

## Madison News

### 2-10-2014

You know winter is getting long when the first thing you do upon waking up is look at the wind chill factor! It will get better! In fact, it sounds like a warm up is in store for later this week. We have many things going on at Madison right now, so let me highlight a few...

**Preschool** - Registration will be open next week Feb. 17-21st for next year's four year old preschool program. There is important information available on the school website, [www.pellaschools.org](http://www.pellaschools.org). The biggest change is a week-long registration window of time that families can either register online (the link is on the school website) or call the Madison office next Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-7:00pm to register. The registration process last year was a bit of a fiasco with a "phone jam" in the office on Monday morning and a waiting list by 10:30am. That won't happen this time! :) We have plenty of space for students and the week long registration window will allow all interested families equal opportunity to register. In the event that we end up with more families than we have room for, we will pool all the registered families and do a random drawing.

**Character Counts!** - We have a special visitor coming to Madison this Thursday to help us celebrate great character. Ronald McDonald will be here on Thursday afternoon to celebrate great character with Madison students. Be sure and ask your students about this assembly on Thursday when they get home from school!

**Parent/Teacher conferences** - Next week is our second Parent/Teacher conference time. Your times were scheduled last fall for this conference time. We hold conferences on Tuesday (18th) and Thursday (20th) with a 1:25 dismissal both days at Madison with no school on Friday the 21st. Be thinking about some questions you may have about your child's progress at school. Your child's teacher will have important academic progress data to share with you during the conference.

**RAMM** - Read A Million Minutes - WE DID IT! Madison students read a total of 1,075,183 minutes over the last four weeks. That is so awesome!! Learning to read by the time students leave 3rd grade is a huge milestone and will benefit them greatly as they progress through school. Continue to read at home too! It sets a great example for your child.

**Jump Rope for Heart** - Mr. Burch has been leading our school on a great fundraising venture through Jump Rope for Heart. One of our pillars for Character Counts! is caring for others. Our fundraising efforts through Jump Rope for Heart benefit children suffering from various heart related diseases. This year we surpassed our goal and raised \$6501.50 for the American Heart Association! Another awesome way for our students to show we care about others!

**Tulip Time** - Tulip Time will be here before we know it. Madison students are currently scheduled to march in the afternoon parades on **Thursday** and **Saturday** this year. The annual costume exchange will be held Saturday, March 29 from 8-10am at the Scholte Church in the Historical Village. If you have a costume that you would like to sell, bring it to the Scholte Church Friday evening, March 28 from 4-6:30pm. Mark the price on the costume and a brief description with a notation of how many pieces are in the costume. Money for the sale of the costume or the unsold costume are to be picked up between 11:00 - 12:00pm on Saturday, March 29. If you have any questions, please contact Nela Spoelstra at 628-4975.

Your child's teacher is keeping you informed of what they are learning about through the classroom newsletter/class blog, so you can see there is a lot going on at Madison School! We love having your child at Madison! Thanks for sharing them with us. Let's continue to work together in helping your child make great academic strides this year! Stop and visit us sometime soon!

Mr. Steddom