

November 30, 2011

# Park Terrace Elementary Weekly News Update

## Greetings from Kim Fehringer

At one time, or another, your child will probably ask, "Do I have to go to school today?" They may be tired, they may be afraid of a test, or they may just want to watch TV. Would it really matter if your child went to school late – or not at all?

In a word, yes. A study from the Journal of Educational Research found that attendance makes a big difference. Kids who were in school every day did better than those who aren't.

Here are some tips to make those mornings easier and to make sure your child gets to school every day – on time:

- Start the night before. Is homework in the backpack? Are permission slips signed? Does he/she have lunch money?
- Put the backpack by the door your child will go out.
- Lay out clothes – down to the socks.
- Create a to-do list of jobs that have to be done in the morning.
- Follow routines. Routines make life easier for kids and parents.
- Allow enough time. Big projects take time to finish. Help your child break big jobs down into smaller jobs.
- Make transitions easier. Some kids have trouble moving from one thing to another. Give your child plenty of advance warning.

We do recognize that there are times when it is necessary for your child to stay at home due to illness. If your child is not feeling well, please use the following criteria to determine if they should be at school:

- A temperature under 100 degrees without the aid of Tylenol or Ibuprofen for 24 hours.
- No vomiting for 24 hours.
- No diarrhea for 24 hours.

Contact our health office if you have questions.

MN Reading Corp  
Calendar on back



### Important Phone Numbers

Main  
763-784-8983

Attendance/Health  
763-783-5804

Transportation  
763-785-5512

Lorenz Bus  
763-201-8888

Voigt Bus  
763-571-1241

### Important Info.

- 12/01 PTA meeting—6:30 pm
- 12/02 **NO SCHOOL**—teacher inservice
- 12/03 Holiday Shoppe 9-noon
- 12/23-01/02 **Holiday Break—NO SCHOOL**

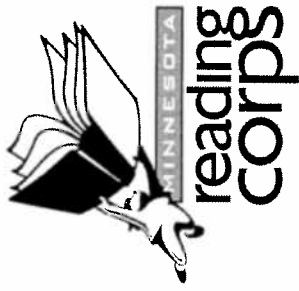
### Holiday Shoppe

Saturday, December 3 is our annual Holiday Shoppe—look for a blue flyer and red envelope that went home in the Tuesday take home folders. Children bring their envelopes this Saturday anytime from 9:00—noon and shop with an "elf" helper.

PTA is in desperate need of volunteers to make this event successful. Older siblings make great elves! Please consider donating some of your time.

Contact Brenda Weller at [bltweller@comcast.net](mailto:bltweller@comcast.net)

# DECEMBER 2011



Park Terrace Elementary  
 Literacy Tutor:  
 Susan Cedar  
 Continuous Improvement  
 Coach:  
 Dylan Thomborrow



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>MONTHLY TIP:</b> Winter snow does not have to stop adventures! Go to the library and rent some special books about different places around the world! How many new adventures can you &amp; your child explore?</p>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Count from 1-10 then count backwards from 10-1	Make a snowman with your child	Have your child hold the book or turn the pages while you read.				Time spent reading this week:
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Play counting games together like "how many green things are in this room?"	Read a book about the snow or about winter with your child	Do you speak a different language? Teach your child new words in your native tongue.				Time spent reading this week:
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
With your child, read two books today!	Make paper airplanes and fly them!	Before finishing a story, ask your child what she thinks will happen				Time spent reading this week:
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Lay out your child's winter gear and let him try to put it all on in order.	With your child, draw a winter scene with all your family in the snow!				Total Time spent reading this month:

## What families should know about school closings, delayed starts, early dismissals, and updating contact information



### When would the school district close school, delay the start time, or shorten the school day?

With the arrival of winter comes an increased chance of a weather-related school closing, late start, or early dismissal. If this does occur we want to notify you as soon as possible, and that means having up-to-date contact information

The most typical reasons for closing school, delaying the start of school, or shortening the school day in Minnesota are related to snow and cold.

