



From the Principal



Thank you to everyone who has already attended parent conferences and to those who will be attending in the coming days. You have heard me time and again speak to the importance of working together to provide the best possible education for your child. I always use the analogy of the three legged stool. The legs represent the student, the parent, and the school. If we remove one of those legs it is easy to see that the stool will not stand upright, but be left lying on the floor. But when all the legs are intact and supporting one another we have a useful item. Please continue to stay informed on your child's progress and to be actively involved in their learning.

I would also like to thank our PTO for bringing the Book Fair to MES. Each year they do an outstanding job in providing this event in a timely manner which coincides with Parent Conferences and of course the holidays! I would be remiss if I did not mention that all proceeds go directly to our library providing materials that benefit all MES students.

With winter rapidly approaching I would just like to remind everyone that our district has three protocols for dealing with inclement weather. First there is the traditional "snow day" where school is simply canceled. Second, last year the district adopted a "delayed start" which means school will start one hour after normal time. This provides time for the roads to be cleared and to monitor weather forecasts to assure there will be a safe return trip. Finally, there is an "alternate bus stop" protocol that prohibits buses from travel in certain areas for safety reasons.

This final one obviously only applies to students who ride the bus and those individuals will be contacted by transportation if it effects them. You will find details of all three protocols within the newsletter, but the best way to find out if any are in effect during the course of the winter is to go to the district web-site to ensure accurate information (the web-site can be found at www.dcsd.k12.nv.us).

Finally, earlier this year I shared in this space that we have been placed on Year 1 Needs to Improve as designated by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. As I've stated before, NCLB breaks the student population into sub-populations as well as looking at the school as a whole. This requires all students to perform at the same level to be proficient at their grade level. As parents we all know that children mature at different rates both physically and academically. A great example of this is the pediatric growth chart that we as parents are familiar with. All children grow at different rates but they will meet their maximum potential eventually. Well, Nevada, along with thirteen other states, is looking at a Growth Model to evaluate the effectiveness of a school. This model recognizes the differences in children and only compares individuals with like individuals. What results is a measure of growth over the course of the school year and recognizes all students will reach their full potential at their individual rate. There is a web-site you can visit (<http://ngma.doe.nv.gov/>) that will compare our school with others. I encourage you to do so! I feel very confident in stating the students at MES are growing academically at a high level.

Happy Holidays!

Ken Stoll

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Calendar Reminders:

Dec 1—Minimum Day~ Early Dismissal	Dec 15—Music Concert 1st, 2nd & 6th grades
Teacher Workday	Dec 19-Jan 2— No School, Winter Break
Dec 2— No School, Parent Conferences	Jan 16— No School, Holiday
Dec 2—Movie Night 6-8 p.m.	Jan 18—Parent Group Meeting
Dec 6— Book fair ends	3:30 Library
Dec 13—Music Concert 3rd-5th grades	Jan 23— No School, District In-service

Counselor's Corner

Happy Holidays!

In this article I have included information directly related to the holidays. Read below and find out about a special holiday program, holiday stress management and activities to do with your children during this holiday season. I hope this time of year is filled with lots of love and fond memories for all our MES families.

Douglas County offers a Project Santa Claus program that provides families with food and gifts for the holidays. Eligibility is based on income. You can contact Douglas County Social Services at 782-9825 if you would like further information. If you would like to donate to the program you can call the Douglas County Food Closet at 782-3711.

This time of year can be a stressful for many people. Some people may have strong emotional responses to the holidays. Talking with friends, family members, a counselor or clergy person may be helpful if strong feelings become unmanageable. Getting emotional support is one of the best things you can do when experiencing stress.

As you spend time together this season here are some great ideas of things to do with your child/children.

Color, read together, play cards, cook and eat dinner together, play a board game, wrap presents together, take a walk, go shopping, go ice skating, toss the football or baseball around, walk the dog, play a video game together, have a tea party, draw, visit a museum or art show, make ornaments, play dress up, play cars, playdough, go see a movie, cover pine cones with peanut butter and bird seed, watch birds at your bird feeder, ride bikes together.

