

September 6th, 2017

### Important Dates

Sept 12 - PTO meeting 5-7p.m.  
Sept 19 - curriculum night  
Oct 6 - Taste of Windom

Oct 11 - picture day  
Oct 14 - Noche de Fiesta  
Oct 18/19 - parent-teacher conferences  
Oct 19/20 - no school

### From the Principal

We are back! It was so good to see the smiling and eager faces of all of our students and to also see so many of you during our first week of school.

I am happy to share some of our initiatives for this year. First of all, as a district, we are using a new Language Arts curriculum from Benchmark. Last year our 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes participated in the pilot and our teachers gave it a very favorable review. We continue, however, to focus on the workshop model and see the curriculum as a tool to help us meet the needs of all of our students. More importantly, our objective comes from an article by Richard Allington and Rachel Gabriel, Every Child, Every Day. They identify 6 activities we can do as educators to help our students be successful readers. Every Child, Every Day:

- Reads something she/he chooses
- Reads accurately
- Reads something he/she understands
- Writes about something personally meaningful
- Talks with peers about reading and writing.
- Listens to a fluent adult read aloud
- Talks with other peers about Science, Math, and Social Studies.
- Is involved in activities that require higher order thinking skills.

We

Another major initiative is continuing our focus on vocabulary building in both languages. All of our teachers have been trained in GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) strategies and began piloting these strategies 2 years ago. We have seen the value of these strategies and are encouraging all teachers to continue to implement and perfect these strategies.

Lastly, MPS is again sponsoring a residency program for staff that are interested in becoming teachers. At Windom, we have always believed that one of the best sources for finding teachers comes from our AEs and TAs, so when MPS began to talk about creating a program to help its staff become teachers we quickly volunteered to be a site to host the residents (student teachers). We again are proud to report that we have 1 resident for this school year. María Martínez will work and learn alongside the Señora Stanslanski. They will follow a co-teaching model and not the traditional student teaching model where the student teacher takes total control of instruction while the supervising teacher sits back and observes. With this model, both will be involved in the planning and delivery of instruction for the whole school year.

We also hope to see you at some of the school events planned for the upcoming months.

- September 12 - PTO meeting at 5:30pm
- September 19 - Curriculum night from 5 to 7pm - Your child's teacher will share important information about what to expect academically during the year.
- October 6 - Taste of Windom - Join other Windom families for a potluck in the school gym at 5pm
- October 14- Noche de Fiesta - An exciting fundraiser just for parents! 7-11pm Thank you for all you do each day to help your child be successful! I look forward to working with you again this year to continue making Windom a positive learning environment for all.

Warm Windom regards,  
Jim Clark

### Buy Your Tickets Now for Noche de Fiesta!

Saturday, October 14th - 7 to 11pm at Shir Tikvah Synagogue, 1360 West Minnehaha Parkway  
WHAT IS NOCHE DE FIESTA?

Noche de Fiesta is Windom's most exciting, adult-only fundraiser of the year! Funds raised go directly to supporting our school's international teaching assistant (TA) program. Our international TA program sponsors assistant educators visiting from Spanish-speaking countries, including Spain, Colombia, Mexico and more. Due to our large classroom sizes, their presence and participation at Windom is crucial to our students'

success. The TA's attend the event so it's a great chance for you to meet them!

Join us for a fun night out with parents, teachers, staff and other Windom supporters to socialize, eat, drink, dance, sign up for Great Gatherings, and win some fabulous prizes!

We will have Venezuelan food from the famous Noris Cuisine and drinks served by Pat's Tap!

If you have any questions about Noche de Fiesta, Great Gatherings or how to get involved email the event co-chairs: Anna Kruse ([annakruse1219@gmail.com](mailto:annakruse1219@gmail.com)) or Heather Falsani ([heather.falsani@gmail.com](mailto:heather.falsani@gmail.com)).

