

**APA K-5 Yearbook orders are due before March 16, 2012. K-5 Yearbooks are \$16.00 and can be ordered and paid for in the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> street office.**

**NOTICE:** We are always looking for ways to improve the security of your child while at school while balancing the family feel of the environment. Please help us by patiently working with us as we implement new strategies. Beginning immediately, our secretaries will use the speaker by the entrance to ask visitors to identify themselves and explain their purpose for visiting our school. They will be polite and professional but are required by administration to perform this task for safety and security reasons.

## ISTEP INFORMATION

ISTEP: Help us get your child ready for the ISTEP testing. Grades 3-5 will be taking the first round of ISTEP starting March 5-14, 2012. The second round will begin on April 30, 2012.

Attendance, rest, motivation, and a good breakfast are all important to help them concentrate on the test. The easiest and best way for students to be well prepared for tests, whether it be a classroom test or ISTEP, is to make sure they are doing their school work consistently and with their best effort.

## PARENTS ARE IMPORTANT:

January and February are months that seem to go slowly and some of us tend to require some extra motivation. Help your child succeed by stepping up the level of encouragement, motivation, and discipline when needed. Let them know how much you care by not letting them fail. Expect effort, positive attitude and high standards. Never aim low on your expectations. It is a battle with some young people but they do recognize that it means you care about them. They just don't want to admit it.

## Progress Reports

The end of the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks is Thursday, February 16, 2012. Progress reports will be sent home on Friday, February 24, 2012. Remember that Math, Language Arts and Reading have both a Grade Level Equivalency (GLE) and a grade. The grade is based on how they are doing at the designated grade level of work, not the grade level they are enrolled in. APA locates the ability level of the student and instructs them at their ability level with the intention of bringing them up to the appropriate grade level work as quickly as possible. Much of that depends on the student's motivation and parent support. Bringing a student who is behind up to their appropriate grade level takes time and may take more than a year to accomplish.

## DISMISSAL AND AFTER SCHOOL PICKUP:

Parents, please remember that our offices at 22<sup>nd</sup> street and 25<sup>th</sup> street close at 3:45. All students must be picked up before 3:45. Any students that have not been picked up by 3:45 will be escorted to the YMCA after school care located in their building. The YMCA may expect parents to pay for the service when the child is picked up. The YMCA does require paperwork to be completed, if the parent has not already done so, and will expect that to be done when the child is picked up. Please understand that the school does not have anyone on duty to supervise your child after 3:45.

### HEADPHONES

Parents, please make sure your child has a set of headphones for classroom use. The headphones were on the supply list at the beginning of the year and are necessary for your child to use the computers during class time. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

5<sup>th</sup> graders must be performing at the level of an "end of year" 5<sup>th</sup> grader in May or they will not be permitted to go to the Pre-Academy. APA requires 5<sup>th</sup> graders to be on target at their grade level before they can enter the Pre-Academy. The Pre-Academy is middle school, 6-8.

## Upcoming Calendar

### Wednesday February 15, 2012

K-5 Skating Party at Anderson Roll Arena 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (APA K-5 students and family ONLY, please) No guests.

### February 16, 2012

End of 4<sup>th</sup> grading period.

### February 17 and 20, 2012

No School on Friday, 17 and Monday 20 (end of 4<sup>th</sup> grading period)

### Friday February 24, 2012

Sending home progress reports.

## In Closing:

In closing, we ask that you as the parent or guardian continue to support us in our endeavors to teach and guide your child. My prayer is that you and your child will have a great and productive year at APA. If, however, you and your child do encounter some difficulties whether they be academic or behavioral please remember that your support even in times of disagreement goes a long way toward the improvement of your child.

Thank you for trusting us with your prized possession.

*Doug Jacobs*  
Principal

*Aaron Black*  
Assistant Principal