May your holidays be merry and bright!

-Mary Garcia , School Counselor



DENIM DRIVE~

November 19-December 19

~New Jeans

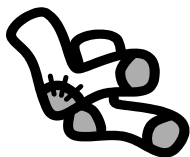
~New Underwear

~New Socks

Drop off at Minden Elementary. Help abused and neglected children! Support the Reno Rodeo Denim Drive by donating new jeans, new socks, and new underwear for infants, children and teens who have been rescued from unsafe homes and are in protective custody and foster care.

What is collected in each county stays in each county.

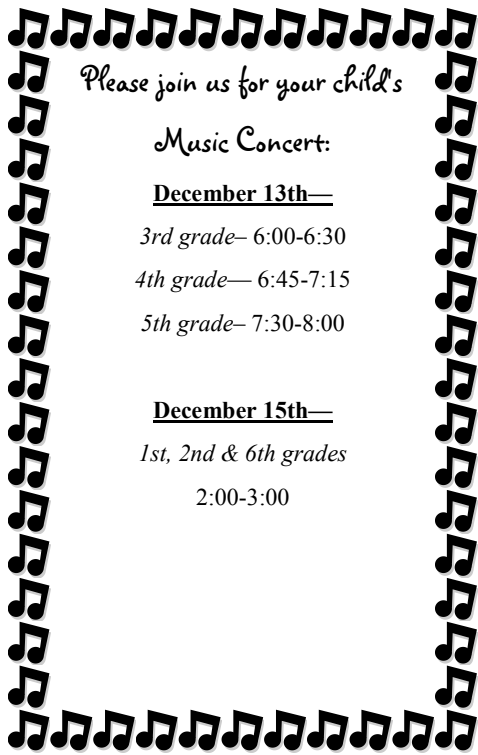
Clothing Children in Northern Nevada who are Survivors of Abuse and Neglect



Thank you for making our food drive so successful. We collected 1574 items! Thanks to everyone for their generosity. MES is making a difference.



Rattler Reminders & Events:



Please join us for your child's

Music Concert:

December 13th—

3rd grade— 6:00-6:30

4th grade— 6:45-7:15

5th grade— 7:30-8:00

December 15th—

1st, 2nd & 6th grades

2:00-3:00



Movie Night—

Movie—

Santa Paws

When—

Dec 2, 2011

Where—

Minden Elementary

Time—

6:00- 8:00

End of day messages

Please make sure your child knows **prior** to coming to school what their after school plans will be. An established routine is helpful. This also teaches responsibility, especially for older students. Inconsistency creates confusion for everyone.

However, there may be an emergency change of plan. Please contact the school before 1:30 pm to allow time for your message to be delivered to your child. Reaching students at the end of the day can be difficult due to outside activities, particularly on Fridays. Your cooperation reduces last minute classroom interruptions.

Together we can do this!

Scholastic Book Fair:

November 29th -

December 6th

Open before & after school & during recesses. Closed during lunch recess.

Open during parent conferences



HELP!

Please label your child's belongings, such as jackets, sweatshirts, lunchboxes etc.

This way if items are lost, we know who to return them to.

Reminder:

No School~

Winter Break:

December 19–Jan 2

School Resumes–Jan 3

No School~

Jan 16–Holiday

Jan 23– District In-service

Parent Group News

Hello,

The PTO just wants to remind everyone to visit the book fair from 11/28-12/6 and that it will be open during Parent Teacher Conferences. Also, there will be a movie night Friday December 2 and the book fair will be open at that time as well. Our next meeting will be December 14 at 3:30pm and we encourage everyone to come, as always there is childcare. Please support the Denim Drive and help out kids in need this holiday season by dropping off new socks, underwear and jeans.

Thank you so much!!!

Mandee Guariglia



With the great success of our Walk-a-thon the students were treated to a guest appearance by Justin Bieber.

ATTENTION!

