

# University Elementary January Newsletter



## WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of the University Faculty and Staff, I hope you and your family had a restful and memorable Winter Break. The weather was not the typical Indiana Winter Break weather - giving us some days in the 60s, but again, it's Indiana, so you never know what you are going to get!

School will resume on Monday, January 6th. All of our teachers have either come in over the break or worked from home at some point to prepare for a great start to the second half to this school year. Our teachers and staff will treat the next few days and weeks just like they did in August... a fresh start! We will review classroom, restroom, hallway, cafeteria, etc. procedures. Practice, practice, practice! We had a great first semester, and I believe that is thanks in large part to our teachers and students having a collective commitment to what and how we do things here at University School.



At home, I ask that you talk with your child about school each day. Talk about what they are learning, but also talk about HOW they are learning. Talk about who they are learning alongside and those interactions. The "soft skills" that your child is developing during their elementary years are going to grow with them throughout their life. Learning how to be patient, how to problem solve, how to cooperate, and how to reflect on their learning are just a few of areas we are working on each day to help your child grow. Talk about math, reading, and writing... but talk about HOW they are doing these things.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Jan. 6: School Resumes
- Jan. 10: Report Cards Go Home
- Jan. 11: UES Robotics @ Needmore Elem.
- Jan. 14: PTO Mtg. @ 6:00
- Jan. 14: Elem. Strings Concert @ BHSS @ 7:30
- Jan. 15: UES Geography Bee @ 2:30
- Jan. 16: Makers Challenge Showcase @ CoLab @ 6:00
- Jan. 18: UES Robotic @ Linton Elem.
- Jan. 20: MLK Jr. Day - No School
- Feb. 1: UES Robotics @ Binford Elem.
- Feb. 5: UES Spelling Bee @ 9:15

Like so many of you, I have a daughter here at University School. I try to take my "educator" hat off in the car to put my "dad" hat on each afternoon. When we talk, she tells me about what she is learning (which really impresses me), but then we get into the social/emotional conversations as well. That is where I like to spend most of my time with my daughter. Speaking as a parent, in 2020, I invite all of you to do the same.

Speaking as your child's principal, if you have any questions or concerns about how your child is doing academically, socially, or emotionally, I invite you to contact your child's teacher or my office. I truly believe we are in store for a wonderful second semester!

~ Glen Hopkins  
Principal



## Report Cards

Report Cards will come home with your child on Friday, January 10th. Please sign the envelope and return it to your child's teacher.



## January Lifeline and Learner Profile

For the month of January, we will focus on the Lifeline of "Problem Solving" and the Learner Profile of "Open Minded."

- **Problem Solving:** We use our knowledge, skills, and creative when we face problems.
- **Open Minded:** We appreciate the cultures and traditions of others. We are willing to grow by thinking about other points of view.

Each month, teachers will nominate students from their classrooms that model these traits. Students will have their pictures taken and placed on the large bulletin board outside the gym where we hope to have a collage of our students by the end of the year.

Ultimately, all of our Lifelines fall under the umbrella of the Lifelong Guidelines, "*Do the Right Thing*" and "*Treat People Right.*"

## MCCSC Recess Weather Policy

Please be mindful of "Indiana" weather. Sending your child with layers, coats, hats, gloves, etc. are wise as we will go outside for recess per MCCSC policy. If the temperature is between 18-20 degrees or warmer, with windchill, we will go outside, while taking into account the sunshine.

In addition to this, please remind your children to pick their coats, hats, gloves, etc. up when they are coming in. In a school of 600 kids, these materials can accumulate quickly. Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria.

## Equity Spotlight Award

Congratulations to Mr. Simonton, our School Social Worker, for being recognized during the December MCCSC Board Meeting as the Equity Spotlight Award Winner. Mr. Simonton does a wonderful job supporting our students each day while fostering an inclusive environment.

This award recognizes students, faculty, staff members, community partners, and student organizations for their commitment to an equitable and inclusive learning environment that is reflective of our corporation mission, vision, and core values. Anyone within our MCCSC community may [submit a nomination](#) at any time.



## Nominate an Educator Today!

Looking for an opportunity give that special educator the recognition that they deserve? Look no further than the Bloomington Chamber's Educator of the Year Award!

Each year The Chamber's Success School hosts a celebration of educators. The Educator of the Year Awards recognizes local teachers, administrators and/or staff, as well as educational programs, at a special dinner and awards presentation. Nominations are accepted from community and Chamber members, and the honorees are recognized with a special video interview and award presentation.

**Nominations accepted until Monday, January 13, 2020.** [Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

