



# Mokena Elementary School



November 2011 Newsletter

Mrs. Chris Clavenna  
Principal

Mrs. Judy Splayt  
Assistant Principal



**School Office:**  
708/342-4850  
**Absentee Line:**  
708/478-4212  
**On the Web:**  
<http://mokena159.org>

*November always seems like a month that people reflect back and think why they are thankful. As we walk the halls of MES, we see many projects that students have worked hard to have it be their best. We also see our wonderful teachers working hard so that students are learning and reaching their goals. As we observe lunch time, we see our lunch servers and aides working hard to make sure our students are fed and are able to enjoy lunch and recess. We walk into the office and see everyone working hard to make sure our students are where they need to be and the needs of everyone in the building are being met. We visit the nurse's office and see Nurse Molly and Ms. Denise taking such good care of our friends who need to visit them.*

*We are thankful for all of these people who make MES the very BEST!*

*Enjoy this month and think of the many things  
you have to be thankful for,  
Mrs. Clavenna and Mrs. Splayt*

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## Parent - Teacher Conferences

**Monday, November 22nd - see page 2 for details....**

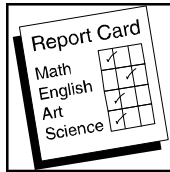
### Achievement Testing

Achievement testing at MES for the 2011-2012 school year will take place according to the schedule below:

January 23-27	Terra Nova (Grade 3)
February 13, 15, 16	CogAT (Grades K and 1)
March 5-16	ISAT (Grade 3)
March 6-9	Terra Nova (Grade 1)

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

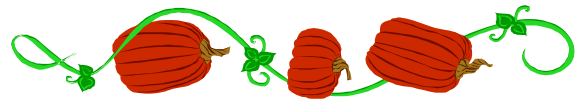
Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 21st from Noon-8:00 p.m. If you do not receive an invitation for a conference by November 7th and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please feel free to call the school office at 708/342-4850 to arrange a conference time.



## American Education Week

We are extending a special invitation to parents to visit our school during American Education Week on Thursday, November 17th during school hours between 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

For security reasons, you must sign in at the school office. We ask that parents not bring preschool or younger-aged children as this seems to distract from student learning in the classroom. We ask that parents sit in the area designated for parents during this visitation and that parents stay for a brief period of time **not to exceed 20 minutes**. This will allow many parents to take advantage of this special day.



## As Winter Draws Near .....



### Inclement Weather

Should inclement weather necessitate school closing or schedule changes, a Connect Ed phone message will be sent from the District Office. This information will be posted on the district website@mokena159.org. It will also be reported on radio stations WJOL (1340 AM), WGN (720 AM), and Channel 9 television between 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. These same stations will carry announcements concerning a one hour delay of starting time since this delay is often sufficient to allow fog and/or ice to dissipate. Early closing due to inclement weather will also be announced on the above-mentioned stations. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for further information.

### Recess Information

In an effort to provide our students with an opportunity to release some of their energy, we will schedule recess outdoors as often as possible during the coming winter months. Temperature, wind chill and precipitation will be taken into consideration as we determine whether recess will be inside or outside. Please have your son or daughter dress warmly and wear boots, if necessary, as students will be expected to go outside unless they have medical excuses to remain indoors. An excuse from a parent to remain indoors will be honored for three days. A doctor's note must be sent for any time longer than three days. Also, please remember to mark your child's outerwear items (boots, gloves, hats, etc.) with their names.

*Thank you for your cooperation!*

## Sex Offender Registration Notification Law

Public Act 94-994 requires schools to notify parents on how to obtain information regarding sex offenders living within the school district. To access this information, please go to the Illinois Sex Offender Information website at: [www.isp.state.il.us/sor/](http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/).

The Parents of Lincoln-Way Area Associated with Special Education (PLASE) meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 school year is: November 8, January 10, March 13 and April 17.

The meetings start at 6:30 pm and are at the Transition House at 310 Colorado Ave., Frankfort, IL

The November 8th meeting will be A Special Needs Planning Educational Seminar presented by Protected Tomorrows.

If you have any questions, please call 815/806-4600 and ask for Eileen Parente.

