

# MARS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2018

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

### Hats for Heroes

October is breast cancer awareness month. Most of us have been touched by breast cancer in one way or another, and we would like to do our part to help find a cure! Please encourage your child to participate in our HATS FOR HEROES fundraiser! On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we are asking your child to show his/her support by donating to this worthy cause. Any amount will be greatly appreciated! *Please make all checks payable to the **SUSAN G. KOMEN FOUNDATION.***

On Friday, October 19, 2018, all students are asked to wear PINK and/or a HAT to school to show their support. All monetary donations collected will support the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. Your donations could help save a life! Thank you in advance for your consideration and support with this important fundraiser!



### Fall Parties

The PTO sponsored fall parties will be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Students may wear or bring their costumes to school on party day. ***Costume Limitations:*** The Mars Area School District prohibits any form of weapons or any item that resembles a weapon or items that could result in an injury. Please do not have students wear masks that could impair their vision or bring in make-up or hair coloring of any type.

Fall Party Times:

Grades 2-4 – 2:00-3:00 PM



### Birthday Celebrations at School

Just a reminder that there are no birthday treats of any kind permitted in the Mars Area Elementary School. If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, you may volunteer to read to the class or your child can opt for 10 minutes of extra recess. Please contact your teacher to let them know how you would like to celebrate. Also, if you would like to distribute birthday invitations to students in your child's class, an invitation needs to be provided for **ALL** students in the class.

# MARS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Cafeteria Information

Lunches are available for students who choose to purchase them at school. Students buying lunches may pay for them by the day, week, month, or for the entire school year. The cafeteria accepts cash or checks made out to the Mars Area Cafeteria Fund. You may create an account for your child online at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).

Online payment plans are available at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). You will need your child's six-digit District ID number that can be provided by your classroom teacher.

- Check balances and make payments for your child's account from your computer, phone, or fax.
- Sign up for low balance email notifications.
- Prepay for your child's school breakfast, lunch, and individual food items using your credit card- THERE IS A FEE FOR THIS SERVICE. There is no fee if you prepay directly to the school cafeteria.
- Access your child's spending history.

**NO PEANUT BUTTER** will be served in the Mars Area Elementary School!!

## Cafeteria Prices

Breakfast with Milk: \$1.00

Lunch with Milk: \$2.80

Milk Only: \$0.65

## Important Bus Information

Students are not permitted to ride home on buses that they are not assigned to ride. Emergency exceptions will be permitted and will be determined by Mr. Lape. If a permission is granted, that student will receive a bus slip to ride the bus. All bus drivers are aware and will enforce this requirement.



## Nightly Backpack Checks

Please remember to check your child's backpack on a daily basis and their yellow folder at the end of each week. There is information pertinent to your child's education that their teacher is sending home to keep you informed of their progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.



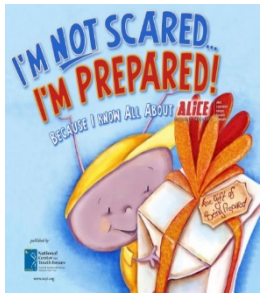
# MARS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## March for Mars Update



The PTO March for Mars will take place at the Elementary School on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students who earned prizes through the fundraising portion of the March for Mars will receive these items from their teachers in the near future. The students who earned a March for Mars t-shirt will receive the shirts prior to the event. We encouraged students to wear these shirts for their March time and for the rest of that day. The PTO will offer a water station to stay hydrated and music for students to enjoy throughout the day. Thank you for your support and participation!

## I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared



During the first week of October, local law enforcement officers will visit all grade 2 classrooms and read, I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared to aid in the students' understanding of why we conduct monthly lockdown drills. The book outlines what to do in an emergency situation, such as an intruder in the building. You can read more about ALICE and the book that will be read by following the links below:

<https://www.alicetraining.com/our-program/alice-training/k12-education/age-appropriate/>  
<http://www.alicetraining.com/>



## Student Vacations/Educational Trips

Students missing school due to a vacation must obtain a vacation/educational trip form from the school office. Students may not miss more than 10 consecutive school days. Students are not to be excused for more than 2 vacations/educational trips within a single school year. Vacation forms must be submitted to the Elementary School office at least 2 weeks prior to departure. If the proper application is not completed, the absence will be considered an unexcused absence. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lape.

# MARS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Classroom Disruptions

Please help minimize classroom disruptions! The office will not phone classrooms to report forgotten items. During a break throughout the day teachers will inquire in the office to see if any items are present in the office. Students will then have an opportunity to stop in the office during transition to claim their item(s). Please note that lunches must be delivered to the Elementary School office by 10:45 a.m. Lunches will be delivered to the cafeteria in time for your child's lunch period. Students will have an opportunity to buy a lunch and pay for the lunch the following day. Students will **NOT** go without a lunch. Thank you for your help with this matter!



## Book Fair

The Elementary School will be holding a PTO sponsored Scholastic Book Fair from October 22-26. Information will be sent home regarding this event with your child. Just a reminder, if you would like to attend the book fair and help your child shop, you should have completed the MASD Assistive Volunteer process by October 12.



## Photographing Students

Mars Area School District supports and encourages the participation of volunteers in our schools. However, any parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or other volunteers who takes pictures of students in the classroom or at school-related activities both during and after school are discouraged from posting those photos on social media without the express permission of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student being photographed.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are also reminded that photographs of Mars Area students may be taken by approved personnel periodically throughout the school year for use in District publications such as the District's annual Activities & Information Calendar; electronic newsletters; and in publications made available via the District's website, [www.marsk12.org](http://www.marsk12.org). Photos may also be used on the District's website itself, posted via the District's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), and may be submitted for use by newspapers and other local media outlets. Students may or may not be identified by name.

In addition, the District provides opportunities for reporters or photographers to interview and/or photograph students. A staff member is always present. If you prefer that your child not be interviewed or photographed for publicity purposes, please notify your student's building principal in writing.

# MARS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## School Bus Conduct

All Mars Area School District parent(s)/guardian(s) are reminded that school buses are to be considered an extension of the classroom; therefore, student misconduct will not be tolerated at any time. In the event that students are exhibiting inappropriate behavior that may affect their own safety and the safety of others, the District has instructed bus drivers to stop the bus in a safe location, address the students, and wait until the behavior has ceased before continuing on the buses' designated route. Parent(s)/guardian(s) should be aware that, should this procedure become necessary, travel times both to and from school may be affected.

All parent(s)/guardian(s) are also reminded that cameras are in use on all school buses providing transportation for the Mars Area School District. The use of video and/or audio recording equipment supports efforts to maintain discipline and to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, contractors and others being transported by the District and its contracted transportation provider. If inappropriate behavior is reported, the Building Principal, Transportation Office and the bus company will review the video to determine how best to address the behavior and whether disciplinary procedures are necessary.

Mars Area School District makes every effort to safely transport students to and from school. Specific questions regarding school bus transportation may be directed to Mrs. Jane Roth, Director of Transportation, at (724) 625-1507.

## Important Dates

October 3 – PTO Sponsored March for Mars

October 8 – No School for Students (Act 80 Day)

October 19 - Hats for Heroes

October 22-26 – Red Ribbon Week

October 22-26 – PTO Sponsored Book Fair

October 24 – Picture re-takes

October 31 - Fall Parties 2-3 PM

October 31 – End of first grading period

November 8 & 9 – No School for Students

(Parent Teacher Conferences)