

Greetings Families,

CARNIVAL is HERE...please brave the snow and stop into Shirley Hills tonight for our Carnival between 5-9pm. It is truly an amazing evening of fun and games along with being our PTA's main fundraiser.

On another note...MOMO Challenge

As some of you may be aware, there has been national and international media coverage lately about a creepy internet challenge known as the "Momo Challenge." Allegedly, Momo targets children by encouraging them to text a number on popular online applications (e.g. YouTube, Minecraft, WhatsApp, etc.), which then sends them instructions to complete a series of increasingly bizarre and dangerous tasks from watching a horror movie to engaging in self-harm to taking their own lives. If this sounds familiar, this is similar to the "Slender Man" and "Blue Whale" internet trends in years past.

While there are reports that the threat of the Momo Challenge may be overstated, experts in mental health caution that the hysterical news coverage could potentially prove harmful, possibly even inspiring imitators. It can also cause some students to be fearful or anxious.

Our students are no different...I've already had several conversations with kids about MOMO and how they are scared of her. Please talk with your kiddos about the content they access, the importance of not accepting any communications or invitations from people they do not know, and not sharing personal information. Continue to have regular conversations with them about internet safety and monitor what's happening on their accounts. Ask open-ended questions that will help you to understand what your child is thinking and feeling.

The following are some resources we have found to be useful in helping our learners navigate the internet, as well as tools for families looking to parent in a digital age:

- [Common Sense Media](#) - provides education and advocacy for parents to promote safe technology and media use.
- [Family Online Safety Institute](#) - Good Digital Parent is a blog with tips on raising kids with technology.
- [Connect Safely](#) - provides parents with tips and advice, as well as resources and parent guides to popular apps like Instagram and Snapchat.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly or your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Scott

Mr. Eidsness
952-491-8401

heidsnesss@westonka.k12.mn.us

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

03/01 WINTER CARNIVAL, 5:00-9:00pm

03/04 Family Ice Skating at Thaler Arena, see below for more information

03/07 Gr 3 to Orchestra Hall & Minneapolis Institute of Art - BAG LUNCH NEEDED

03/08 Stuff the Bus

03/20 Kindergarten field trip to Lowry Nature Center, 9:00am - Noon

03/22 Teacher Professional Day - NO SCHOOL

03/25-29 SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

FAMILY ICE SKATING NIGHT IS MARCH 4TH

Shirley Hills and Hilltop PTAs are hosting this FREE fun family event at the Thaler Ice Arena from 5:30-7:30pm, Monday, March 4th. Brings your own skates and helmet. There will be skates available to borrow; Thaler does not rent skates. Hot dog and chips snack available to purchase for \$1.50. Other concessions are also available. All children must be accompanied by an adult

STUFF THE BUS IS MARCH 8TH

Stuff the Bus is fast approaching! Three weeks away, and again, we are so excited to be partnering with our local schools. You are all such an important part of this campaign and our clients truly benefit from your hard work and generosity. Your food and cash donations help us to provide the best food, produce, and products for our clients. In 2018 our Food Shelf served 709 families and gave out over 602,000 pounds of food. Our food shelf is awesome and because of you we are able to serve those in need. We will send out another update next week with the pick up schedule for the morning of Friday March 8th.

MWHS TO HOST CINDERELLA CHARACTER BRUNCH MARCH 9TH

Westonka families are invited to dine with characters from the Mound Westonka High School production of "Cinderella" on Saturday, March 9th. This first-ever brunch will take place in the MWHS cafeteria from 9:00-11:00am. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door. The magical events will feature a delicious brunch, as well as:

- a meet-and-greet with the cast and characters,
- autographs and photos,
- backstage tours of the Westonka Performing Arts Center,
- a coloring station,
- a Cinderella slipper craft, and
- cookie decorating.

Note: Parents do not have to pay to chaperone their children. The \$10 cost is to participate in the events and eat, but does NOT include admission to the musical performance.

PARENT INPUT FORM

Also, we do have Classroom Consideration forms for you to share with me the style of learner your child is and in what type of environment they learn best. Additionally, if you have another student whom you feel it would be best that your child not be in the same class with, please present for me that idea and some details as well. PLEASE - this is NOT a teacher request form! I will have Karen Boser throw away any blatantly obvious request for a teacher so that when I review these returned documents I will not even be aware of the request. We couldn't possibly fulfill all the requests if we did allow for them.

STUDENT ABSENCES - VACATIONS - POLICY REMINDER

District policy allows a student up to 5 days of **prearranged** vacation each year. For the 6th day, and any days after that, a **Vacation Petition** form must be completed. Parent will call the school office (952-491-8409) to request the Vacation Petition form, advising dates of school to be missed. Office staff will give the Vacation Petition to the classroom teacher to enter homework make-up plans and return the form to the parents. Upon return, student will turn in the form with completed work to their classroom teacher.