

Superintendent News - December

It is hard to believe that we are already heading in December. The Holiday season and break has always been a great opportunity for families to spend time with each other. I wish you and your family the best during this time of the year.

As we enter the winter season and the temperatures continue to drop, I encourage you to insure your children stay appropriately dressed for the weather. I would also like to remind you as the road conditions deteriorate because of snow and ice to be patient waiting for the buses. Your children's safety is the number one priority for our bus drivers and the school.

With the winter season, the possibility of inclement weather provides us with the possibility of closing schools or delaying the start of school. Parents and students will be informed of school closings/delayed starts by use of our district wide calling system. In addition, school closings/delays will be announced on the local radio and television stations and posted on the district website to ensure that all students/families are aware of school closures affected by the weather. The decision to close school or delay the start of school will be made between 5:30 and 6:00 am.

The financial difficulty that the State of Illinois is going through continues with no solutions in sight. Presently the State of Illinois is behind in payments amounting to \$85,500 with an additional \$85,500 owed to us by December 30. There is no indication that we will be receiving any of these dollars. In addition, the governor just signed a bill in the most recent Fall veto session that further reduces transportation reimbursement to the schools and will take further dollars away from schools by using funds from the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax to pay the State's obligation to pay the Regional Superintendents.

Even with these shortfalls, we are very proud that we continue to offer a great education and remain fiscally sound. The annual rankings from the Rock River Valley were displayed in the Rockford Register Star on Monday, October 31, 2011. Pearl City Schools is ranked very high in all schools:

Elementary – 13th out of 119 elementary/junior high schools
Junior High – 9th out of 119 elementary/junior high schools
High School – 2nd out of 25 high schools

We hope your Thanksgiving was enjoyable and wish you and your family a Happy Holiday.

Tim Thill
Superintendent, Pearl City Schools