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**September 2017 Newsletter**

**Enjoy Labor Day!**

This is just a reminder that Garrett County Schools are closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

**Hickory Environmental Education Center**

Some of our students will start visits to Hickory this month. Hickory is our outdoor environmental education center. It is located on the Northern High and Middle School complex. Students complete STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) lessons. Our planetarium is also located there. This trip does not require parents as chaperones since Hickory provides the additional staff and is part of our school system. To learn more about the site, please visit garrettcountyschools.org, click on the departments tab and select Hickory Environmental Education Center.

**Skate Nights**

PTO will be sponsoring Skate Nights again this year. Students and their families are invited to skate at Star Lite skating rink in LaVale for a discounted rate.

**Remind**

Our school is inviting you to join Remind, a text messaging system that allows you to receive messages from our school on your phone. We send home reminders about early dismissals, school closures due to inclement weather, special events and other important information. To join, please text @route40 to 81010. If you are unsuccessful with that, try texting @route40 to (240) 754-2686 instead. If you prefer, you can receive messages from this service through email by sending an email to route40@mail.remind.com.

**Martins Card Numbers**

If you have a Martin’s card, please consider sending us your name and number. You can also enter your information on the Martin’s A+ website at <https://martinsfoods.com/aplus/register/>

**Safety Drills**

We will be conducting lock down drills four times this year. We teach the children that we are practicing being safe and quiet. Fire drills are conducted monthly and bus drills are twice a year. We also conduct a tornado drill and earth quake drill annually. If you have any questions, please attend the September 11 PTO meeting at 6:00 p.m. or call Mrs. Maust.

**Garden Harvest**

Our Pre-K students have been harvesting and sorting our crops from the garden. We will try to notify you when we use our fresh items in our lunch program. Thank you to everyone who helped this summer.

**Box Tops**

We collect Box Tops for Education. Each box top earns the school 10 cents. They can be found on products like tissues and bags as well as several food products. Your child will bring home a Box Top collection sheet. Please cut out and glue them to the sheet and send them to school as they are filled. Box Tops do have expiration dates so please check them before adding them to the sheet. Please continue to send box tops to school throughout the year. The teachers use the proceeds to buy materials and supplies for their classrooms.

**School Pictures**

School pictures will be taken on September 28. Please look for the additional information from Life Touches.

**HELP WANTED!**

Parent volunteers are a vital part of our school routine. We host a regular work session to help prepare supplies on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:00. If Wednesdays don’t align to your schedule, please feel free to call and set up another time to join us. We value the assistance volunteers can provide to our educational program. If you would be interested in assisting in other ways, please contact the classroom teacher. All volunteers wanting to work in the classroom with students will need prior approval from Mrs. Maust. Anyone working directly with children will need a background check and fingerprinting completed through the Board of Education. We do have a strict confidentiality policy for anyone working in proximity of students.

**PTO Membership**

PTO is currently accepting dues for membership $3.00 per person or $5.00 per family. . Membership gives you a voice in the decision making process. Please consider joining us in supporting our school and making this a great place for kids. There will be a PTO meeting on Monday, September 11 at 6:00.

**Yearbooks**

2016-2017 yearbooks will be arriving a little later this year. We are expecting them to be here around September 15. If you ordered one, we will send it home with your child.

**Arrival/Dismissal Schedule**

 Students are encouraged to ride busses. In the event that a parent must provide transportation, students may enter the building after 8:10 a.m. but must be in the building before 8:30 to avoid being marked tardy. Students will be sent to their classrooms at 8:20 with classes starting at 8:30. Students will be dismissed from classes on the following schedule:

Parent Pick Up 3:15

Busses 3: 20 Bus 20, Bus 74, Bus 12

Due to the limited number of staff available to cover these duties, students will need to report for dismissal on time. No student will be permitted to return to the classroom during dismissal for any reason. Any noncompliant student will be treated as not being in their assigned area and the Code of Conduct will be followed.

**Love and Logic Tip**

**Listening Means Love**

How do wise parents and educators respond when kids try to argue and manipulate? The most effective repeat an empathetic one-liner such as, “I love/respect you too much to argue” or “I know” or “What did I say?” They also resist the urge to think too deeply about what the child is saying.

Do we do this when kids are hurting? Do we employ this strategy when they’re respectfully expressing their opinions? No! We listen.

When I ask people to describe the parents and teachers they respected the most as kids, they almost always mention something like, “They were always there to listen.”

**Listening means love. It means that we sincerely**

**care about other’s opinions and emotions.**

Here’s the problem: Many of us have a hard time listening when someone around us is emotional or is disagreeing with us. That’s why it’s helpful to have a few sincere statements or questions in our back pockets:

* Tell me more
* Help me understand
* What would you like to see here?
* How long have you felt this way?

The next time one of your kids expresses their opinion… or their hurt… be sure to lend a sincere and empathetic ear, showing loving interest by using the points above. Remember: The more you listen to them, the more likely they’ll listen to you. If the tone turns disrespectful or manipulative, you can always switch gears and repeat, “I love/respect you too much to argue” or “I’ll listen when your voice sounds calm like mine.”

Thanks for reading!

Dr. Charles Fay

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**September Events**

4 No School

11 PTO 6:00

18 Grades 2 and 3 to Hickory

21 Noon Dismissal

28 Midterm

 Picture Day