Words from the Well

The Grapevine

August 12, 2012

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Volume 2, Issue 1

Dear Wellington Staff,

Our students will soon be filling our school and classrooms, which is so very exciting.  A new beginning brings endless opportunities for all of us…..especially our students.  I know that everyone has been working tirelessly to make everything just right for our students. I appreciate all of your hard work and efforts more than I could ever express. I feel certain this will be one of the best years yet!

I wanted to remind everyone that “Words from the Well” will come to you via email each Sunday. Included will be “thoughts to ponder”, “special thanks”, and important upcoming events and reminders. If you have anything you’d like included or special thanks that you’d like to send out, please send those to me by Saturday mornings and I’ll make sure to include them.

I also wanted to let everyone know that a theme that I’d like for us to embrace this year is “The Power of One”. We will be talking more about this next week and over the course of the year. Every person will have a part in the significant impact you can make in a child’s life, thus the “Power of One”. Be thinking about what this might me to you…..more conversations to come!!

Announcements for the First Week

* Transportation: It is imperative that all students are dismissed correctly from school beginning on day one. DO NOT wait until Wednesday to find out how a child is getting home. Number one priority this week is for every child to have a great experience and to arrive home correctly. Stephanie is working diligently to prepare all transportation tags. Please help her with this by getting information to her as quickly as possible. We will assign a specials teacher/support staff to each grade level and send that out tomorrow. We will also have a mock dismissal beginning at 1:00p.m. on Wednesday. We will begin with Kindergarten students followed by all other students at approximately 1:30p.m. This will be one time when announcements will occur during the day in order to practice.
* Please be sure and practice cafeteria expectations. Also, check the lunch line doors to determine your point on entry.
* We will have a Welcome Back assembly Friday morning, August 17th at 8:15 a.m. in the gym. Please begin heading that way immediately following announcements. We will seat students on the floor. This will be very short…. 30 minutes or less, but a time to regroup and set the tone for the year.
* Wellington Customer Service: Please remember to SMILE, be patient, flexible and most of all HAVE FUN! Remember the first impression we give families is most lasting.
* Dance to Class – We will have “Dance to Class” on the first Friday, August 17th. Please take time to go over expectations with your students. If you are new and do not know what this is, please ask a team mate. ☺
* If you have not picked up your keys, please see Julie or Debbie.
* Should you need anything at all…. Please let someone on the leadership team know. We are happy to help and support in any way needed!

* Staff Meeting – Tuesday, August 21st immediately following dismissal.
* Grade Level Meetings – Will begin Thursday, August 30th in the conference room.
* Fire and Earthquake Drills – We are required to have two fire drills and an earthquake drill in August. Drills will be announced through September. After that time, I will give you a date, but not the exact time. Beginning second semester, all drills will be unannounced. We will have our first fire drill on Monday, August 20th at 2:00 p.m. Please be sure and teach this expectation prior to next Monday. We will have our second fire drill and tornado drill on Monday, August 27th at 8:05 a.m.
* PTA Family Night – August 23rd 5:30 p.m.
* Manuel Scott – The *Power of One* presentation will be held at Rupp Arena on August 24th at 10:00 a.m. All certified and classified employees are expected to attend.
* CIITS Update – The next CIITS training module is designed especially for teachers and focuses on creating and sharing instructional materials, accessing materials and using the lesson planner, and creating and using student groups. Two introductory WebEx sessions are scheduled after school to accommodate teachers in the Eastern and Central time zones. You may join the one that is most convenient. Log-in information can be found on the teacher training page in CIITS, which is where you can find the module if you want to get started working through it prior to the WebEx Topic: CITTS Instructional Tools for Teachers Intro & Demo, Date: Wednesday, September 5, Time: 4:00 p.m. ET or Date: Thursday, September 6, Time: 5:00 p.m. ET.
* Online Safety Training – Certified and Classified is due September 15. If you have questions about this just let me know. Please print out certificates when finished and give Julie a copy. These will be kept in each person’s PD folder.

Upcoming Dates and reminders

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Special Thanks

* Stephanie Schafer and Jennifer Douglas for spearheading our transportation efforts! We appreciate your organization and efficiency.
* Kristin Coyne for keeping everyone updated on enrollment and numbers.
* Cathy Collins and Del Cooper for helping us with technology needs and making sure we are up and running for the first day!
* Wellington Teachers and Support Staff for their teamwork regarding home visits!! What an amazing effort and example of true Customer Service!
* Mamie Taylor, J.T. Haskins, and Harry Graham for your work in making sure Wellington is spotless and welcoming!! What a great example of what a school should look like for opening day!
* Stephanie Meyer, Heather VanDyke, Debra Keyser, Sandra Sexton, Tracy Roberts, and Jessica Thomson for making intentional efforts to communicate and work closely with your respective teams.

*As you prepare for the upcoming week and the start to the year…. Please remember the thought below….. ☺*

“If you want it, teach it.”

 APL Associates

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