



Thursday, September 18, 2008

Dear School Families,

As we recover from the windstorm on Sunday, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience and pass on some thoughts on things that were learned from this experience. First, thanks to everyone for their help over this past week. On Sunday night, a crew of volunteers were here helping clean up and fix some things that were damaged in the storm. Dennis, Stan, Sally, and our Wednesday helpers worked over the past three days continuing to clear debris and fix other problems around the school. Thanks also to those parents and staff who helped get the word out that school was closed. With no TV, internet, email or phones, this was our greatest challenge.

As we look back on the past few days, communication seemed to be the biggest problem. Last year we decided not to do the Snow Phone Chain because there were many other easier ways to communicate delays or cancellations due to bad weather. This system seemed to work well because parents could find our school closing information by looking at our website, checking email, or tuning into one of the local television stations. With all of these not functioning this week, we feel we need to create a new emergency communication system that allows us to have other options for getting information to our school families.

Because of this, we will be creating a new emergency communication system that will allow us to contact our school families at any time of the day. This system will be similar to the old snow chain but will include home, work, and cell numbers for all times of the day.

To begin this process, we need each of you to fill in the slip below. Please give us as much info as possible. This information will be used to create our new communication chain and will be used only in emergency situations. We will also discuss this Tuesday at the PTO meeting. All parents are encouraged to join us.

Thanks again for your patience and help during the past few days. Our hope is that we are better prepared should a problem occur in the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Lonneman

(Please return this portion to the school office as soon as possible)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade of Youngest Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mom Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Dad Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Mom Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Dad Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_