#### GREAT GATHERINGS

Great Gatherings are events that members of the Windom community host in order to deepen our relationships and raise money for our school. The place to sign up for Great Gatherings is at Noche de Fiesta. Great Gatherings can be anything from hosting a 'Wine Tasting' at your house to hosting a 'Learn to Ice Skate Event' at a local ice rink to a '4th grade dance party'. We charge a price for these events and the money goes to the school. They are a great way to get to know people in the Windom community. If you are interested in hosting a Great Gathering or have questions email Amy Gustafson ([amyg@utexas.edu](mailto:amyg@utexas.edu)) or Erin Tripolino ([erin.tripolino@gmail.com](mailto:erin.tripolino@gmail.com)).

#### TICKET INFORMATION

-Buy your tickets by September 18 and be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate from St. Genevieve!

-Buy two tickets to the Fiesta and get one free at [www.windomfiesta.com/eventbrite.com](http://www.windomfiesta.com/eventbrite.com) or in the office from Jenedee.

Kinder and Hi-5 parents get a ticket discount!

-Included in the ticket price is admission to the event, music, food from food truck, and a guacamole bar!

-We have a limited amount of free tickets available, if you are interested please email Keidy Lora-Palusky at [keidyloa@yahoo.com](mailto:keidyloa@yahoo.com) (information is confidential).

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### Welcome from the PTO!

The PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization) would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families, new teachers, staff, and our new TAs!

The Windom Parent-Teacher Organization is a group for all parents and staff at Windom. Windom PTO's purpose is to support the education of children at Windom School in the following ways: fostering relationships among the students, parents and teachers at Windom, and enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Windom that are not otherwise provided for in the school's budget.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12th in the library. We will have food for everybody from 5-6pm and from 6-7pm we will talk about the budget and future events. We provide childcare. Enter through door #6.

#### VERY IMPORTANT:

The PTO sends this bulletin every two weeks to all families. We send it via email and in paper format, as well as posting on the Windom Facebook page. If you do not yet receive the PTO Bulletin in your email, please send an email to [windomnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:windomnewsletter@gmail.com) to be included.

If you no longer wish to receive the PTO Bulletin via email, you can opt-out at any time. If you would like to get the PTO Bulletin in **paper format**, we will be sending you a letter so you can choose this option.

New PTO Board contact info for the 2017-2018 school year:

Amy Gustafson - Co-Chair - [amyg@utexas.edu](mailto:amyg@utexas.edu)

Jen Holmstadt - Co-Chair - [jenholmstadt@gmail.com](mailto:jenholmstadt@gmail.com)

Becki Kobiellush - Secretary - [bkobiellush@yahoo.com](mailto:bkobiellush@yahoo.com)

Thaddeus Lesiak - Treasurer - [tvlesiak@yahoo.com](mailto:tvlesiak@yahoo.com)

Ben Rasmussen - Member at Large - [bkrasmussen@gmail.com](mailto:bkrasmussen@gmail.com)

Morgan Jensen - Member at Large - [morgan.a.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.a.jensen@gmail.com)

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### Taste of Windom

Save the Date! The annual El Sabor de Windom/Taste of Windom will be Friday, October 6 from 5-7pm. All Windom families are invited to this free event to celebrate the spirit of Windom with a potluck style dinner in the school's gym to kick off the new year.

If you have any questions or would like to help with planning the event, please contact Katie Anthony at [kanthony27@yahoo.com](mailto:kanthony27@yahoo.com) or 617-519-1675.

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### Windom Thrivent Action Team Committee

Are you a Thrivent Financial member? You are if you have a life insurance policy, mutual funds etc. from Thrivent. If so, you are eligible to lead two Action Team a year at no cost to you. Each team can receive \$250 dollars. If you are willing to use one or more of your teams for Windom causes, please send me your name. I would like to get an Action Team sponsor for each Windom event (Festival, Carnival, Read-a-thon etc.) to maximize our fundraising dollars. But we can only have one sponsor per event so some coordination is needed. I can help you with the application process and your time would be about a half hour to apply/report along with shopping time to spend the \$250.

Goal is to have an additional \$1000 raised this year. Note this program is separate for any employee matching program that you may be eligible for from work.

Let me know if you have any questions. Send your name to Nicole Falk [erdm0030@yahoo.com](mailto:erdm0030@yahoo.com).

### Reminders...

The next Windom Bulletin comes out September 20th. Submissions are due Friday September 15th. Email [windomnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:windomnewsletter@gmail.com). Thank you!



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