

December 1, 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Last month, my newsletter focused on the “curriculum and instruction” aspect of the 2010-11 Strategic Plan. This month, my focus is “building and grounds”. We take great pride in our facility and work very hard to keep it safe, clean, and presentable.

The Building and Grounds goal included on the Strategic Plan reinforces the need for me to work closely with the Director of Building/Grounds to assure that District facilities and equipment are maintained with utmost safety and potential for long range efficacy. One of the advantages associated with working in a small school district is the fact that I have regular contact with members of the faculty and staff on a daily basis. Mr. Carl Diesen serves as our Director of Building/Grounds. He has been a dedicated employee of the District for many years, and he is a valued member of our team. He is very knowledgeable about the building and all the different systems that are used in its daily operation.

A representative from the Regional Office of Education recently visited the school to conduct a mini-compliance visit and the annual Health Life Safety Inspection. The building was found to be in good working condition. Next year, the Regional Office of Education is scheduled to conduct an extensive Illinois State Board of Education Compliance Visit at Germantown. During this visit, the inspector will look at numerous areas of school operation to determine whether or not we are operating within the guidelines of Illinois School Code and the Illinois Administrative Code. As a result of this inspection, the school will fall into one of four categories, full recognition, recognized pending further review, probation, or non-recognition. We are currently operating under full recognition based on our most recent inspection in March of 2009, and we will continue working hard to maintain that status.

As you may or may not know, in October of 2006, the District purchased the Micheel property on the corner lot to the west of the building. The lot was purchased to allow for future growth should the need arise. We are in the process of looking at all our options where the Micheel property is concerned so that if needed, we can use the land. At this time, we are using every classroom in the building. Next year, it is likely we will need to relocate a few classrooms to maximize the space available to us. Currently, our class enrollments in grades K-3 are rather large and range from 27-34. While two of the classes are currently split, two are not. If we get any large classes in the near future, the need to consider adding on to the building will increase. We will be watching the situation closely and keep families and community members informed of the situation as our needs unfold.

Despite the challenges we face, the holiday season reminds us to be thankful for the little things that make every day special. One of my favorite parts of the holiday season is watching the kids perform at the Christmas concerts. I hope to see many of you in attendance as we celebrate the season on December 7 and 14.

On behalf of everyone at Germantown Elementary School, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robin Becker, Superintendent  
Germantown Elementary School