

WALT DISNEY MAGNET SCHOOL
4140 North Marine Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60613
Phone: (773) 534-5840 Fax: (773) 534-5714



Kathleen Hagstrom, Ed. D., Principal
Abbie Meyers – Assistant Principal
Sandra Caudill – Asst. Principal/ Early Childhood Director/
Paul Riskus – Assistant Principal/Upper Level Director
Thomas Szymanski – Intermediate Level Director
Joe Pellegrino – Chief Engineer

To: Disney Parents
From: Kathleen Hagstrom, Principal
Re: Assorted Matters

September 19, 2018
Code Yellow Emergency Drill – Thursday, September 20 - 8:10 a.m.
“Back to School Night Open House” – Wednesday, September 26: 6-7 p.m.

Our new school year is underway and we welcome all of our new staff and students; we look forward to a wonderful year of learning together. We hope that all parents can come for our Back to School Open House next **Wednesday, September 26**, at 6:00 p.m. Parents will be able to visit their child’s classroom, meet the teacher and hear from them about plans for this year. This is an important first connection; your child’s teacher looks forward to meeting you.

We are very grateful to Arborist, Mr. Lueck, and the Buena Park Neighbors group which will be donating and planting new trees around the school property on **Saturday, September 29**, from 10 am – noon. If you are interested in helping, please email Assistant Principal, Paul Riskus at priskus@cps.edu.

I encourage all parents and staff to support our PTA via membership and involvement. The PTA is a great friend of the school and the parent group works tirelessly to sponsor activities for the Disney community, as well as, providing the financial support to benefit many student activities. The PAC, Parent Advisory Council, is also a parent driven organization, with meetings throughout the school year to promote parent education and enhanced involvement in your child’s learning.

-Parent Advisory Council – The PAC parent group Title I meeting in on **Friday, September 28, at 8:00 a. m.** The annual Title I Meeting, will provide information on NCLB funding and activities. Immediately following, is the annual Organizational Meeting to vote on officers and establish a meeting schedule for the year. All parents are welcome and encouraged to participate.

-Parent Teacher Association – The Walt Disney School PTA welcomes all new families and invites their participation in all activities; you can reach the PTA at info@disneyschoolpta.org. Membership forms will be sent home via the backpack and are also available on the PTA Facebook page, facebook.com/disneyschoolpta. Membership payment can be made on-line. The next general meeting is **Tuesday, October 16**, at 7:30 a.m. meet other parents. Don’t forget our first *PTA Movie Night*, **Friday, September 21**. The SW CAC Door will open at 6:00 p.m. for the screening of “Paddington2”; all Disney families are welcome at this free event. PTA gives a shout out to all families to collect and turn in Box Tops. **Monday, October 31**, is the deadline to turn in all “*Box Tops for Education*”. This program provides “free money” to PTA which benefit the PTA sponsored events. Our *Yankee Candle fall fundraiser* catalogues are going home today; the deadline for all orders with payment is **Tuesday, October 9**. Check out the catalogue for all the beautiful candles and many other fun items. It’s never too early to think about holiday gifts!

-Local School Council – The next meeting of the LSC is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 10**, at 5:30 p.m. All parents are welcome.

-Pod 220 CAC – Our second grade students will begin their 2-week integrated arts unit on Monday, September 24. The final performance will be **Friday, October 5**, at 9:00 a.m. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the homeroom teacher for any volunteer needs and we remind you that all volunteers will need to have completed the CPS on-line volunteer application at CPSvolunteers.org.

- Volunteering at School – As part of the updated CPS policy on Maintaining the Safety of Students, **all parent volunteers, including field trip chaperones and classroom helpers, need to complete the on-line application process.** Please visit www.CPSvolunteers.org to learn more and to complete the application. **Type 2** volunteers will be instructed to provide a copy of ID to the school after completing the on-line application. **Type 1** volunteers (volunteering over 10 hours a week, or for overnight student trips) have a more extensive application process. While this may seem burdensome, we very much want and need your continued volunteer help and remind everyone that the safety and protection of students is always a top priority.

