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Janice L. Hodge, CSA/Principal  
Phone (973)293-7131 x203  
Fax (973) 293-3391  
[jhodge@montagueschool.org](mailto:jhodge@montagueschool.org)



**Home of the  
Black Bears**

## From the Principal

Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.

*Roger Lewin*

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From the Principal  
803-247-2184 Cynthia

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer. The faculty and staff are ready for another outstanding school year. Join us in making this school year the best yet at MES!

During the first week of school, your children will bring home information sheets not only from their teachers but also from my office. Please be sure to read all of the following information.

- ✓ **Parent/Student Handbook and School Calendar.** This was sent home with the **OLDEST/ONLY** child in each family. Read and review this with your children. Please sign and return the **Receipt Page** from the front of the handbook to your child's homeroom teacher.
- ✓ **Acceptable Use Policy (green form) and Right to Publish (orange form).** These were sent home with **EACH** child and are self-explanatory. Please return the forms to each child's homeroom teacher.
- ✓ **Student Information Form(white form).** This was sent home with each child. Please review this information carefully. If changes or corrections are necessary, please mark them **CLEARLY** on the form and return to your child's homeroom teacher.
- ✓ **One-Call Now Family Information Form (yellow form).** This was sent home with the **OLDEST/ONLY** child in each family. Please list parent/guardian phone numbers **ONLY**. Do not list relatives or work phone numbers. The phone numbers on this form will be automatically dialed when the One-Call Now system is activated to relay important school closing or other information. Please return the completed form to your child's homeroom teacher.

### September Dates to Remember

13-School Breakfast/  
Lunch begins  
11-**We Remember**  
15-PTA Meeting-7pm  
22-Board of Ed.-7pm  
23-Back to School  
Night

## From the Principal (continued from front)

Here are some other important tips for a terrific school year:

- ✓ Ensure that your children are in school ***on time, every day***. This is your responsibility as parents. It may mean setting clothing out and /or making lunch the night before, setting alarm clocks earlier; or adjusting your time to get to the bus stop or to drive to school. Children are marked 'late' if they are not in their classrooms by 8:35am. The teachers carefully plan lessons to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, then move on to new skills and ideas. When your children are not in school, they are not learning and they may fall behind. No amount of make-up work can replace being in the classroom with their teachers and peers. So talk to your children about how very important it is that they are in school on time, every day and show them the same through your actions.
- ✓ Establish open lines of communication with your children's teachers and check their homepages frequently to stay informed.
- ✓ Do not allow your children to bring cell phones to school. There is no reason why any elementary school age child should bring one of these devices to school. MES supplies all of the electronic media that your child will need during the school day.

## Did You Know?

The No Child Left Behind Law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask about the qualifications of their child's teachers. We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet the legal definition of "highly qualified" by having a four year college degree; a standard teaching certificate and proof of their knowledge in the subject they teach.

All of the teachers at Montague Elementary School meet this legal definition and are highly qualified, many beyond the state's requirements with Master's Degrees, specialized training and National Board Certifications. Our highly qualified teachers know what to teach, how to teach and demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter being taught. Every teacher continues his or her own learning through professional development activities and is evaluated each year to ensure that their skills remain at the highest possible level.

The teachers speak about their qualifications during Back to School Night on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."  
- Chinese Proverb

