

2 0 0 9 S E P T E M B E R

S.G. REINERTSEN

Elementary School

MOORHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Family Newsletter

A NOTE FROM MRS. MOYANO, PRINCIPAL

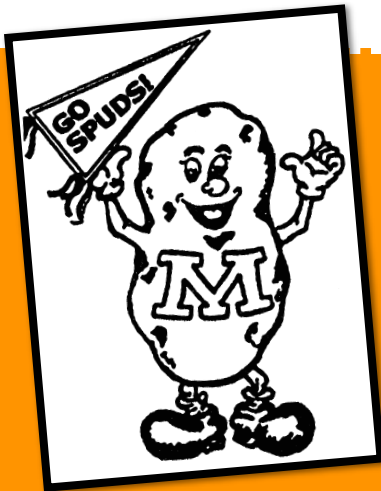
Dear Reinertsen Families,
Welcome to the 2009-10 school year. Preparations for the school year are going well. The staff and I are eagerly waiting for your students and their first day of school. Every staff member participated in continuing education this summer through classes and workshops. We are eager to apply new strategies for working with your children as we continue to focus on high levels of achievement for all students.

We have several new staff members and they are introduced to you in this newsletter.
We have moved two classrooms off-site to accommodate our enrollment growth. Two kindergarten

classrooms will be located at Probstfield Center for Education. Please note that we will hold **Back to School Night at both sites on September 3 with Probstfield's event at 5:30-7:00 and Reinertsen's at 6:00-7:30.**

Please feel free to contact me or any teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's education and adjustment to school. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
Anne Moyano, Principal



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Back to School Night

Mark Your Calendars Thursday, September 3rd
Probstfield 5:30-7:00 p.m. and Reinertsen 6:00-7:30 p.m.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Welcome Back to a new school year, especially to our families who are new to the area a special welcome to you. After working at Reinertsen for the past five years, I have had the honor of working with your child and I am excited to see what the 2009-10 school year brings.

With the new school year upon us I would like to share some tips for the beginning of the school year:

- It is not unusual for children to display anxiety or fear at the onset of a new school year.
- Common reactions include: feeling sick or tired, expressing dislike for classroom or teacher, wanting to call home, difficulty sleeping/nightmares and/or complaining of peer problems.
- Overcoming School Anxiety
 - 1.) Actively listen to your child
 - 2.) Reassure your child that his/her feelings are normal and that things will get better
 - 3.) Keep your child in school

PARENTS CAN HELP: SUCCESSFUL GRADE TRANSITION

Each academic transition has its own rite of passage whether it is socialization concerns at the elementary level, or jitters about changing classes in middle school or the responsibilities and freedoms of high school. When children enter school they need to adapt to standards of behavior, teacher expectations, and social pressure to fit in with their peers. Transitional periods can be opportunities to understand and adapt to the new environment.

Understanding Child Development

Facilitating smooth and successful transitions requires an awareness of each child's developmental level. There is wide agreement about certain patterns in a child's development that can be attributed to such scientists as Piaget and Erickson, and that are validated by numerous academic research studies nationally. All developmental theorists can agree that growth and development follow universal and reasonably predictable patterns, but a child's rate of development, culture, personality and environment all influence

- 4.) Do not allow your child to stay home or leave school because of anxiety
- 5.) Keep in touch with your child's classroom teacher
- 6.) Focus on the positive of the day!

By all of us working together, we can provide for your son or daughter the successful educational experience they deserve. If at any time you have any questions or concerns about your child that you would like to discuss with me, please feel free to call me at 284-5312 or e-mail lkarch@moorhead.k12.mn.us. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Sincerely,
Lisa Karch
Licensed School Counselor



development. Normal differences in development can span two chronological years or two grade levels. Since growth can be uneven, learning may occur in spurts followed by consolidation. Understanding these theories of change can help us to understand what children are going through without limiting them with unrealistic expectations.



Transitions - Social, Emotional and Academic

Kindergarten through Third

Socially, children in grades K-3 are still learning to be friends with both sexes, but by the end of this stage, boys and girls will separate in gender groups.

Emotionally, these youngsters are self-centered but need and seek approval from adults.

Academically, this is a time when children are gradually moving from learning to play and to communicate, to playing with the goal of learning new information. In addition, they are making sound symbol associations and are learning to read. Between K and 1st grade there is a shift in cognitive development that is accompanied by a shift in reasoning and understanding of cause and effect. Your child's curriculum includes learning through the senses by touching, seeing, smelling, tasting, and hearing rather than by thinking alone. Homework becomes a consistent daily routine during these years.

Fourth through Eighth

When children reach grades 4-8, socialization is influenced by their major growth spurts. The advanced maturity of girls as compared to boys can be a source of awkwardness, jokes and embarrassment. Joining clubs and groups of those with similar interests becomes very important. At this age children still have difficulty understanding the perspective of others, but do recognize the benefits of making siblings, peers and grownups happy.

Emotionally, they need to feel accepted and worthwhile, tend to be competitive and, at times, overreact to failure. There is an increase in their moral thinking, in their sense of justness and fairness and in their need to be part of something important.

Academically, 4th graders are still concrete learners but are increasingly able to deal with multiple variables. The transition to middle school during fifth and sixth grades is quite significant. Children are moving from thinking concretely in absolutes, to thinking logically and abstractly. Children are no longer learning to read, they are reading in order to learn and reading and integrating multiple sources of information. The structure and environment of middle school demands a higher level of independence than elementary school. Your child is going from a protected environment to one where he must be more self-reliant.

