

Abram Lansing Elementary School

January 2012 newsletter

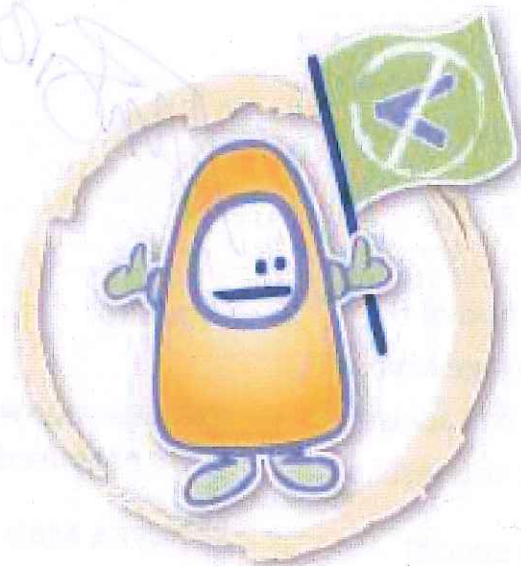
The Shrek Edition

Happy New Year! On our first day back, thanks to Van Schaick Grade School's boilers, we got to test out our emergency calling system. Several **phone numbers** came back as not working or invalid. Please make certain we always have a working number for you in case of emergencies. We really do not call to sell you stuff, we try to make judicious use of your phone and respect your privacy. But since we house your children for much of the day we need to be able to reach you if something goes awry. Let the office know of any changes in your address or phone. Thanks!

Frog and Toad, the book characters, are scheduled to visit with our primary students during the first weeks of January. Frog and Toad have become fast friends despite (or because of?) their differences – just like our theme this school year that different does not equal less than. It's our final preparation for seeing Shrek the Musical.

On Monday, January 16, **school will be closed** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thursday, January 26 is the date that has been circled on my calendar since last school year, off to Proctors to see ***Shrek the Musical***. Those of you whose children experienced Lion King last year know the drill, hopefully with some improvements. First the advertisements: The tickets run from \$25 to \$40. Your child is getting in the theater at no cost to you, thanks to our close relationship with Proctors,



thanks to Target, and thanks to our parent teacher organization. We will need \$5.00 from each child to assist in paying for the bus ride. Please have the money for the bus to your teacher **BY** Monday January 24. We will also need a signed permission slip, look for the form with this letter. The process: We will leave here at 12:30 PM (everyone will have time to eat lunch), the performance begins at

2:00 and runs for 2 hours and 30 minutes. We will leave Schenectady as efficiently as possible and return to school between 5:00 and 5:30. We are still discussing better ways (than last year) of getting our children off the bus and into your hands. Please do not park in the back-in lane, we hope to pull the buses in there. We will load buses by grade level and plan to mark the buses for your information. If your child takes medication between school's ending and 5:00, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Marer, as soon as possible to complete paperwork and discuss process.

And then ask us about it. That's why we do this: motivation to learn, fun, experiences (talk to me about Piaget sometime) and great conversation starters!

On January 30 we begin round two of the **NWEA MAP for math and language arts in grades four and five**. Teachers will advise you of your child's schedule for the tests.

Ahead in February we have the special privilege of hosting **Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience**, a Grammy award winning zydeco group from Louisiana. We will celebrate Mardi Gras early! This is the result of nearly a year of negotiations, and we hope their visit to our school might become an annual occurrence. Mr. Simien is one of the foremost zydeco musicians in the world and we are very lucky to have him visit our school. Mrs. Tisch (music teacher) has some of his CDs and will help our children prepare to really listen. We

also expect art projects before the concert – and beads.

I will have more about February when the month arrives. Help us enjoy January. Please complete the permission slip for Shrek NOW and prepare to send in the bus money anytime between now and the 24th.

Happy 2012, we expect the first month and one day to be fantastic!

Sincerely,



Mr. Bird

As promised, a look ahead:

NWEA MAP assessments continue through the first weeks of February

School will be closed February 20 through 24

The Saratoga Opera Company returns to Abram Lansing February 29

Hampstead Stage Company coming, March 12

Early dismissal for **parent conferences**, March 22 and 27

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	17	18 Board of Education meeting, 6:30, CMS library	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 SHREK	27	28
29	30 NWEA MAP assessments 4th and 5th	31 NWEA MAP assessments 4th and 5th	Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience			



I give my child, _____ ,
permission to attend *Shrek the Musical* at Proctors theater,
January 26, 2012.

- I will pick my child up.
- My child will get home by:

- I have enclosed the \$5.00 bus money.
- My child requires medication after school hours and I have contacted the school nurse.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____