



Longfellow Longhorns

"A Great Place to Learn"

Rick Herrejon, Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

COST SAVING MEASURES

The Board of Education received a report on cost-savings measures at its January meeting. The Board charged the administration to reduce expenses in fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018. CCSD21 achieved \$2.5 million in savings in FY16, \$4.1 million in FY17, and is targeting additional savings of \$3.0 million in FY18. The implementation of these measures should allow the district to operate balanced budgets for the next two years.

2017-2018 CALENDAR

The Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 school year calendar. The first day of school for students in grades 1-8 will be Wednesday, August 23. Kindergarten students will begin on Thursday, August 24. The full calendar can be found at www.ccsd21.org.

KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Registration for students who will begin kindergarten in the 2017-2018 school year, and registration for first grade students who are new to CCSD21, will begin in February. Registration will be accepted on weekdays at local elementary schools when school is in session, between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:00 PM. Evening registration options are also available. Dates and times for those evenings, as well as additional registration information, can be found at www.ccsd21.org.

NEXT MEETING

February 16, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Gill Administration Center

Dear Longfellow Parents and Guardians,

The winter is almost gone (was it even here?) and spring is waking up from its hibernation. We've finished the ACCESS state testing and are currently planning for the State of Illinois PARCC test. Our spring Portfolio Night was a complete success. A big thank you to our wonderful parents for making the night successful. I also want to thank our great PTO for providing such a terrific dinner for Portfolio Night. I want to publicly thank our PTO for all the things that they do for our students and staff. Please try to attend the next PTO meeting to show your support which enables the PTO to continue to do things for all our Longfellow students. We are all looking forward to Longfellow Bingo night next week. Please mark your calendars for Friday, February 24, 2017 at 6:00pm at Cooper Middle School. See you there!!

Respectfully,

Rick Herrejon

Strong Critical Thinking Skills Help Students Solve Problems

Your child is feeling overwhelmed by a big history project. Or she's gotten stuck while trying to figure out a math problem. What do you do? Helping children understand *how* they think and solve problems is some of the best help a parent can provide. Strong critical thinking skills will help your child in school-and give her the ability to solve problems in the real world.

Help your child:

- **Become aware of how she thinks.** Educators call this metacognition, or the ability to think about the thinking process. Good thinkers have a plan before they take action. They know if they need more information in order to make a decision. And if they get new information later, they adapt their plan. Before your child starts a project, say things like, "Let's think this through." Also help your child see her strengths and weaknesses as a problem solver. "Remember that sometimes you tend to rush in before you make a plan."
- **Draw on past knowledge** to address current problems. She may not have had to do an assignment just like this history project, but she has done other big projects. What did she learn about how she works best?
- **Focus on effort.** "It's not that I'm so smart," Albert Einstein once said, "it's that I stick with a problem longer." So when your child gets discouraged, encourage her. Help her see the progress she has already made, and let her know she *can* reach her goal.

The Parent Institute February 2016 Newsletter

Notable Quotes

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Dates & Events

February

- 2/1 Kindy Registration
4:00-6:30pm
- 2/9 PTO Meeting
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
Classroom Parties
- 2/15 Portfolio Night
4:00-8:00pm
- 2/20 No School
President's Day
- 2/24 PTO Bingo
Night

Academic Success Starts with Regular Attendance

"Does it really matter if my child misses school?" parents wonder. "Yes!" say experts. Research shows that regular attendance is linked to current and future school success. When kids miss too much school, they miss more than daily lessons. They miss the chance to build social and academic foundations that help with future learning.

To minimize attendance issues:

- Remember that excused and unexcused absences take a toll on learning. Keep track of how often your child is absent or tardy. In general, if a child is out of school 10% or more of the year, absences are considered particularly serious.
- Keep the school calendar handy when making plans. Schedule appointments and trips when school isn't in session. If your child needs to miss school, talk with the teacher.
- Tell school officials about problems that lead to absences. Many families face challenges with health, transportation, child care and other issues. Community programs may be able to help.
- Avoid unnecessary absences by establishing family routines that make life easier. Small changes, such as organizing school supplies at night and getting enough sleep, can make a big difference.

Short Notes

Are you looking for more creative ways to talk to your child? Instead of saying "You are so smart" here are a few suggestions...

"You tried really hard on that."

"You never gave up, even when it was hard."

"You have such a positive attitude."

"I love how you took ownership of that."

"That was a very responsible thing you did."

"I can tell you studied really hard."

"I am so proud you made that choice."

BE SAFE....BE RESPECTFUL...BE RESPONSIBLE

Health Office Notes

February is Heart Awareness Month! Many kids are spending less time exercising and more time in front of the TV, computer, phone, tablet, or video-game console. And today's busy families have fewer free moments to prepare nutritious, home-cooked meals. From fast food to electronics, quick and easy is the reality for many of us. In order to keep your heart healthy, try to get at least 60 minutes of exercise daily. When it comes to meals, involve kids in the process and be a role model for your kids by eating healthy yourself!

