

A WINTER WEATHER and CALENDAR UPDATE MESSAGE FROM THE CRANFORD SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The beginning of this school year has presented our community with several unexpected, weather-related challenges. The flooding and extensive damage caused by Hurricane Irene was followed by the unusual Halloween snow storm which caused more fallen trees, power outages and dangerous conditions. In both instances we took swift action to ensure the safety of our students, their families and our staff members by closing schools for brief periods of time in each emergency situation.

These school closings have resulted in the loss of all emergency days built into the 2011-12 school calendar and a need to add one additional school day to provide all students with the 180 days of instruction required by state statute. Therefore, the school calendar has been amended to make up this lost day and to plan for any additional emergency days this winter may require. We ask that you please make note of the following changes:

May 24 (was previously a single session/half day of school for students **WILL NOW BE A FULL DAY OF SCHOOL**

May 25 (was previously closed) **WILL NOW BE A SINGLE SESSION FOR STUDENTS AND A FULL DAY FOR STAFF**

If additional days need to be added to the 2011-12 school calendar due to weather conditions that make it absolutely necessary to close schools, **we will take days away from the April recess beginning with Friday, April 13th and work backward as days are needed. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED REVISED CALENDAR.**

Every effort will be made to keep schools open and to keep the April break in place. However, to accomplish this, delayed openings may need to be called prior to making a final decision to close Cranford Schools in an effort to see if a few additional hours of rising temperatures, and school and street clean-up make it possible to get everyone to their respective schools safely.

We will continue to work closely with the Cranford Police Department, local and state meteorologists and neighboring school districts to monitor the forecasts. Our goal is to preserve student instructional time, when possible, while always placing the safety of those in our school community first and foremost.

Please make certain your household is registered with Honeywell Instant Alert, the system used by our district for all important announcements. Information on how to sign up to receive Honeywell Alerts can be found on the district website, www.cranfordschools.org.

Emergency closing information is also posted on our school website and is broadcasted on TV35, Channels 2, 4, 7, and 12. The Radio station broadcasting school closings include: 101.5FM

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together around past and potential weather challenges and move into the traditionally stormy months of the year. I also apologize for any inconveniences school closing uncertainty may cause for working families. We will do our very best to limit the disturbance.