Dear Families:

Thank you for your recent attendance at Fall Conferences. Approximately 95% of our families met with classroom teachers to discuss progress. We offer other opportunities throughout the year to visit our school. Bring Your Parent to School days and monthly PTO meetings are a great way to discuss curriculum and how best to help at home. We send out text message reminders and events are listed on our website.

Winter has come early to Minnesota. Fall was chilly and the temperature continues to drop. Saint Paul Public Schools uses the National Weather Service (NWS) wind chill chart to determine whether recess will be held outside. Wind chill is the temperature it feels like on your skin when the wind is blowing. The stronger the wind, the colder it feels. **Beginning this winter, schools will keep students inside if the wind chill is expected to be colder than -10 degrees below zero.** Regardless of the wind chill, students who do not have the appropriate winter clothing will not be able to participate in outdoor recess. Please remember to send your child with a warm jacket, hat, mittens and boots. Also, check our lost and found if your child left something at school. We often have many clothing items in the buckets. Follow these guidelines if your child rides the bus:

### 3 Ways to Stay Safe Around School Buses in the Snow

Winter weather can create a challenging commute and dangerous conditions. Share these tips with your child if they use a school bus to get to and from school. Depending on many factors, bus routes may run late on the way to school, after school and for after school programs.

1) **Students should wait a safe distance from the bus.**
   a) Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before scheduled pickup. We don't want the buses and students moving at the same time on slick roads and sidewalks.
   b) Parents should discourage their children from standing on snow banks while waiting for the bus. Students might be standing on snow banks on the side of the road, making them susceptible to slipping and falling into the street.
   c) Students should wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
   d) If your bus stop is on a steep hill, some buses might not be able to drive to the bus stop. If there is a hill at your child’s bus stop, call the school to arrange a more accessible bus stop.
   e) Due to our earlier start time, it may be dark when your child is waiting for the bus. Remind your child to stay on the sidewalk and leave plenty of room for cars to pass.

2) **Dress warm waiting for late buses, be mindful of time.**
   a) Students should dress warm when waiting at the bus stop (snow pants, gloves, scarves, ear muffls, etc).
   b) Parents should call their child's school to determine if their school bus is late; contact information is available on each school's website.
   c) Students should wait 20 minutes for their bus. But parents should use their judgment when allowing their child to wait for the bus past the scheduled time, especially during cold weather.

3) **Drivers should stay safely away from school buses, be alert.**
   a) Motorists should keep at least a 7-second distance behind school buses while driving on the road. Buses stop frequently to pick up and drop off students, so motorists should be prepared to stop.
   b) Drivers should be aware when a bus is stopped because students may be coming from different directions across the street.
   c) Use caution near bus stops as children may be standing on snow banks where they could slip and fall into the street.

Please feel free to call or stop in with any concerns or questions regarding the district winter plan. I hope to see everyone at our upcoming winter concert on Tuesday, December 19th. We will offer two concerts at 12:45 and 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Evangelist
Free Groceries for all SPMA Students!

- **Wednesday, December 18**
- Free and open to all SPMA families
- You can pick up food from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Families can choose their items
- There will be fresh produce available
- No registration needed
- Distributions are held in the gym
- Contact Craig Sweet with any questions (craig.sweet@spps.org or 651-744-2238)

African American Parent Involvement Day

**Monday, February 10, 2020**

Saint Paul Music Academy invites all families to join us for a celebration featuring student performances and artwork. Visit your child’s classroom, eat a meal with your child, and enjoy a school assembly. Look for more information to come home later this school year.

SPMA is on Twitter and Instagram!

You can follow us at @SPMA_SPPS!

WINTER MUSIC NOTES

The Music Department is using a new curriculum this year called Quaver. It is exciting to have new online materials in our rooms! Remember that keyboards are now available to borrow for a week in Mrs. Kelly’s room. This is available to 3rd-5th graders. A parent must pick up and drop off the keyboard – they are too heavy for children to carry on the bus. This is a free program.

