

Hoose Hawks – Family Newsletter



December 9, 2016

Good evening Hoose Hawk Families. We hope that you and your family have a great weekend!

Calendar Additions – Please add the events/dates below:

- Dec 12 – Little Free Pantry Food Drive begins
- Dec 12 – PTO Meeting @ 6:00 pm – Hoose IMC
- Dec 14 – Late Start Day
- Dec 22 – Last day of school before Winter Break
- Dec 22 – Last day for Little Free Pantry Food Drive donations
- Dec 23 – Winter Break begins
- Jan 9 – Teachers Institute Day – No School
- Jan 10 – School Resumes; classes begin at 7:45; doors open at 7:25 am

Late Start Cancellations – Mark your calendars; *Unit 5 will have regular school days on March 22nd and April 12th*. Originally, the school calendar had these dates listed as late start days. The District amended the school calendar and those days will have a regular start time of 7:45.

Little Free Pantry Food Drive – Colene Hoose will be starting a non-perishable food drive. One of our students in 5W approached us to begin this drive working with an effort that was also started at Kingsley Jr. High. The food drive will begin on Monday, December 12th and run through Thursday, December 22nd.

Little Free Pantry provides food for families with young children who are not easily able to get meals.

Some recommended non-perishable food items include: boxed cereal, canned soups/stew, canned tuna/chicken, peanut butter, canned fruits, canned food with pop top lids, low-sodium canned vegetables, spices, olive or canola oil, granola bars, and noodles.

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This is a great cause being supported by our young students wishing to give to and help others in our community. If you can contribute, please send food items in with your child. Boxes will be placed in the building for collection. Thanks Hoose!

Hoose Young Authors - Dear Parents, We are sharing information about Young Authors with all the great children and our school, Colene Hoose and we would love it if you would encourage your children to write books for the Young Author's program. We love to read the different stories each year. There will be announcements on the 6th, 12th and 19th of December to get your children excited about writing. Children can work on their Young Author's book while they are on winter break. Young Author books are due on February 6th. The story share will be in May. There is more information on Colene Hoose website on the student link.

5B hopes lots of students will write a Young Author's book.

Garage Sale in 5B - The 5B students will be having the second annual garage sale for students to shop and purchase gifts for the holiday season. This year the money will go to the H.E.A.L. Foundation, which is a local foundation to benefit children with autism. Everything will be under \$5.00. There will be stuffed animals, books, toys... Everything will be new or gently used. Students will shop during the day on December 20th and the 21st at the time their class is signed up for. 5B students will also be wrapping the gifts. If you would like to donate any items we would welcome them. For more information: <http://www.jonsheroes.org/>

Lost and Found – We will be placing the lost and found items on a table in the 4/5 hallway near the IMC. If your child is missing an item, encourage them to check the lost and found area.

Evening Access – A reminder that our school hours are from 7:25 am until 3:30 pm. On occasion, a student may forget something here at school. Our building is locked both during school hours as well as after school hours. Our custodial staff does a wonderful job getting our building ready for students the next morning. With this in mind, if your child does forget something at school, you can stop by before 3:30 pm to pick it up as the Main Office is open through this time. Classrooms are being cleaned and secured after this time, so access to the classrooms may not be available after 3:30.

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Free Flu Shots – Med Express Urgent Care is offering free flu shots through December 13th between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm. Med Express is located at 211 Greenbriar Dr on Veterans Parkway.

Food Service Opportunities - The Food Service department for Unit 5 is looking for dedicated, dependable, service oriented employees to serve in entry level food service positions in school kitchens throughout the district. All positions require working during the lunch hours. We are looking for detail-oriented candidates with a positive attitude who are able to work in a fast paced environment. To apply visit the Employment tab of the Unit 5 web site and complete an online application - choose JobID 4249: Food Service – Cook. <http://www.unit5.org/domain/50>

Parent/Teacher Conferences – A big THANK YOU to all of our families for collaborating with our staff during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Hoose is lucky to have so many involved families who care deeply about their children. And thank you to our PTO for helping our staff with dinner on PT Conference night!

Attendance – As of today, we have 521 students attending Hoose. Our attendance Rate for November was 95.32%.

Cold Weather, Prepare Your Student - As we get deeper into the school year, the weather will continue to get colder outside. Please be sure to have your child dress appropriately for the weather. Our students will be going outside for recess daily unless it rains, or the wind chill is 20 degrees or colder. Having a sweatshirt, coat, hat, and gloves available for your student as it gets colder will guarantee they will be prepared for the outdoor elements.

