

Captain's Log

By Principal Mohler

“I will act as if what I do makes a difference.”
William James

Report Cards – You will be receiving your child's report card for the 3rd nine weeks next week. The students are continuing to progress and enjoy learning every day.

End-of Year Conferences – Conferences for the end of the year will be held on a request basis. All parents should be receiving regular feedback from their child's teacher about their child's progress. There may be some specific things that you want to discuss with your child's teacher in a more individualized setting. If that is the case, please contact the teacher to set an appointment for a conference. Please keep in mind that there are still 9 weeks left until the end of the school year and a lot of learning is still to take place. Most teachers recommend having a conference closer towards the end of the year. Speak with your child's teacher about specific arrangements.

Testing Practice – You may have begun to see more testing practice materials come home in the past couple of weeks. As we enter the testing season full-force, there are some skills and specific content areas that need reteaching or emphasis in all grade levels. All teachers are diligently using data gathered from previous assessments as well as on-going weekly ones to determine the areas that need further practice. At Amana we do not emphasize testing as an isolated focus. It is a part of what we do as a whole and the skills and objectives tested on these tests are ones that we teach anyway. We do not want to cause undue stress on the teachers or students about the standardized tests, so it is just part of our everyday routine. Amana will continue to exhibit strong accomplishments in every academic area and grade level. As a parent you can help by ensuring that your child does their homework and comes to school everyday.

Lottery Results and Registration Process– We have conducted the lottery for the 2007-2008 school year and it went very smoothly. (Thank you Mrs. Darvesh!) There were a record number of applicants as well as returning students. We currently have a waiting list in grades K-5 and have very few spots left in 6-8. All necessary paperwork must be in by March 30th in order to secure spots – this includes siblings. If you are enrolling a new child, please make sure that all necessary paperwork is in time so that you do not lose your spot.

Requests for Next Year – Many parents have inquired about requesting specific teachers for next year. The process is as follows: Parents can write a letter to me detailing the specific traits and characteristics of their child. Also, in that letter they can detail the specific character and teaching traits of the teacher that would be ideal for their child. Please do not name a teacher. When it comes time to make class rosters I will take into account each child and their specific needs, placing them with the best teacher and classmates for him or her. Students and parents will find out their teacher at Back To School Night during the first week of August.

Dismissal – We are again going to try to expedite the dismissal process and maximize student learning by changing the dismissal procedures. We will begin dismissing students from their classrooms via the PA system beginning the week of March 26. Dismissal will begin promptly at 3:00pm. Students will listen for their number over the PA system and exit the building directly to their car. The adults in Dismissal Crew will be posted around the campus ensuring all students safely get into their car. This should speed up dismissal and allow teachers to have closing circles

and DEAR time. (silent reading) Please be patient as we try this new procedure out and remember to stay in your car so that we can get the carpool line moving as fast as possible.

Lunch – This is just a friendly reminder that Amana does not have a cafeteria and therefore can not offer the things a cafeteria might offer to help a child eat his or her lunch such as, forks, spoons, knives, napkins, condiments, etc... Please remember to pack your child everything they need to eat their lunch. Mr. Ricardo will no longer be “finding” utensils for children. We do have a microwave available for student use, but it is only one and the line to use it has become excessive. Some children are only getting a few minutes to eat their lunch because they are waiting in line for so long to warm up food. Please remind your child that not ALL food has to be warmed up. Also, if each child would only bring food to warm up on one or two days instead of every day it would help tremendously. Thank you for your help in this effort.

Put these dates on your calendars:

Saturday, March 17	Community and Board Meeting Pot-luck Lunch	10am-1pm
March 30	All Registration Forms Due	
April 2 – April 6	Spring Break	
April 16-20	CRCT tests (1 st -7 th grades)	