

WALT DISNEY MAGNET SCHOOL
4140 North Marine Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60613
Phone: (773) 534-5840 Fax: (773) 534-5714



Kathleen Hagstrom, Ed. D., Principal
Abbie Meyers – Assistant Principal
Sandra Caudill –Asst. Principal/ Early Childhood Director/
Paul Riskus – Assistant Principal/Upper Level Director
Anna Trilla – Intermediate Level Director
Joe Pellegrino – Chief Engineer

To: Disney Parents
From: Kathleen Hagstrom, Principal
Re: Assorted Matters

September 3, 2019

Men and Women of Disney Breakfast – Thursday, September 12: 7:00 a.m.
“Back to School Night Open House” – Wednesday, October 2: 6-7:30 p.m.

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a special greeting to our new families. The beginning of a new school year is exciting for all. Students will quickly learn the routines and settle in to begin a challenging, exciting and fun-filled school year. I will be communicating, via this newsletter, every other Wednesday and will also post the newsletter to our website, Disney.cps.edu.

We welcome Mrs. Anna Trilla to the administrative staff as 2nd floor director. Mrs. Trilla has been an 8th grade teacher at Disney for many years and is very excited for her new role and looks forward to getting to know our 2-4th grade families. Mr. Tom Szymanski has taken on a new role and will be working closely with staff as our new Curriculum & MTSS Coordinator. Over the summer our engineering and custodial staff worked extremely hard and the school is shining! Everyone will be delighted to see that our south driveway and northwest parking lot have been entirely resurfaced and restriped. Thanks to all for the great work in preparing for the opening of school.

The REACH Performance assessment window is September 16-November 1; NWEA Map for grades K and 2 is from September 2 – October 4. These reading and math assessments are vital measures of your child’s progress.

We are excited to have Right At School as our recess team again; they will be actively involved in supervising and engaging your children during daily lunch and recess.

-Administrative Team - Our team includes a floor director and clerk on each level; below are their names and phone numbers.

1st floor: Pre-k – 1st grade 773/534-5845 Mrs. Sandra Caudill, AP/ Floor Director, Early Childhood Office, Mr. Joe Smith
2nd floor : 2nd - 4th grades 773/534-5846 Mrs. Anna Trilla, Floor Director, Intermediate Level Office, Ms. Tiiffany Olvera
3rd floor : 5th – 8th grades 773/534-5844 Dr. Paul Riskus, Asst. Principal and Upper Level Director, Office, Ms. Jayne Jarvis

-Parent Packets – This year CPS has compiled a Parent Checklist booklet, which contains important forms for you to complete and return to the school. All parents must complete:

- 1) Family Income Information Form (located on the back of the booklet) --Deadline September 30
- 2) Request for Emergency and Health Information
- 3) Media Consent Form and Release
- 4) Student Medical Information 2019-20

Please remove those completed forms from the back of the book and return them to the teacher. A large envelope will also be sent home which contains useful information for you, including a calendar, safety brochure, and the CPS Code of Student Conduct booklet; parents are asked to review it with their children and return the signed acknowledgement of receipt. At Disney we want to encourage a spirit of cooperation and support among all the students; your support in this endeavor is much appreciated.

-Back to School Night Open House -Please plan to attend our annual “Back to School” Open House, **Wednesday, October 2**, at 6:00 p.m. You will be able to meet your child’s teachers and hear about plans for your child’s school year. Parents in grades 3, 6, and 8 will also have presentations about the promotion policy which is important for you to understand in these benchmark grades.

-Local School Council – The first meeting of the LSC is scheduled for **Monday, September 9**, at 5:30 p.m. All parents are welcome. Meetings will generally be the 1st Monday of the month. There is a vacancy for Parent Representative on the LSC; if you are interested in applying applications are available in the main office and are due Tuesday, October 1.

-Parent Teacher Association – The Walt Disney School PTA welcomes all new families and invites their participation in all activities; you can reach the PTA at info@disneyschoolpta.org. There will be a “Meet and Greet” at 7:00 am outside the CAC tomorrow morning, **Wednesday, September 4**. Stop by for coffee and donuts! The first PTA meeting is **Tuesday, September 10**, at 7:45 a.m.