We will monitor the temperature using the Weather Channel app. For days that the wind chill is 20 degrees or colder, we will have indoor recess. On days when the temp and wind chill are 21 degrees or warmer, we will be going outside.

Pop tabs - We are still collecting pop tabs to help the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois. Thank you for your donations!

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Bussing – Please continue to check Skyward for changes in bus routes. These changes may occur as routes are refined throughout the year. We will continue to communicate with families of any changes, late buses, or updates as soon as we are aware of any shared with us.

Pick-up and Drop-off – Pick-up and drop-off of students can take place in two areas around Hoose. The Circle drive near the Main Office on the North end of the building and the large parking lot on the south end of the building are available for families.

- *Circle Drive* – For AM drop-off, please be sure to proceed slowly through the circle drive for the safety of all of our students and staff. Once you have entered the circle drive, please pull up to the curb (do not drop off in the drive lane) and have your child exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side.
- *Circle Drive* – For PM pick-up, the circle drive will be open for parents to pick up their student(s) at 2:15. We do have a few specialized transports that pick up and depart between 1:55-2:15. **Please wait until 2:15 to pull into the circle drive** so we can get our buses in and out of the drive as quickly as possible. Once you have entered the circle drive, please pull up to the curb (do not pick up in the drive lane) and have your child enter the vehicle on the sidewalk side.
- *South Parking Lot* – The south parking lot is available for pick-up and drop-off at all times before and after school. Our large transport buses do drop-off and pick-up in the driveway nearest the building on the south end of the building near the flagpole. Please park your vehicle in the middle of the parking lot near the basketball hoops.

Snacks – Parents, please remember to send a snack with your child each day. Also, keep the snacks smaller, meaning 1 or 2 things that are quick and manageable for kids to eat while learning. Healthy snacks are encouraged. Students will have opportunities to refuel during their learning day.

Other News:

Box Tops for Education – Hoose does collect Box Tops for Education. If you have Box Tops to send in, please send them in with your student.

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PTO Facebook - Colene Hoose PTO has a Facebook page! Please follow the link below and like our page. It is a great way to be better plugged in. The Facebook page has photos and updates on events, classroom needs as well as other opportunities to help out. The PTO will continue to evolve the site to maximize the usefulness to all the parents. Please feel free to add feedback on how we can better communicate with you by emailing us at colenehoosepto@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/colenehoosepto>

PTO Meeting – The next Hoose PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12th starting at 6:00 pm in the IMC.

Late Start Dates – Our next late start date is approaching. Please mark the following date on your calendars: Wednesday, December 14th. On late start days, school starts one hour later at **8:45 am**.

SICK DAY GUIDELINES

taken from the Unit 5 elementary handbook

As we enter the season of late fall and winter, please take a moment to review the Unit 5 Handbook for recommendations regarding sick day guidelines found on page 26 of the link below.

<http://www.unit5.org/cms/lib03/IL01905100/Centricity/Domain/49/FINALelementary.pdf>

Remember that the number one way to help stop the spread or contraction of any viral/bacterial illness is **PROPER HANDWASHING!!** Remind your child to wash hands frequently and correctly throughout the season. <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>

For everyone's good health, children with fever &/or potential contagious illnesses should not be in school.

Children with the following conditions should not be in school:

- A **fever** within the last 24 hours
- **Vomiting or diarrhea**
- A frequent and disruptive cough or other signs of an acute **respiratory infection**

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- Any **contagious illness** such as “strep throat” or “pink eye” that requires antibiotic therapy. Once the student has been **fever free and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours**, he/she may return to school.
- Any **undiagnosed skin rash**. A student with a rash may attend school upon presenting a **physician’s note** stating the rash is not contagious.
- Pronounced **lethargy** or **fatigue** that interferes with participation in learning activities.
- Any other health condition that in the professional, clinical judgment of the Certified School Nurse places that student or others in the school community at a health or safety risk. In the absence of the Certified School Nurse, this determination may be made by the building principal or his/her designee.

If your child is staying home ill, please call the Hoose Main Office at (309) 557-4414

Head Lice- If you notice your child scratching their head more than usual, check for nits (small grayish-white, oval shaped eggs **glued** at an angle to the hair shaft close to the scalp), or small bite marks behind the ears and at the back of the neck. Contact your physician for treatment options/advice before applying or using lice treatment pesticides.

A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice. See page 27 of Unit 5 handbook.