MES T-Shirts & Sweatshirts are on sale in the office. Limited sizes available.

Also, if you paid for a shirt and did not receive it please come to the office, we still have some items that were not claimed.



**2011-2012 Walk-a-thon
pizza & bowling top
winners.**

Pictured left to right-

Jayden Shaw, Jack Wahl, Noah, Guariglia, Clayton Ogles, John Atkins, Gerardo Vicente Becerra, Lukas Forzani, Emilyn Larson, Abigail Hutchins, Minos Dobson, Richard Case, Joseph Guariglia, Brooklyn Galliett, Kennedy Cole & Sydney Hust



SNOW DAY INFORMATION FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT **VALLEY SCHOOLS 2011-2012**

In the event of inclement weather it may become necessary for Douglas County School District to call Alternate Bus Stops, a One Hour Delay or a Snow Day. DCSD's first consideration in making these decisions is the safety of the students.

Alternate Bus Stops will be in effect when it is decided that it is safest to prohibit bus travel in certain areas. Buses will still pick up and drop off students however it will be at a bus stop on a safely accessible main street. Both pick up and drop off, may be at the alternate bus stops, depending on improving weather conditions. The Transportation Department will notify students and parents if an alternate stop is in effect.

One Hour Delay is called if it is determined that it would be safer if the buses picked up students one hour later in the morning and the weather conditions are such that the buses can make it home safely in the afternoon.

A **Snow Day** is called when it is decided that it is safest for DCSD students to not attend school due to weather or other conditions being unpredictable. If any Snow days are called during the first semester the days must be made up at the end of the school year and the DHS Graduation date will move the same number of days. If any Snow Days are called during the second semester the days must be made up at the end of the school year, however the DHS Graduation date will stay the same.

Determinations will be made as soon as possible but no later than 6:00 AM for secondary schools and 7:00 AM for elementary. Information on these changes can be located through the following:

Radio Stations

KCMY (99.1 FM) KBUL (98.1 FM)

DO NOT CALL THE RADIO STATIONS!

TV Stations (for one hour delay or closures only)

KNRV Channel 4 KOLO Channel 8 KTVN Channel 2

DCSD Webpage www.dcsd.k12.nv.us

"Snow Day-No School", "One Hour Delay" or "Main Bus Stops" will be posted by 6:30AM.

Automated Auto-Dialer system

The system will call student's home phone numbers and announce "Snow Day" or "One Hour Delay".

Please note:

- No message will be sent out if it is school as usual.

Alternate Bus Stop notifications will not be reported on the TV stations.

No notification system is foolproof. Power outages and technical problems can arise.

DCSD will do it's best to keep you informed.

Predicting the weather is always a difficult task. Conditions at one end of the valley can be quite different from the other and weather conditions can change very rapidly. All applicable factors will be taken into consideration.

Decisions will be made with the safety of the students as the first priority.

It shall be the ultimate responsibility of the individual bus driver to assess whether to travel into areas where road conditions may be hazardous to the safety of the students.

Any questions concerning school bus transportation should be directed to the Transportation Department 775-782-5194.





MINDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Phone: (775) 782-5510
Fax: (775) 785-5551
Attendance: ext-2
Transportation: 782-5194
Email: minden@dcsd.k12.nv.us
DCSD website: www.dcsd.k12.nv.us

**1170 Baler Street
Minden, NV 89423**

Home of the rattlers!

**MES MISSION
STATEMENT**

The Mission of MES, in partnership with parents and the community, is to promote academic excellence, to instill a love of learning, and to help our students build skills needed to grow into responsible and productive citizens of the future

****Minimum Day Schedule:****

Grades 1-6— 8:55-12:30
KAM~8:55-10:30 a.m.
KPM~11:00-12:30 p.m.

Daily School Schedule:

School Hours for Students:

Grades 1-6: 8:55-3:10 p.m.
KAM: 8:55-11:35 a.m.
KPM: 12:30-3:10 p.m.

