

St. Regis School District
90 Tiger Street
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St. Regis, MT 59866
406-649-2311

Wed., 10/5/2011

Dear Parents;

We trust information within this mailer will be helpful to you, especially academic Progress Reports from teachers for your child or children. We have enjoyed seeing many, many of you at our Welcome Back Dinner in August and at our Annual Fall Open House—record turn outs for both! I thought the following School District information would be helpful to you as we complete the first 1/8th of our school year:

District Honors/Recognitions

-Thanks to everyone's teamwork on behalf of our students our District has received a \$1,600.00 award from the Small –Rural Schools Program to be used towards continuing academic achievement. Our elementary school has also been recognized as 1 of 100 schools in the nation for outstanding academic performance for the school years of 2009/10 and 2010/11 inclusive of a \$30,000.00 cash award to be used to help foster academic achievement.

Professional Development Days for teachers/state wide

-*Schools will be closed* for students so that teachers can be in class at the annual fall state conference on *Thursday and Friday, 10/20 and 10/21.*

Science Curriculum, K – 12, review

-On 10/6/2011 we begin the significant process of reviewing our entire Science curriculum. The process will result in recommendations for updates to our curriculum, inclusive of textbooks, by Feb., 2011. Information regarding this process will be contained within our monthly Board meeting documents. I will also keep you updated with information letters when report cards and progress reports go out. There will be a thirty day set aside review period for parents and community to also review any proposed updates prior to final adoption.

Technology

We are implementing our new C.O.W. (computer on wheels cart) this week. This resource will provide twenty mobile wireless state of the art computer Notebooks (very high powered mini-laptops) to teachers wishing to sign out the cart for use with their students. Best research supports placing technology in the hands of teachers and users as opposed to constructing more and more stand alone computer labs.

Technology Planning

-We are presently working within our district to research the potential sharing of either computer Notebooks, iPads, or iPods with each student, grades 3 through 12. This is an exciting investigation and we are eager to complete the planning phase so that we can soon share more particulars about this initiative with you. More info. will follow soon.

Homework

-Thank you for your support of our efforts to provide our students with a reasonable level of homework this school year. Homework should provide students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding and mastery of course content. It should also encourage them to have to extend their thinking with content information and use information and skills in new/additional ways. For our students to be among the best and brightest in the nation, teamwork with regard to homework expectations is especially helpful and important. Thank you for your support as parents. Each 3rd^h-12th grade student has been provided a Student Planner to assist them in organizing homework and class activity information. This information should be readily accessible to you.

Athletics

-We are just several weeks from completing our Fall sports seasons; amazing how fast our school year is progressing. Thank you for your support of our student athletes at our many home and away games. Thank you for teaming with us to help keep our students eligible per academic and team training rule guidelines. Study Hall supports remain in place Mon.-Thurs. immediately after school and during lunch time for all athletes. Athletic Director Droessler continues to offer Strength and Agility Training M-W-F's from 6:45-7:30a.m. Strength and agility are key attributes of any highly successful athlete, male or female in any sport.

-Open Gym, Sunday nights from 7-9pm for our HS students and recent St. Regis graduates. Friendly and fast paced basketball games are run during these times. Participants gain a great work out and can improve their game as well.

Athletic Fundraisers

-I am working with Athletic Director Droessler to provide Advertising signs for area businesses that wish to purchase them to be placed on our gym walls. Each sign will be of a common size and design able to carry key information about each business wishing to purchase one for display. They will be renewable year to year. Interested business owners may contact Mr. Droessler, A.D. at 649-2311, Ext. 210 for further information. (A sample sign will be available for viewing starting 10/10/2011).

-5 K Marathon being researched/planned for May of 2012- more info. to follow

-Golf Outing- we are also researching a spring or summer golf outing as a fundraiser for our Athletic programs. More info. to follow

Track review and Committee

If you wish to participate on this committee please contact Athletic Director Droessler. We are reviewing the current use and condition of our track, preparing existing facilities for Spring, 2012 and investigating options for a potential new MHSA regulation size track for the future (via grant funds). We anticipate a dozen HS track athletes this coming spring and fifteen or more JH track participants! Track is an area in which St. Regis does and can excel.

E-mail contact with our School District

-As shared in prior communications and at our Annual Fall Open House, if you wish to receive much of your school information via email rather than paper postal delivery, please send me your email address with a note so requesting. My address is supt@stregis.k12.mt.us

Volunteering within our District

-If you would like to share a skill with our students, please contact me and we will work with you to get you started Volunteering in our schools! Working with students regarding reading and math skills is

always very helpful. Volunteers need to complete a Criminal Background check and visit with administration to become active. Please contact us if you wish to visit further and/or get started.

Crisis Preparedness Plan

We have added one new section to our Plan this school year, dealing with Electromagnetic Disturbances. I have attached this page from our Manual used by staff for your information. While we hope that we never have to deal with these situations, it is better to have a Plan than not. Please review this information closely.

Have a good Fall and as always, feel free to contact us if we can be of help to you. A great deal of on-going information regarding our school district continues to be available on our website at www.stregisschool.org Key day to day activities are also posted on our Reader Board in the center of town. (New brighter panels are being installed to make the sign easier to read/view).

Sincerely,

Patrick Low
Superintendent

Attachment- one