Students must be able to safely arrive at school, whether by bus, car, or walking. The amount of snow, temperature, wind chill, passable roads, buses that start are among the many factors that are considered

We are conditioned to follow news reports about an approaching snowstorm or bitter wind chill; however, there are other factors that may cause a school or schools to be closed at a far more unexpected time such as a loss of electricity, loss of heat, or a break in a water line.

### Update your contact information

**When school is closed, begins late, or closes early, our automated e-mail and phone alert system is our most effective means of notifying parents and families in the shortest amount of time.**

**Therefore, it is extremely important for you that we have the most up-to-date parent/guardian contact information (home phone, cell phone, e-mail addresses).**

**If your contact information is not current, or if you're not sure, please visit the Parent Portal (soon to be called Campus Portal) on the home page of the district website.**

**If you need assistance with this process, if you need login information, or if you need to set up your Parent Portal account, please contact the Technology HelpDesk at 763-785-5555 or [TechSupport@district16.org](mailto:TechSupport@district16.org)**

### When to look for an announcement

An announcement for school closings or a delayed start is *usually* made by 5:30 am.

### Notification sources

If winter storms or other emergency situations cause us to close school for the day, delay the start of school, or close school early, we will notify our school community through:

--An "alert notification" will be sent to you by telephone and e-mail  
A message will be sent to your home phone, cell phone, work phone, and e-mail address, based upon information provided by each family. (To update your records, visit the Parent Portal on the website home page, contact the district (details in box to the left), or contact your child's school.

--The district website  
([SpringLakeParkSchools.org](http://SpringLakeParkSchools.org))

--Recorded messages on district and school office phones

--Twin Cities news media – Radio and Television

### Next page:

***What programs and activities are typically canceled or affected?***

## When school is canceled for the day

When the Spring Lake Park School District is closed, the following will *typically* take place:

- All schools are closed.
- All daytime programs are canceled
- Early Childhood Family Education programs, Learn & Play Preschool are canceled .
- Learning Ventures and Discovery Days are canceled.
- Before- and after-school programs and classes are canceled.
- Community Education programs for youth and adults are canceled.
- After-school or evening athletic and activities practices or contests may or may not take place. Each is at the discretion of the district, the activities director, or individual coaches or advisors. The Spring Lake Park page of the North Suburban Conference website ([nsconference.org](http://nsconference.org)) will also be updated.
- School facilities may or may not be open for evening community rentals. Check the district website homepage for further updates.

## When there is a two-hour delayed start

If the start of school is delayed for two hours, the following would *usually* occur.:

- All schools will start exactly two hours later than usual.
- Buses will run two hours later than usual.
- There will be no morning half-day kindergarten.
- Kindergarten Plus will have a two-hour delayed start.
- Learning Ventures, Discovery Days, Preschool, Early Childhood Family Education, and Early Childhood Special Education will be open at their regular starting times. It would be helpful to call your Learning Ventures or Discovery Days site before bringing children to be certain staff has arrived.
- Continue to monitor the district website for updates and changes.
- All district staff should report as close as possible to their usual starting times.

## When school is dismissed early

If inclement weather (or broken water main or other facilities problem) causes a school or schools to be dismissed early, the following *typically* occurs:

- Afternoon Kindergarten (if it hasn't begun by this time) will be canceled.
- Early Childhood Family Education programs, Learn & Play Preschool classes that have not started by this time will be canceled.
- Afternoon Learning Ventures will not reopen for care. Children who are at school when it is canceled need to follow the family's emergency care procedures. Kindergarten students still in our care will have parents notified for pick-up within two hours.
- Discovery Days children will have parents notified for pick-up within two hours.
- Achievers/STARS and After-school Adventures classes will be canceled.
- After-school or evening athletic or activities practices or contests may or may not take place. Each is at the discretion of the district, the activities director, or individual coaches or advisors. The Spring Lake Park page of the North Suburban Conference website ([nsconference.org](http://nsconference.org)) will also be updated.



## High school after-school or evening athletics and activities

When there's no school for the day or when school is dismissed early, high school after-school or evening athletic or activities practices or contests may or may not take place. Each is at the discretion of the district, the activities director, or individual coaches or advisors. The Spring Lake Park page of the North Suburban Conference website ([nsconference.org](http://nsconference.org)) will be continually updated.