

November 21, 2008

Dear Parents,

Sometimes we as adults think back to the carefree days of our youth and say to ourselves how nice it would be to go back to a time when we had few responsibilities except just being a kid. But in reality being a kid especially in today's world is not really what we remember it to be. When asked by researchers what is the hardest thing about being a teenager today the response is always the same, peer pressure. A large percentage say they have a hard time standing up to other adolescents, trying to fit in and knowing who their real friends are. In addition, there are problems of being teased because of differences, seeing it happen to others without knowing what to do about it, and the feelings of sadness, loneliness, rejection, and uncertainty that go hand in hand with these challenges. Some other findings indicate that teenagers can't figure out if they are adults yet or still kids, that everybody wants them to be something they aren't, and that people expect too much or too little of them. As one student said, "When you were little all you did was eat, drink, and sleep, now it's work, work, work."

It's important to remember that while adolescence can be a period of stress and uncertainty for many youths, most of them adjust well to the physical, social, and intellectual changes and emerge as healthy and happy older teens/young adults. Parents play a critical role in shaping their success. As their children's first teachers and lifelong guardians, parents are most effective when they know their children's peers and friends along with their teachers and work with them to steer their children in the right direction.

Have a very nice Thanksgiving,

Steve Goar

Principal, Mc Ginnis Middle School

As we head into the holiday season here are some important bits of information:

There is no school the week of November 24 - 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

There will be no school the week of December 22 - January 2 due to the Winter Holiday/Christmas Break.

Also, there is no school on January 5 due to a staff workday. The beginning of the second semester and students return to classes on January 6.

In our student handbook it mentions that there are to be no open containers of drinks in the building and classrooms except water. We have had some abuse of this policy lately and we simple want to remind everybody. We would like parents to help insure that students follow the guidelines. Thank you.

We have two concerts coming up in December: The HS/MS Choir Concert at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 8 and the HS/MS Band Concert at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 11.

We have a ton of clothing in our Lost & Found that will be donated to a local charity or Indian Reservation over the Christmas Break if they are not claimed by then.

And a reminder that cell phones brought to school need to be secured in the students backpack or locker and not even taken into a classroom where they can ring and disturb instruction. Basically they are not to be used during school hours. We have phones available during the day for student use.

All students who have a passing grade in all their classes will be allowed to attend a fun trip to the Salida Hot Springs Pool on Friday, December 19th. **The cut-off day for checking passing grades is Wednesday, December 17th. Students who are not passing their classes will be required to attend school on that Friday to make up missing work.**