

October 26, 2018

Greetings, Big Woods Families –

I cannot believe that parent-teacher conferences are around the corner! We've been busy with homecoming, Grandparents & Guest lunch, the Read-a-thon, and more.

Please take a few minutes to read Big Woods and district information below. I will email a November/December newsletter in early November.

Lee Brown, Big Woods Principal

PTO BIG WOODS READ-A-THON

The PTO Read-a-thon runs from Monday, October 22nd to Friday, November 2nd. Parent information was included in Friday folders on October 12th. If you have questions about the Read-a-thon, please contact PTO at bigwoodspto@gmail.com.

There are three simple steps for families.

1. Activate your child's Read-a-thon account using the activation code (from letters sent home on 10/12).
2. Get pledges from family and friends.
3. Read every day! Parents do not have to log reading minutes.

As classrooms reach goals, students earn classroom and school-wide incentives in which all may participate! There are no *cheap prizes*. 😊

SAFETY & SECURITY

We continue to focus on safety and security for our students. Beginning Monday, November 5th, parents need to say goodbye to their children outside Big Woods or in the school office. If students bring birthday treats or large items, the office staff will deliver them to classrooms.

Thank you for assisting us with safety by waiting until 7:20 AM to drop off your children and with the parent hand-to-hand pick up after school.

FALL PARTIES & HALLOWEEN CANDY COLLECTION

Fall parties were on **Friday, October 26th for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders** and on **Wednesday, October 31st for 4th graders**. We do not celebrate Halloween or dress up in costumes.

For the second year, we are **collaborating with Allina Health to collect Halloween candy!**

- Students may **bring Halloween candy to school on Thursday and Friday, November 1st and 2nd**.
- For each pound of candy collected, Allina Health will donate \$1 to local food shelves.
- Candy will be donated to programs that send gift boxes to troops overseas.
- The school that collects the most candy per student will win \$250! Go Big Woods!
- See the Candy Collection attachment.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION (D.I.)

WHAT: D.I. is a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters students' creativity, curiosity and courage through academic challenges. The challenges blend STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education with the arts and social entrepreneurship. Students who participate learn invaluable 21st century skills as well as patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE: Big Woods 3rd and 4th grade students

PRACTICES: Practices are Tuesday and Thursdays from 2:15-3:30 PM from December through March at Big Woods.

COMPETITION DATE: Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 – All team members and parents must commit to this date.

D.I. COACH: Molly Jerpseth, Big Woods High Potential Teacher (mollyj@stma.k12.mn.us)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Return the registration and fee to the Big Woods office by Friday, November 16th.

Request a registration form by calling the Big Woods office at 763-497-8025, or click on the link at the bottom of the email. More information can be found at <https://www.destinationimagination.org/about/>.

CONFERENCES & BOOK FAIR

Conferences are **Thursday, November 1st and Monday, November 5th**. Reminder labels will be in student planners prior to conferences.

The *Enchanted Forest* Book Fair Is Coming Soon! It will be held in the Media Center from October 30-November 6.

Students may shop during their scheduled media time or during school hours from 8:00-2:00. Families are welcome to visit the Book Fair during conferences on November 1st & 5th. All profits benefit the Big Woods library. See you at the Book Fair!

PARENT EDUCATION SESSION ON E-CIGARETTES & VAPING: *WHAT'S THE BIG HUFF?*

The STMA district, in partnership with Wright County Health and Human Services, is hosting a parent education session regarding e-cigarettes and vaping.

Wednesday, November 7th @ 6:30 PM at Middles School West auditorium

Learn what vape and e-cig products look like, what the products contain, the effects on youth, and prevention strategies. Contact the district office at 763-497-3180 or kaitlinl@stma.k12.mn.us for more information. See the attachment.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH MENUS

Menus are available on the Big Woods web page. Click on School Menus to view them.

SCHOOL CALENDARS

The school board approved calendars for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Both calendars are posted on the STMA web page. Click on Our District and then District Calendar. See the 2019-20 calendar attachment.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Thank you for your patience with the construction on 50th Street/CSAH 18. The road opened to traffic on Monday, October 15th, and the project is almost complete. The construction crew is still paving parts of the trail and working on top soil and turf.

See attachments for Halloween Candy Collection, Destination Imagination, *What's the Big Huff?*, and the 2019-20 school calendar.