

# To Excellence and Beyond

Northstar, August 17, 2017

*We had a wonderful first day and everyone is excited to be back in school. Please remember that we are holding our **Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 to 6:30 pm for grades 3 through 5 and from 6:45 to 7:15 pm for grades kindergarten to second grade.** This is a great opportunity to learn more about your child's school day, curriculum, parent communication, homework and grade level expectations.*

## Reminders

- Please remember to update your Parent Portal to ensure you have the ability to get school email communication.
- Our carpool pick up and drop off area is located in the middle lane on the parking lot. When dropping off your child in the morning, please drive through the carpool lane. The upper and lower lots are off limits in the morning for safety reasons from the hours of 8:30 am to 9:05 am.
- Please remember that if you are changing your child's dismissal plan, it must be changed no later than 3:30 pm.
- If a child arrives after 9:05 am, a parent or guardian must sign the child in the front hallway or office.
- **Please take the time to read through the Ross Parent Handbook. It is located on our Ross website and outlines many of our school expectations and policies.**

## Thank you

Thank you to our Boy Scouts for helping to beautify Ross by planting the mums around the school.

## Achievement Data

Parents and guardians recently received copies of their child's achievement scores on the state assessment (MAP). The Missouri MAP assessment is a high stakes test that measures a child's knowledge of common core and is used to evaluate all public schools in Missouri.

I am excited to share that Ross continues to make significant achievement gains in ELA (reading and writing), math and science. **I am also very proud to announce that Ross achieved the 2020 state target set in Missouri for ELA and Science.** In math, we are closer to the state target with a 17% gain over a four year period. Although we met the 2020 target in ELA and science, this does not mean we stop holding the bar high for our students. ***"It does mean that we going to Excellence and Beyond."*** A huge congratulations to our teachers and our students. I will be sharing more celebrations on our MAP and attendance data over the next few weeks. **Go Ross!**

## PTO

### Meeting

Please come to our Open PTO Meeting on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. It is open to ALL Ross Families.

### Room Parent

PTO is looking for a Room Parent for each classroom. The Room Parent will organize and coordinate all three class parties. Please fill out the PTO Room Parent Form that will be sent home with Backpack Mail.

## **Solar Eclipse**

**The Solar Eclipse will occur this Monday, August 21, 2017.**

**Why is this such a big deal?**

- The last time a total solar eclipse occurred in the greater St. Louis area was 1442.
- St. Louis will not experience another total solar eclipse until 2505.
- Parkway's boundaries are almost completely within the path of totality.
- Every student and employee will be given the opportunity to view the eclipse.

Parkway will be providing Eclipse Shades for every student and employee in Parkway. The Eclipse Shades meet the ISO and CE standards for safe viewing. Our eclipse shades were purchased from Rainbow Symphony, which is recognized as a reputable manufacturer of solar viewer products by the [American Astronomical Society](#). At Ross, our students and teachers will be viewing the eclipse on the back field and will have an opportunity to view during the Partial Eclipse and the Total Eclipse.

- **Start of Partial Eclipse: 11:49:29**
- **Start of Total Eclipse: 1:17:27**
- **Maximum Eclipse: 1:17:40**
- **End of Total Eclipse: 1:18:07**
- **End of Partial Eclipse: 2:43:51**

There is a safety presentation for parents and students on the Parkway website as well as an option for parents to opt their child out of the experience. Please review the district information about the Solar Eclipse. Parents and students can also learn more about the eclipse on the NASA website as well as The Great American Eclipse.

### **The Parking Lot**

The changes to the school parking lot not offer additional parking but new structures to keep our children safe. With the additional carpool lane and the longer bus lane, our children no longer have to walk through the lower parking lot during arrival and dismissal. Thank you for your patience while the lot is completed. ***We will be getting new landscaping, sod, bushes and annuals the first week of September!***