

NEWS FROM MS. BONNIE NOVEMBER

I am so happy to report that APS and Montessori of the Rio Grande have closed the purchase agreement with Leon and Marie Fuemmeler!!!! (See Chris Kenny's report on the website). This is very great news as it now means that MRGC is in a public facility, ahead of the 2015 deadline. I want to thank everyone who has been involved in this transaction and a special thank you to Chris Kenny, our Council President, and Lawrence Rael, our Council Vice President, for their untiring commitment to see this deal through to the end. Now the next phase of the work begins....getting the funding to build our new facility. You will be receiving information in the near future of how you can support the bond vote in February and any charter legislation in January. I will be asking for everyone's help, so be ready!

MRGC is experiencing the H1N1 flu in the same pattern as the rest of the state and country. We are currently on the down side, with less than 11% of absenteeism the past two weeks, but continue to be vigilant in sending students home if they have a fever. Remember, your child has to have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine, before returning to school. I want to thank all of you for being so quick in picking your child up when called and keeping them home until they are fever free. I believe if we continue to respond to the flu in this manner we can keep the spread to a minimum. Don't forget, wash hands frequently, cover cough and sneezes, and keep your hands off your face.

Thank you to all the parents for taking the time for classroom observations. We believe this a very meaningful experience for you and your child. All classrooms have begun the Teacher/Parent/Student conferences. These conferences are mandatory as it is the first quarter information about your child's academic and social progress. Being a team for your child's educational program does make a difference. Talk with your child about a new program of Read to the Dogs, which will begin at our school very soon. A special letter will be sent home, students are very excited.

Teachers have been reporting to me that too many of their students continue to arrive late for school. This creates an interruption and students miss important information for beginning their instructional day. We have opened our classrooms at 8:15 which allows students to talk with their friends and get ready for their day. Therefore, we expect ALL students to be on time, which to us means ready to work at 8:30, not walking through the door at or after 8:30. This is a very important work habit, so if you need to leave your house earlier please do. Notices for tardies will begin to go home.

Just a Few Reminders:

- Parent parking is on the north side of the parking lot, thank you. Please drive in the south driveway and exit the north driveway. So far our drop-off and pick-up have been working great.
- Medicine must have a prescription and an authorization form needs to be filled out before we give it to the student.

- MRGC's parent organization, TAPAS, holds its meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Please join us, childcare is provided at no cost.
- The Collaborative Governance Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm. This is an open meeting and guests are always welcome.
- The Friends of Montessori, the 501C3 Foundation, posts their meeting times on the web and are always looking for new families to become involved.
- Remember, check out our website, www.mrgcharter.org, frequently as our Instructional Coach, Miss Debbie, is always updating information about our Montessori program. Don't forget to read your child's classroom newsletter.
- Before and Aftercare payments are to be paid at the beginning of the month/week, please put your child's name on the check.