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All families are invited to the “*Men and Women of Disney Breakfast*,” **Thursday, September 12**, from 7:00- 7:30 a.m. This PTA/LSC event is an informal continental breakfast and a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and the organizational leadership. PTA is hosting “*Movie in the Park, Alladin live action*,” in back of school at dusk on **Friday, September 13**; bring a blanket and join us on the field! All children must be accompanied and supervised by the parent/guardian during Movie Night.

-Pod 320 CAC Unit – Our 5th grade students will have their 2-week CAC unit from September 16-27. The culminating activity is **Friday, September 27**; all parents are invited to attend. Please consult with your child’s teacher on volunteer needs; if you are not already a CPS approved volunteer now is the time to apply.

- Volunteering at School – If you want to chaperone a field trip this year, or if you are a new parent to Disney, we encourage you to apply now for approval as a CPS volunteer. The CPS volunteer site can be accessed at cpsvolunteers.org Most parents will want to apply for Type 2 volunteer status, which covers a daily field trip or occasional help to a teacher. As part of the updated CPS policy on Maintaining the Safety of Students, all volunteers must be approved through CPS; while this may seem burdensome, we want and need your continued volunteer help and remind everyone that the safety of students is always a top priority.

-Emergency Drills- All schools in Illinois are mandated to practice safety drills each year. Our Code Red (Lockdown) drill is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 10**. Our Code Yellow (Shelter-in-Place) drill is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 18**. Fire drills will occur throughout the school year. Please talk with your child(ren) about the importance of preparedness in emergency situations.

-School Hours – Our **school day begins promptly at 7:30; the school day ends at 2:30 p.m.** All students, except pre-school, enter the building in the morning through the CAC in back of the school. Students enter through the SW door of the CAC which closes at 8:00 a.m. Pre-School students are to enter through the back Door #6; they will be directed to the first-floor dining room for a family style breakfast. All students who arrive after 7:45 a.m. are tardy; after 8:00 when CAC doors are close, students enter school through the back, Door 6, and get a tardy pass in the 1st floor lunchroom. Parents please make every effort to get your child to school on time, and help set the tone for a successful school day. At the beginning of the school day, children are offered Breakfast, provided at no cost.

- Entry/Departure – Drop off and Pick up procedures are structured to provide for safety and efficiency. **There is no double parking at any time and no pedestrian walking in the bus lanes during arrival and dismissal.** Double parked cars are a safety hazard and can be towed. No children should be dropped off at the front of the building. Morning drop off is in the South Fire Lane; cars must enter from Marine Drive and pull up to the drop off area at the top of the hill and exit onto Clarendon Road, right turn only please. Students enter school through the SW door of the CAC in the back of the school, near the green playground. This door will open at 7:15 a.m. In the afternoon, students in pre-school through 4th grade must be signed out by 2:30 p.m. Sign out for pre-school and kindergarten is in the 1st floor gym. Sign out for 1st-4th grade is in the CAC building. Students in 5th-8th grade walk through the field and meet parents at the northwest end of the property on Clarendon Road, not in the South Fire Lane. No pick up or parking is permitted on Marine Drive. As well, no one is allowed on the playground after school until all buses have left the property.

-School Bus Transportation – School bus service to regular school site pick up and drop off began today. Students assigned to a school bus are expected to use the bus service on a regular basis. If you need to pick your child up from school on a particular day (for an appointment, etc). you MUST send a written note with the child’s full name, and your name and daytime phone number. Please identify your child’s teacher and the bus route number and include details on the dismissal arrangements. Notes are to be directed to the main office and must be received before noon. We will not accept phone calls or walk-ins to take a child off the bus. Bus service to Chicago Park District programs will not begin until at least the 3rd week of school. Notes with that information will be sent home late in the 2nd week of school. No information is available at this time on park district assignments, as CPS Student Transportation does not review this until after regular bus service settles in.

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-Illinois Department of Public Health Alert – the IDPH is investigating recent hospitalizations of young people who have experiences severe breathing problems after vaping. IDPH encourages all parents to talk with their teens about vaping and the possible consequences and dangers of vaping. People who experience any chest pain or difficulty breathing after vaping in the weeks or months prior to symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.

Did You Know? – Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great; if you work at night maybe make time for family breakfast or a weekend picnic. Bon Appetit!

Here's to a great school year!