

# THE BEAR'S PAW



*The potential of a child is the most intriguing and stimulating thing in all creation.  
Ray L. Wilbur, American Educator*

Important Dates:

**September:**

22: BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

**October:**

10: Columbus Day- SCHOOL CLOSED  
Teacher In-service

## From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Janice L. Hodge

Parent and Guardians:

Welcome back to school. The faculty and staff are looking forward to a productive year with you to ensure that all children achieve their highest potential. We recognize that to be successful in school, all children need support from both home and school. We are committed to share the responsibility for every child's success and ask that you guide and support your child's school experience. Thank you for your continued support.

During the first several weeks of school, your children will bring home important information for you to read and respond to and forms requiring your signature to be returned to school. School information is also on the school and faculty websites.

We look forward to seeing you at school.

## Did You Know?

**Parent/Student Handbook and School Calendar.** Every family will receive one handbook which will be sent home with the **OLDEST/ONLY** child. **Please note that each handbook will have a Receipt Page for every child in the family.** Read and review the handbook with your children. Both you and each child need to sign the child specific **Receipt Page** and return it to your child's homeroom teacher **by Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Student Information Form.** This will be sent home with **every child.** Please review this information carefully as the phone numbers for parents/guardians are the ones currently enrolled in the One-Call Now notification system. If changes or corrections are necessary, please **PRINT THEM CLEARLY** on the form and return to your child's homeroom teacher. **All forms must be returned to school, including those without changes by Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mealtime Parent Portal.** The Mealtime school meal management system allows parents to prepay deposits and pay balances on their child's school meal account via the parent portal. Each child will be given a four digit PIN number which will give them access to their Mealtime account. This will allow for a more efficient point of sale during lunch periods. Information on how to access the Mealtime parent portal, [www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com), menus and information on the school's nutrition program will be sent home and is available on our website.

**OnCourse Parent Portal.** Access and view your child's attendance and grades using the OnCourse Parent Portal. Go to [www.onscourseconnect.com](http://www.onscourseconnect.com). **Please note:** if you received your log-in user name last year, you will not receive a new one. **New Parents: User names and passwords will be distributed at Back to School Night on September 22, 2016.** Please keep your password private so that only you can access the information. Once you log into the portal, you are able to change your password should that be necessary. The Parent Portal continues our efforts to facilitate communication between parents/guardians and school regarding the academic progress of each child. Should you have any questions regarding the Parent Portal, please contact your child's teacher.

The No Child Left Behind Law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask about the qualifications of their child's teachers. We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet the legal definition of "highly qualified" by having a four year college degree; a standard teaching certificate and proof of their knowledge in the subject they teach. **All of the teachers at Montague School meet this legal definition and are highly qualified, many beyond the state's requirements with Master's Degrees, specialized training and National Board Certifications.** Our highly qualified teachers know what to teach, how to teach and demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter being taught. Every teacher continues his or her own learning through professional development activities and is evaluated each year to ensure that their skills remain at the highest possible level. The teachers speak about their qualifications during Back to School Night.

**Attendance at school.** Children need to be in school **every day, on time** and in their classrooms by 8:35am so they are not marked late. The teachers plan lessons that introduce new concepts, reinforce those lessons with learning activities and then move on to new skills and ideas. No amount of make-up work can replace your children being in the classroom with their teachers and peers.

The **Health Office** has a **no nit** policy regarding head lice. Detailed information can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook and on the Health Office link on the school website.

**Safety Drills** are practiced twice each month and include fire drills and various levels of lock down, shelter in place and evacuation drills. The Sussex County Sheriff's Office and the New Jersey State Police assist us with some of our drills.