

October 2011

Ms. Elizabeth Wood
Principal

News from the Principal

Having a rich, sophisticated vocabulary is very important to understand the world in which we live and in order to better communicate with each other. **School is much easier and more enjoyable for students with extensive vocabularies.**

Does your first grader know the meaning of *investigate*, *predict*, *total*, and *horizontal*? Does your fourth grader know the meaning of *wildlife*, *conservation*, and *endangered*?

These are examples of the types of words students are exposed to in school. Parents are the best teachers of vocabulary. Use big words and explain them. Read good books and discuss the books, especially the interesting words. Most importantly, spend time talking with your children. Your children will appreciate you, be forever indebted to you, treasure you, and generally thank you!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Main Office	881-0580
Health Office	881-0581
Attendance	881-0584
Office Fax	371-1762
Nurse Fax	881-0498

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **School Pictures**
Tue., Oct. 4 and
Wed., Oct. 5
- ◆ **EARLY
RELEASE
DRILL**
***Dismissal
will be at
2:00 pm,
Fri., Oct. 7**
- ◆ **NO SCHOOL
COLUMBUS DAY**
Monday, Oct. 10
- ◆ **PTA MEETING**
Wed., Oct. 19
6:30 pm, library
- ◆ **Monster Mash**
Friday, Oct. 21
6:00 pm



School Attendance

Superior attendance is a key component to success in school. Students need to be here each day between 7:55 and 8:05 a.m. ready to learn. Parents, please schedule appointments and vacations, to the best of your ability, around our school schedule. If your child has a fever, is vomiting, or has diarrhea, your child will need to remain at home until he or she is symptom-free for 24 hours.

Shatekon students will receive an *Excellence in Attendance* award at the end of the year if they have five or fewer (combined) absences, early dismissals, or tardies to school. We hope many of our Shatekon students are eligible to receive this special award in June.



Museum Art Club will start in October. It will be held on Thursdays after school from 2:30 - 3:30 in the art room. This club is open to grades 3, 4, and 5. We will be creating advanced art projects as well as acting as curators for artwork and shows around the school. More information and permission slips will be going home next week.

October is Fire-Prevention Month



During the month of October, volunteers from Vischer Ferry Fire Department will visit Shatekon to review fire safety guidelines with every grade level. Be prepared to make a family evacuation plan and discuss the dangers associated with open flames and candles.



Halloween Celebration

Our Shatekon PTA will be sponsoring a Monster Mash event on Friday, October 21. All Shatekon families are invited to attend. Details about the event will be sent home by our PTA.

During the school day on Monday, October 31, our teachers may incorporate some additional fun, yet educational activities for the children focusing on pumpkins and fall during the school day. Children will not need costumes during the school day. As we work to keep Shatekon safe, we ask that adults not dress in costume. More details about our Monster Mash will be coming soon!

CANDY FOR MONSTER MASH

Our annual Shatekon Monster Mash will be Friday evening, October 21. **We are asking families to send in 2-3 bags of individually wrapped candy or Halloween treats (stickers, pencils, etc.) in sealed bags between October 3-21.** This will ensure we have plenty of goodies for students parading down Trick-or-Treat Lane.

School Closing

School may need to be closed on occasion due to inclement weather or other factors such as the loss of electricity, power, or water. School closings or delays will be available on the Shenendehowa website at www.shenet.org and also announced on the morning television news stations and many radio stations. Be listening for "*Shenendehowa*." Morning kindergarten is cancelled on mornings when school is delayed by two hours.

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications are available in the main office, online, or by contacting the Food Services Department. Families feeling the effects of the economic downturn should see if they qualify for assistance. The process is highly confidential.



As the weather gets colder, please help your child remember warm clothes and sneakers for outside recess!

Shatekon Elementary School
35 Maxwell Dr.
Clifton Park, NY 12065
Phone: (518) 881-0580
Fax: (518) 371-1762

Website:
www.shenet.org

Starting Time: 8:05am
Dismissal Time: 2:15pm

Kindergarten:
AM: 8:05am - 10:40am
PM: 11:40am - 2:15pm

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Children should not be dropped off prior to **7:55 am** when we have supervision in place.
- Students arriving after 8:05 am are considered tardy.
- Please remember to contact the attendance office (881-0584) by 9:00 am if your child is going to be absent from school.
- **Birthday Party Invitations:** Students are permitted to pass out birthday party invitations if every child in the class is invited to the party. Parents, please mail invitations if you are inviting only a few students. Invitations brought in to school for less than the whole class will be returned. This helps avoid hurt feelings and helps us stay focused on academics.
- **DISMISSAL PROCEDURE:** If you plan to pick up your child from school at dismissal, **please write a note to the office that morning.** This will inform your child's teacher and the office that your child will follow an alternate dismissal for that day. Any parent picking up his/her child at the end of the day needs to sign the child out in front of the office at 2:15. Picture identification may be requested if you are unknown to the office personnel. We also require permission from you to release your child to anyone other than a parent. Please be sure you identify the name of the person picking up your child, and he or she should be prepared to show picture identification.