Grade Transitions and Parents

Creating a balance between home and school is important in facilitating and supporting the academic endeavors of your child in concert with his or her emotional development. If your child is transitioning to a new school, schedule a pre-first day visit to help acclimate your child to the surroundings. For a younger child, encourage the child to discuss the future transitions by asking him or her specific questions. Compile a list of your child's concerns and together try to find answers to

the questions. Schedule a visit during an open house, or actual school day to help familiarize your child with the school surroundings and the routine. Seek out parents whose children are also transitioning and schedule play dates so your child will have a buddy in the new classroom. Be available to your child after school starts. Understand that your child may need extra family time, attention, love and support. When there is a change, he or she may regress to an earlier development stage. Help your child explore ways to cope with concerns and continue to be available for further discussion. Be ready to problem-solve. By taking an active helpful role in the child's academic achievements, parents can help broaden the student's horizon, increase his or her self-esteem, and provide a foundation for the upcoming stage of higher education.

Source: Written and developed by Kimberly S. Williams, M.A. and the staff of the NYU Child Study Center





TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Reinertsen Elementary welcomes three new classroom teachers, new staff in physical therapy, library/media services, the gifted and talented program, sign language interpreting and English as a Second Language. We also welcome two new members of the Minnesota Reading Corps. Some staff have new assignments.



Ms. Lori Woods will teach second grade. Ms. Woods has 18 years experience teaching first and second grade in Moorhead. Most recently she has been on a leave of absence during which time she taught first grade in Frederick County, Maryland.

Mr. Boe Sheeley will teach third grade. Mr. Sheeley is a recent MSUM graduate in elementary education. He student taught at Reinertsen with Mr. Cerar last spring.

Mrs. Jennifer Stumphf will teach fourth grade. She is an MSUM graduate in elementary education and taught fourth grade last year at Robert Asp Elementary.

Ms. Kristin Peters will be our part-time physical therapist. **Mrs. Linda Johnson**, who has been a teacher of the gifted and talented in Moorhead for many years will now provide G/T services at Reinertsen as well. **Mrs. Ann Woell**, who has been the media specialist at Robert Asp will now divide her time between Asp and Reinertsen. **Mrs. Nancy Oster** will be our English as a Second Language teacher. She has previously taught in Moorhead elementary schools and most recently at Horizon Middle School.

Mrs. Bethann Weltmer, a licensed interpreter for the deaf, will be working at Reinertsen this year. She has previously worked in other Moorhead schools.

We are fortunate to have two members of the Minnesota Reading Corps assigned to Reinertsen Elementary for the 2009-10 school year. They are **Allison Betsch and Logyn Moss**.

Allison has graduated from the University of Minnesota, Morris with a degree in psychology. Logyn graduated from MSUM with a degree in early childhood education. She student taught with Mrs. Kim Englund last year.

Other staff changes include:

Mrs. Pat Haugen will be teaching third grade, **Ms. Botner and Mrs. Labrenz** will teach kindergarten at our new Probstfield site, **Mrs. Rogness and Mrs. Waggoner** will be on child care leaves of absence at the start of the year and **Mrs. Connie Calvert and Mrs. Annette Keeler**, special education paraprofessionals, have both transferred to other Moorhead schools. **Mrs. Megan Kreps** will be the substitute for Mrs. Rogness and **Mrs. Helen Friend** will be the substitute for Mrs. Waggoner.





PTAC OPPORTUNITIES



PTAC (Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee) meetings and activities are a great opportunity to meet parents, teachers and the principal, to learn about what is going on at Reinertsen and contribute to discussions and to help support your child's school. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend as many meetings as they wish. You also have the option to participate in any PTAC activity.



IMPORTANT DATES

August 31 - September 4 During this week, letters will be sent to students' homes with their bus schedule and route information. The same information will be posted on the school district website, www.moorhead.k12.mn.us. If your bus pick-up or drop-off location has changed, please notify the transportation office at 284-1410. Kindergarten parents will receive a phone call from the bus driver regarding their transportation.

September 3 Back to School Night, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Prostfield and 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Reinertsen

Plan to visit classrooms, meet teachers, find lockers and put away school supplies. In the gym you can deposit money for breakfast, lunch and milk accounts, sign up for school volunteer opportunities, pay the student activity fee and learn about our parent organization (PTAC). Bring your calendar and sign up for your October Parent-Teacher Conference at tables in the main hallway near the office.

September 8 First day of school. School hours are 8:20-2:50.

The kindergarten schedule will be included in the back to school letter. Kindergarten students and their parents will have a 30 minute meeting with their teacher at a scheduled time.

September 9 Kindergarten class and bus transportation begins.

September 21 PTAC Meeting (Parent-Teacher Advisory Council). 6:30 p.m. in the library. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Positions Available

We currently have 2 positions available in the cafeteria - one breakfast supervisor and one lunch supervisor. The positions could be combined. Please apply on-line at www.moorhead.k12.mn.us or at the Reinertsen office. We also need substitute cafeteria supervisors and substitute paraprofessionals.

Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to work with students on reading skills. We can use volunteers at various times of day, days per week and number of weeks of volunteer service. Training will be provided. Please call the school office if interested. Working with our students is fun and rewarding.