

Itasca School District 10

Principal's Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2 Dr. Reinhard Nickisch, Principal, F. E. Peacock Middle School, rnickisch@itasca.k12.il.us October, 2007

October Highlights

- 1 X-Country @ Roselle
- 2 Hot lunch
 - PTO meeting @ 7pm
- 8 No School—Columbus Day
- 10 School Board of Education meeting at Village Hall—7:30 pm
- 11 X-Country Conference Meet @ Roselle Claus Center
- 12 Senior Citizen Luncheon
 - Girls' BB tryouts begin
 - Music Booster Dance—7-9 pm
- 15 Concert Band & Choir Performances @ 7pm
- 16 Hot lunch
 - X-Country Conference Meet make-up date
- 19 No School—Teacher Institute day
- 24 Lake Park Band performance @ 2:15
 - Peacock Parent Advisory Com. Meeting @ 7pm
- 26 End of 1st quarter
- 29 Girls' BB @ home

Please note that Peacock does not allow Halloween celebrations during the school day. Students are prohibited from wearing any costume or form of make-up to or from school on Monday, October 31st.

Tardy trends become a concern for school officials

While the school year has started very successfully for most of our students, we have noticed a disturbing trend developing.

A significant number of students in particular 8th graders, are arriving to school late. As of September 21st, four students have already accumulated enough tardys to have earned the first of a series of detentions related to tardys. Quite a few others are close to also receiving detentions. For details on school-based consequences for tardys, please refer to pages 12 and 13 of this year's *Student Assignment Notebook* and pages 4 and 5 of this year's *Parent/Student Handbook*.

The implications to chronic tardys to school go beyond detentions. Students arriving to school just two minutes late typically don't arrive to their first class until 8-10 minutes after their arrival and 10-12 minutes after the start of class, missing initial instructions and directions provided by their teachers. They also disrupt their classmates when walking in late. When this problem becomes habitual, it leads to a significant loss of instruction and jeopardizes classroom success. Furthermore, students with chronic tardys become truants in the eyes of the State. Similar to chronic

absences, schools are required to report students who are routinely late to school. The State of Illinois School Code uses a 10% guideline to determine truants. Students who are either absent, tardy, or have a combination of the two in excess of 10% of the number of days school has been in session must be referred to the county truant officer (in DuPage, students are referred to Project VISA, Value in School Attendance).

It is every parent/guardian's responsibility to make sure that their child attends school and complies with the legal requirements regarding compulsory attendance. If your child receives detentions for tardys (in particular for late arrivals to school), please consider this a serious matter that requires your immediate attention. As always, if you have any questions or require our assistance with your child, please do not hesitate to contact school officials that include our counselor, Ms. Sini Thomas, one of our school nurses, or myself.



Student ID requirements

Each year our students are issued picture ID cards. These ID's have multiple purposes here at Peacock.

First, student bus riders have the bus number to which they have been assigned noted on their cards. Bus drivers have been instructed to ask for ID's when questions of bus eligibility arise. Second, students who have paid for milk have that documented on their ID's. Third, all Peacock sponsored extra-curricular programs including but not limited to sporting events

and school dances require current valid student ID cards. Students will not be allowed to attend these functions without presenting their ID's. Finally, students using Peacock's technology hardware are required to show their ID cards before accessing this resource.

In the event a student has lost his/her ID, replacements are available at the office for a replacement fee of \$2.50 for the first lost card and \$5.00 for subsequent cards.

Please view District 10's Website for comprehensive information on all three schools as well as Board of Education policies and procedures at <http://www.itasca.k12.il.us>.