by phone call and email, so please be sure your student’s school has your current contact information on file. Please do not block calls or emails from OPS, as you may miss important messages in the future.

NEW SCHOOL NUMBER

The phone system for Picotte Elementary was recently upgraded to Cisco phone systems, the district standard. Due to this upgrade, our new school number is (531) 299-1920 (Office). Phones were also added to classrooms. Our current phone number will still be in use for several weeks.

CASEY’S REWARDS PROGRAM

Help support Picotte by using the Casey’s Rewards app. Go to https://www.caseys.com/schools and select Picotte as the school you’d like to support. Sign up for Casey’s rewards and select Picotte by February 14th and we might win $5000!

MAP TESTING

The Winter NWEA-MAP testing will begin right after break. You can contact your child’s teacher for their exact days they will be testing. For tips on helping your child getting ready for MAP Growth testing, check out the NWEA blog at: nwea.org/blog/category/supporting-families

VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Please join us for our annual PreK-4 Vocal Music Program on Friday, February 21st. Our theme this year is “Dance Fever”. Students will be moving, grooving, and singing at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
PARENT PAY PRE-K REGISTRATION

Registration for the Omaha Public Schools Foundation (OPSF) Parent-Pay Pre-K program for the 2020-2021 school year will be open from January 13, 2020 – February 20, 2020. Upon registering you will need to provide your child’s birth certificate, immunization records/medical waiver, proof of residency. No registrations packets will be accepted if documents are incomplete and all documents must be included upon sign up. Registration is a non-refundable $75 per child upon submitting the application. We give priority first to children who live in the neighborhood of the school, second if they have siblings attending the neighborhood school already, and last is a lottery pick for the remaining opening’s. Children have to be four years old by the first day of school and per OPSF licensing policy they are expected/required to nap/rest quietly for one hour and forty five minutes per day no exceptions allowed. All children must be potty trained before entering Per-K. You can pick up an application form in the school office. For any question please call OPSF 531-299-0250.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Kindergarten Round-up at Picotte Elementary is scheduled for Friday, January 31st, 2020. If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before July 31st, 2020, and are planning on sending him/her to kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, please call Ms. Sherise, our school secretary, at 531-299-1920 to put your child’s name on our mailing list. Please share this information with friends and neighbors in our community that may not have access to our school newsletter.

OPSF PARENT PAID INFO OPEN HOUSE

Friday, February 7 at 9:15 a.m. in the Picotte Library

An informational meeting will be held, followed by a quick classroom visit. You will also have a chance to fill out the application form to be placed in the lottery for next year’s classes! Help us spread the word!

We hope to see you there!

ATTENDANCE

Did you know Omaha Public Schools has partnered with InClass Today?

In Class Today is a proven researched based support tool designed to assist the Omaha Public Schools with improving student daily attendance by communicating directly with parents and guardians. There will be 16,200 letters generated district wide, and sent for students missing between 5%-50% of school days. The letters are designed to create awareness of student attendance with parents/guardians.

YEARBOOK PICTURES

We’re looking for photos for the school yearbook! If you have images you’d like to share from this school year, please e-mail: Jen Simpson at jlwatzke@yahoo.com. Pictures of first day of school; Halloween parade and classroom parties; BINGO night; winter strings concert; and fall field trips are just a few ideas. Thanks for your help!

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, citizenship status, or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to address inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Coming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001)