

February, 2012

Dear Dirksen families,

I want to thank each family that attended Parent Teacher Conferences. Whether you came in person or participated in a phone conference due to the nasty weather, we appreciate your participation in this important process. We are fortunate to have a strong home-school connection with the vast majority of our families. When you take time from your busy schedule to attend conferences or programs at school, this tells your child, **school is important**. Conferences provide time to take a look at your child's academic goals and their progress towards them. We appreciate your involvement!

Please remember that children will go outside if the temperature is at least zero with the wind-chill. Children must have boots and snow pants to play in the snowy field. Hats, coats and mittens are a requirement. If you are experiencing difficulty providing these items for your child, please contact Mrs. Cowen, Dirksen's School Social Worker.

Our classroom Valentine Day celebrations will be held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:45. February is a busy month at Dirksen. Kindergarten Registration takes place on February 23rd. If you have a child who will be in kindergarten next fall, please be sure to register them on the 23rd. Registration is held from 9-11:30 am, 1-2:30 pm and 6-8 pm. Please take a close look at the Dirksen Digest calendar for additional upcoming events.

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) test is just around the corner. All students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> will be taking ISAT. Our testing calendar is March 5<sup>th</sup> through March 16<sup>th</sup>. It is important that your child is in school each and every day to make the most of their learning. You can help by making sure your child comes to school having had a good night's rest and a good breakfast.

Finally, we have seen much improvement in our parking lot. A huge thank you to all the parents who have adjusted their arrival dismissal times in order to accommodate changes associated with a closed parking lot. We still ask that if you are in the lot and barricades are up, **please do not move your car until a staff member removes the barricades.** Even if busses do leave the lot, we may be crossing children at the crosswalk. Staff members will be making the decision about when the lot is safe for cars to move. This decision is based on student safety first and foremost. Thanks to all of you who have helped make our parking lot a safer place for students and staff alike!

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Piech, Ed.D.