Lunch~

Grades 1-2: 11:50-12:35
Grades 3-4: 12:00-12:45
Grades 5-6: 12:15-1:00

Recess~

AM-

Grades 1-3: 10:30-10:45
Grades 4-6: 10:45-11:00
Grades K: 10:15-10:30

PM-

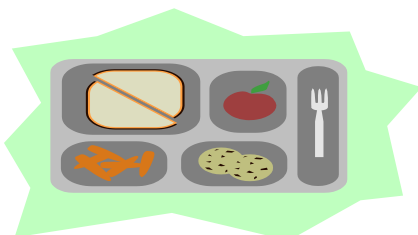
Grades K-3: 1:45-2:00

2011-2012 Nutrition Information

Meal Prices:

Milk~ \$.50
Breakfast~ \$1.50 Lunch ~2.50

For your convenience, you may prepay into your child's general account where breakfasts, lunches, and snack items may be purchased. You may restrict your prepayments to breakfast and/or lunches only. You may prepay online at www.cafeprepay.com and pay for your child's meals using a debit card, credit card or schedule a direct withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Another advantage in their service is you will be able to see your child's account balance online at anytime.



If you would like to be added to the Minden Rattler list please email~ dbrowder@dcsd.k12.nv.us

If you do not receive email and prefer hardcopy please let the office know. 782-5510

- Meal Prices:
- Lunch \$2.50 Full Paid
 - \$.40 Reduced Price
 - Breakfast \$1.50 Full Paid
 - \$.30 Reduced Price
 - Healthy Milk Choices: \$.50
 - Snack Prices Vary

Menu subject to change without notice.



For breakfast, in addition to the special of the day listed, we have a daily offering of a variety of cold cereals with toast and grab 'n go item(s). All breakfasts come with a choice of milk and milk.

What do Elves learn in School?



The Elf-abet

For lunch, in addition to the entrees of the day listed, we have a choice of a **Yogurt Meal** consisting of Fruited Lowfat Yogurt w/Animal Crackers, String Cheese and Two Side Choices, and a Healthy Milk Choice.

Breakfast not served at all locations.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Douglas County School District - 2011





Elementary School Menu



DECEMBER



Here's What's For Lunch

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Peppernoni Pizza Square or Cheesy Flatbread Sandwich Tossed Green Salad Choice of Cupped Fruit Pop Tarts	 Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Oriental Rice or Hot Dog Asian Salad Fresh Pears or Choice of Cupped Fruit French Toast Sticks	 Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich or Turkey Deli Sandwich Potato Wedges Choice of Cupped Fruit Breakfast Pizza	Italian Dunkers or PB & J Unrustable Leafy Green Salad Fresh Apple Slices or Choice of Cupped Fruit Cinnamon Roll	 <u>Parent/Teacher Conference @ School</u> Hamburger/Cheeseburger or Chicken Sandwich Tater Tots Choice of Cupped Fruit Breakfast Sandwich
Cheese Pizza Square or Cheesy Flatbread Sandwich Tossed Green Salad Choice of Cupped Fruit Pancake on a Stick	Mini Meat Raviolis or Corn Dog Baked Beans or Garlic Green Beans Fresh Apple Slices or Choice of Cupped Fruit Cheese Omelet	French Toast Sticks w/Scrambled Eggs & Ham or Breakfast Pizza w/Yogurt Hashbrown Party Strawberry Cup or Choice of Cupped Fruit Breakfast Burrito	Ultimate Bean Burrito or Taco Nada Leafy Green Salad or Corn Fresh Banana or Choice of Cupped Fruit Cinnamon Roll	Hamburger/Cheeseburger or Chicken Sandwich Tater Tots or Baby Carrots w/Dip Choice of Cupped Fruit Bagel w/Cream Cheese

***If you r child has a negative balance or does not have money for meals, he/she may be served a complimentary meal consisting of all they want to eat of the fruits and vegetables of the day at no charge.



Have a Wonderful Winter Break...
See you January 3rd, 2012!!