-Pre-school “Kiss and Go” – We remind pre-school parents that the “Kiss and Go” policy will begin Monday, September 24. Please bring your child to the pre-school door where you will say good bye and your child will enter the classroom. An important goal of pre-school is gaining independence and encouraging respect for the instructional environment. We appreciate everyone’s support.

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-Cell Phone/Electronics Policy – Parents, please weigh carefully the need for your child to have a cell phone. It is important that you monitor the content of the communication that is occurring on these phones. Use of cameras and other social media platforms is often an easy and anonymous tool for bullying or other negative behaviors. We strive to encourage respect and a supportive attitude at all times. Cell phones and other electronic items are not allowed at Disney. If a cell phone is seen or “rings” on school property it will be confiscated. Parents will be requested to pick up the cell phone from the main office; at stated pick-up times listed.

Cell phones/electronic items can be retrieved:

Tuesday morning between 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday afternoon between 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Friday morning between 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

-Medical Forms – All 6th grade, kindergarten and any new students are required to submit a physical exam form, with updated immunization records. If you have not already done so, we remind you that this must be done by **Monday, October 15**, or your child can be excluded from school.

-Sports at Disney – Our fall sports season is underway for our upper grade students. This fall we are fielding 5-8th grade Flag Football, 5-8 grade Girls’ Cross Country, 5-8th grade Girls’ Volleyball and 5-8 grade Boys’ Soccer. Teams have been decided and practices have begun. Your child should provide you with information from the coaches on the practice schedule and game day information. Typically each sport practices 2 afternoons per week; practices finish between 3:45 – 4:00. We are excited for our students to have these opportunities to learn athletic skills and teambuilding discipline. Participation in a sport is a commitment to attend practice and games, as well as, maintain good grades and exhibit proper behavior within the school day and during the sports activity. We remind parents that unfortunately, siblings are not allowed to stay and watch or wait for sports practice to conclude. Non- sport’s participants need to be picked up by a parent at the regular end of the school day. Only students supervised by a parent are allowed to attend games at Disney School.

-School Hours – Our **school day begins promptly at 7:30; the school day ends at 2:30 p.m.** All students, except pre-school, enter the building in the morning through the SW CAC door which closes at 8:00 a.m. Students who arrive after 7:45 a.m. are tardy. After 8:00 student enter through the back, Door 6, and get a tardy pass in the 1st floor lunchroom. Parents please make every effort to get your child to school on time, and help set the tone for a successful school day. All children are offered Breakfast in the Classroom, provided at no cost, from 7:45-8:05 a.m.

- Entry/Departure – Drop off and Pick up procedures are structured to provide for safety and efficiency. **There is no parking allowed on Marine Drive for drop off or pick up. There is no double parking at any time and no pedestrian walking in the bus lanes during arrival and dismissal.** Double parked cars are a safety hazard and can be towed. No children should be dropped off at the front of the building and no parking on Marine Drive. Morning drop off is in the South Fire Lane; cars must enter from Marine Drive and pull up to the drop off area at the top of the hill and exit onto Clarendon Road, right turn only please. Students enter through the SW door of the CAC in the back of the school, near the green playground. This door will open at 7:15 a.m. In the afternoon, students in pre-school through 4th grade must be signed out by 2:30 p.m. Sign out for pre-school and kindergarten is in the 1st floor gym. Sign out for 1st -4th grade is in the CAC building. Students in 5th-8th grade walk through the field and meet parents. All pick up of upper grade students at the end of the day is at the northwest end of the property on Clarendon Road, not in the South Fire Lane. Parking is not allowed on Marine Drive at the end of the day. As well, no one is allowed on the playground after school until all buses have left the property. We know that the parking areas are a challenge; we need everyone’s cooperation and this will enable drop off and pick up to proceed more smoothly and without incident.

Thank you for your support of the Disney community and we look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night on September 26!