We hope that you can come to one of the Winter Concerts on Thursday, December 19. The daytime concert will begin at 12:45, and the evening concert is at 5:30 p.m. Because of our early start time, no students will stay after school. Instead, we invite students and families to come back together. The evening concert is fairly relaxed. Every child who comes is invited to sit on the risers to perform. The theme is “Home”. Students will be playing guitars, recorders, drums & violins. Orchestra students will perform, as will choir students. We hope that you can come!

All students “visited” the Congo through story and song with SIAMA, sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio. In the spring, 3rd–5th graders will get to compose music using sounds produced by plants! You can listen to an example at https://youtu.be/rsPmnjfs2IE

4th and 5th graders in Music Out Loud (sponsored by the Minnesota Opera) and choir will get to attend an opera in February. All 4th and 5th graders will learn about Hmong culture through the writings of Kao Kalia Vang (The Song Poet).

If you have questions about band and orchestra, please contact Ms. Susie Leek.

If you have questions about general music and EDL, please contact Mr. Tyler Anderson.

If you have questions about keyboards, choir or general music, please contact Mrs. Kelly.

A good night’s sleep is important. Getting enough hours of sleep each night helps your student be successful at school. Above is a chart with recommended bedtimes for kids ages 6 to 12.
If you have questions about anything in the newsletter or need translation services, please call the office at 651-293-8795.

Yog koy muaj lus nug txog abtsi hauv daim ntawv xovxwm no los yog xav tau kev pab txhais lus, thov hu rau Npliam Lis ntawm tus xov tooj 651-744-4367.

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre cualquier tema en el boletín, llame a la oficina al 651-744-2172.

---

**SPMA Family Movie Night**

Join us on Wednesday, January 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Plaza Theater in Maplewood. Admission tickets are just $3. The movie will be announced at a later date, so stay tuned! We hope to see you there!

---

**Positive Behavior Support at SPMA**

At SPMA, we work hard to support and recognize positive student behavior. Our Positive Behavior Support (PBIS) Team meets regularly to develop interventions, incentives, and celebrations for the hard work our students show each day to make our school a safe, respectful, and responsible place.

**WE NEED YOU!**

Our team invites family involvement in our positive behavior awards, events, and efforts. If you have ideas, would like to help at one of the events, or would like to learn more, please let us know! Talk to staff at the next PTO Meeting or contact our School Counselor, Keela Kuhlers.

---

**Parent Teacher Organization**

SPMA has regular Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings. All parents and guardians of SPMA students are invited to join us in this partnership for school success. PTO meetings are from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. The PTO meets in the school library.

PTO meeting dates for the remaining school year are Jan. 14, March 10, and Apr. 21.

---

**Look for more information to come home with your student about...**

**Family Fun Night!**

**Wednesday, February 5**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun night filled with activities and games for the whole family to enjoy.

---

**A friendly reminder to be safe when dropping kids off at school...**

The buses drop off students on Rose Avenue between 7:10 and 7:30 a.m. each morning. During that time, it is important that only buses use that area. If the buses are lined up on Rose Avenue, please drive to the parking lot to drop off your student. You can pull up to the cafeteria doors and students can enter the school from there until 7:30. After 7:30, the cafeteria doors are locked. Please go to the front of the building to sign your child in at the office at that time. Thank you for helping to make student arrival time as safe as possible!
**Important Dates**

Dates highlighted in gray have an event listed next to the calendar.

### December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dec. 6 – School Assembly 12:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 – Food Give Away 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 19 – Winter Concerts 12:45 & 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 – PBIS Celebration
Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

**Extended Day Learning Dates**
Dec. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19

### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jan. 1 to 3 – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
Jan. 6 – School Resumes
Jan. 10 – School Assembly 8 a.m.
Jan. 14 – PTO 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 20 – NO SCHOOL – MLK, Jr. Day
Jan. 24 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day
Jan. 29 – Family Movie Night

**Extended Day Learning Dates**
Jan. 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30

### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feb. 5 – School Assembly 8:30 a.m.
Feb. 5 – Family Fun Night 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 10 – National African American Parent Involvement Day
Feb. 14 – PBIS Celebration
Feb. 17 – NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day

**Extended Day Learning Dates**
Feb. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27