Safety at McKenny - This past Thursday an event occurred that led to a partial lockdown at our school. Several staff members and students heard a loud crack or explosion and without further information I decided a lockdown was necessary. Our staff and students did a wonderful job of securing our building and supporting the safety of everyone at our school. We eventually learned that an electrical transformer had exploded down the street. After the Olympia Police arrived, assessed the situation and confirmed the origination of the sound, we resumed our normal schedule. This event revealed some real strengths in our safety plan as well as some areas to improve. One part of this improvement is in helping you understand our procedures. Please look for student handbooks coming home next week. In the Parent Section of this handbook, we explain some of these procedures. Again, we are proud of how well our students handled this unexpected event and welcome any feedback you might have.

Check-A-Child Phone Line – The McKenny office has a program called Check-A-Child. If your child is going to be late or absent, please call (360) 596-8403 and leave a voice mail message with your child’s name, the date, teacher name and the reason for their tardy or absence.

Curriculum Nights – Curriculum Night for Third, Fourth and Fifth grades is on Thursday, September 25th at 6:30pm. Childcare will be provided by Olympia High Schools students and be available in the Multipurpose. Tips would be greatly appreciated. PTO General Meeting will follow Curriculum Night in the Library with childcare provided.

Early Release – Our first early release day for collaboration time will be on Friday, September 26th. Release time is 12:52pm. AM/PM Kindergarten and AM/PM Preschool will not meet as scheduled.

Individual School Pictures – Smile big and bright! Friday, October 3rd will be our individual school picture day. If you would like to assist with pictures, please contact Debbie in the office. We need 4 volunteers from 9:00am to approximately 11:30am. Thanks.

Lunch Account Information (Do you know) – The Olympia School District Lunch Program works like a debt card. Parents can write a check or send in cash in any dollar amount. Lunches are $2.10, milk is .50 cents. Please send checks or cash in an envelope marked with your child’s first and last name. Thank you!

Buses, Transportation, and Pick Up - The Olympia School District Transportation Department provides safe, effective transportation for students in our school communities. It is important for us to work together to ensure that the system runs smoothly and that we know exactly how each of our students is getting home.

If your child is a bus rider, it is important that we be notified if s/he is going home with a friend or being picked up by a parent. Children should not make their own changes without the consent of parents. Please send a note to the office of a change to pick up for the day. Please note that we are unable to release any child to a person who is not listed on the Emergency Form. We will ID all persons picking up your child other than the legal parents or guardians with whom the child lives.

Another important point concerns parents picking up their children in private vehicles. We ask that you park your car and collect your child from the front of the school. It is dangerous for students to cross a busy parking lot or street without parent supervision or our crossing guards. We take your child’s safety very seriously. Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated.

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Have A Great Weekend

over
**District Seeks Volunteers to Serve on Facilities Committee for Future Bond** - The Olympia School District is looking for volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Facilities. Facility needs and conditions are assessed every seven to ten years by this Committee. Committee members will meet approximately two times each month (during evenings) during part of the 2008-2009 school year. The committee will analyze the condition of all existing school district facilities, consider enrollment projections and program needs and make recommendations to the school board on if and when school facilities may need to be expanded or remodeled. The recommendations from the committee will be used to develop a proposed bond for school remodeling, renovation and expansion. The District anticipates that it would seek voter approval for a capital improvement bond some time in 2010. If you live within the Olympia School District and would like more information or have questions about how to apply for the Facilities Committee, you can go to http://osd.wednet.edu/about_us/cpc/cpc or contact Timothy Byrne tbyrne@osd.wednet.edu or Tricia Johnson tjohnson@osd.wednet.edu in the District’s Capital Planning and Construction office at 596-8560. Applications are due by September 30, 2008.

**Community Forum on Science Education Set For October 6th** - The Olympia School District would like to hear from parents and community members about their priorities for science education in the Olympia School District. Please join us on Monday, October 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Olympia High School Commons for the Science Community Forum. You will have the opportunity to meet with students, teachers, parents and community members to discuss priorities and goals for a world-class science education. We look forward to seeing you there!

**PTO**

**PTO Auction** – We are seeking donations for our dinner auction on November 15th. All items are appreciated. Examples of successful items from other schools include; sports or theater tickets, homemade crafts, vacation get-a-ways, dinner parties and fancy birthday/holiday cakes. Please contact Kristen at 236-1392 if you have any questions.