



# John Walton Spencer School No. 16 Parent Newsletter for January

**John Walton Spencer  
School No. 16**  
625 Scio Street  
Rochester, NY 14605  
Phone: 585-235-1272

Principal: Mr. Matthew Laniak  
Assistant Principal K-6: Mrs. Joyce Dunn  
Assistant Principal 7-8: Ms. Sherri Armstrong

Additional school, district and community information is shared through email. If you would like to receive these updates contact the School 16 Parent Liaison: Mrs. Mossgraber at 235-1272

**Save the Date**

School 16  
**Arts Festival**  
January 29, 2015  
6:00 – 7:30 pm




**Save The Date!**

**School 16's Black History Celebration**



**February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**6 – 7:30 pm**

**Box tops for Education**



Remember to collect the Box Tops for education and send them to school with your child. The funds are put to good use! More questions? Contact Mrs. Mossgraber



*The Holiday Concert - Thanks for joining us!*

**Important Dates in January**

**Jan. 10** – MCC Damon City Campus  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Jan. 19** - Dr. MLK Day- Schools Closed

**Jan. 29** - Arts Festival 6 - 7:30pm

**Jan. 22** –Terrific Kid Assembly 2:15 pm

**Coming up in February**

**Feb. 16-20** - February Recess-Schools Closed

**Feb. 25** –Terrific Kid Assembly 2:15 pm


**Feb. 26** – Black History Celebration  
6 - 7:30pm

**Just a reminder...**  
**January and February are Peak months in Flu Season.**

To prevent the spread of illness avoid using your hands to cover your mouth. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue, then throw used tissues away. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer when soap and water isn't available. Get regular check-ups and eat right and be active. Your body is best able to fight disease when it is healthy.

**Stay home when you are sick.** If you feel ill or have flu like symptoms (runny nose, congestion, coughs, muscle aches, fever or exhaustion) stay home and get well before returning to school.

**Sick children who arrive at school will be required to go home. Make sure the office has your correct contact information.**



## Attention Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students



Students who are in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade may select the schools they wish to attend next year. Use the information found on the district's website at <http://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/857> to select the schools that are a good fit and complete the application, ranking your school of choice.

If your 6<sup>th</sup> grade child wishes to stay at School 16 for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, you do not need to complete the application process.

If your child is interested in the P-TECH Pathways to Technology Program, Wilson Magnet High School International Baccalaureate Program (IB), Integrated Arts and technology High School, World of Inquiry High School, or School Without Walls, please contact the school for additional admissions applications before January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. If your child selects this program, you will receive additional admissions materials.

**If an application is not returned, the student will be placed in a school where space is available after high school selection process is ended.**

**If you have any questions about high school selection please contact the School 16 Counselor, Mr. John Gilbert, at 235-1272.**

### A Tip Sheet for Parents



## Parent-Teacher Conferences

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. You and your child's school have something in common: You both want your child to learn and do well. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share important information about your child's talents and needs. Each person can also learn something new about how to help your child. Parent-teacher conferences are a great way to start talking to your child's teachers. This tip sheet suggests ways that you can make the most of parent-teacher conferences so that everyone wins, especially your child.

#### ***What should you expect?***

**A two-way conversation.** Like all good conversations, parent-teacher conferences are best when both people talk *and* listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child's progress in school: Ask to see data about your child's attendance, grades, and test scores. Find out whether your child is meeting school expectations and academic standards. This is also a time for the teacher to learn about what your child is like at home. When you tell the teacher about your child's skills, interests, needs, and dreams, the teacher can help your child more.

**Emphasis on learning.** Good parent-teacher conferences focus on how well the child is doing in school. They also talk about how the child can do even better. To get ready for the conversation, look at your child's homework, tests, and notices before the conference. Be sure to bring a list of questions that you would like to ask the teacher.

**Opportunities and challenges.** Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child's progress *and* areas for improvement. Be prepared by thinking about your child's strengths and challenges beforehand. Be ready to ask questions about ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

***What should you talk to the teacher about?***

**Progress.** Find out how your child is doing by asking questions like: Is my child performing at grade level? How is he or she doing compared to the rest of the class? What do you see as his or her strengths? How could he or she improve?

**Assignments and assessments.** Ask to see examples of your child's work. Ask how the teacher gives grades.

**Your thoughts about your child.** Be sure to share your thoughts and feelings about your child. Tell the teacher what you think your child is good at. Explain what he or she needs more help with.

**Support learning at home.** Ask what you can do at home to help your child learn. Ask if the teacher knows of other programs or services in the community that could also help your child.

**Support learning at school.** Find out what services are available at the school to help your child. Ask how the teacher will both challenge your child and support your child when he or she needs it.

***How should you follow up?***



**Make a plan.** Write down the things that you and the teacher will each do to support your child. You can do this during the conference or after. Write down what you will do, when, and how often. Make plans to check in with the teacher in the coming months.

**Schedule another time to talk.** Communication should go both ways. Ask how you can contact the teacher. And don't forget to ask how the teacher will contact you too. There are many ways to communicate—in person, by phone, notes, email. Make a plan that works for both of you. Be sure to schedule at least one more time to talk in the next few months.

**Talk to your child.** The parent-teacher conference is all about your child, so don't forget to include him or her. Share with your child what you learned. Show him or her how you will help with learning at home. Ask for his or her suggestions.

## Creating a Strong Reader: Tips for Parents

- Invite your child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help your child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he she or says is the word her or she sees.
- Read your child's favorite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite your child to join in on those parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.
- Take your child to the library to choose books to read.



### NAEP 2015 PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION (SECOND NOTIFICATION)

Dear Parent or Guardian of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students:

This is the second notification, a letter was mailed to your home in the first week of January, letting you know that School 16 has been selected participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is the largest national assessment of what students know and can do in various subject areas. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from state assessments because it is a nationwide assessment. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on February 26, 2015. Your 8<sup>th</sup> grade child has been selected to take a mathematics, reading, or science pilot assessment on a tablet. In addition to answering questions in one of these subjects, students will be asked questions about themselves and their educational experiences, such as the amount of reading they do and the types of classes they take. These questions provide contextual information for the assessment, as well as information that may be related to students' learning. If you would like to view sample subject area and contextual questions, please visit <http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp>.

It will take about 120 minutes for most students to participate in the pilot assessment. The results are completely confidential (in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347), and the information provided will be used for statistical purposes only. Your child's grades will not be affected. Your child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to provide an accurate measure of student achievement that will inform improvements in education. Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by February 23, 2015.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP. We do ask, however, that you encourage your child to do their best and get plenty of rest the night before the assessment. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>.

We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP. We know that School 16's students will help us show what our nation's students know and can do.

Thank you,  
Matthew Laniak