## Reminders from Nurse Molly/Mrs. Bohrer



### WASH YOUR HANDS!

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

1. Please keep your child home when they are sick. If your child has any "flu-like" symptoms, keep your child home until they have been symptom free for 24 hours. Sending a child to school who is not fully recovered spreads the illness, so your help in this matter is very important.
2. Frequent hand washing, covering your mouth/nose when coughing and sneezing, drinking plenty of fluids, eating a balanced diet and getting an adequate amount of sleep are health habits that should be practiced year round.
3. With the cold air approaching and possibly triggering an asthma attack, please provide an inhaler that stays here at school if your child has asthma. Medication forms are available in our health office.
4. Cough drops are allowed with a note from home.
5. If your child is prone to chapped lips, please provide a chapstick for them to carry in their backpack.

Thanks and please feel free to contact me directly with any health related concerns!

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

### PLEASE READ

Thank you to those who have continued to be patient. As always, our main goal is to have our students be safe when being dropped off at school. The dismissal seems to be going much better except when the weather does not cooperate. We are still having some issues with arrival. Please remember these guidelines:

- When dropping your child off, please pull up past the center sidewalk so that many cars can drop off students at one time.
- Please do not sit in the drop off lane and watch your child walk up to the school. This blocks the lane so that other cars cannot drop off their child. If you want to watch your child walk into school, you will need to pull into a parking spot.
- Please make sure your child exits your car on the sidewalk side NOT the parking lot side.
- As you are waiting in line, please make sure your child is ready to exit the car promptly as to not hold up the line.
- Please wait in the drop off line. DO NOT go around and then cut in. There have been many near misses of accidents due to this happening.
- Never use the bus lane to drop off your child.

Please follow the above guidelines so that ALL students may enter in the school safely.

### **Mokena Educational Foundation**

The Mokena Educational Foundation has a  
website: [www.MEF159.com](http://www.MEF159.com)

Please check it out when you have a chance and see all that they do for our district!

### **Emergency Drills**

Over the course of the school year, students at MES participate in fire drills, take-cover drills, and school lock-down drills. All of these drills are designed to familiarize students with the proper procedures in case of an emergency.



# KIDS CONNECTION

Mokena Elementary School is pleased to announce that we will be offering the KIDS CONNECTION program during the 2011-2012 school year. This voluntary program consists of twelve weekly sessions and is available to students Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

When a significant event takes place in a family, everyone in the family is affected. Although death and divorce seem to be adult problems, children can have profound reactions to these changes. Due to their age and brief life experiences, children often find it difficult to deal with their feelings. In the KIDS CONNECTION program, sensitive, caring staff members volunteer to help children express their feelings and adjust to the changes in their family. This is one step in a process of understanding and acceptance.

The KIDS CONNECTION program will begin on Wednesday, October 26th and continue until Wednesday, February 15th. **Please note the following change: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and AM Kindergarten students will meet at MES from 8:00a.m.-8:40a.m. PM Kindergarten students will meet at MES from 12:00-12:30. Also, we will not meet on early dismissal days.** You will need to provide transportation for your child to the program. After the group is over, group leaders will take the students to the appropriate waiting area for dismissal to class. If your child attends Ivy League in the morning, please indicate on your permission form so we can notify Ivy League staff.

If your child is part of a single-parent family, blended family, or has experienced the death of a family member, this is an opportunity to share what they are going through as well as make a "connection" with other children. To be part of the KIDS CONNECTION program, both you and your child must complete a registration form and return it by Wednesday, October 21st. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Mrs. Stacie Soroka  
 School Social Worker/Kids Connection Coordinator  
 Mokena Elementary School, 708/342-4850



# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Green and Gold Day 	5
6 Daylight Savings Begins 	7	8	9	10 Board of Ed. Meeting 7pm MES	11 <b>No School</b> Veterans Day 	12
13	14	15	16 Market Day Pickup, 4:30-6:00 pm at MJHS	17	18 Black Hawks Hockey Day 	19
20	21 <b>No School</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences Noon—8:00 pm	22 <b>No School</b> Teacher Institute	23 <b>No School</b>	24 <b>No School</b> 	25 <b>No School</b>	26
27	28 PTA Meeting 4:00pm MES	29	30			