October 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

## October 3

Picture Day

## October 31

## Halloween

## November 5

No school-Election Day

**November 8**

Half day-Elementary students

**November 12**

Report cards sent home

**November 13**

Picture Re-Take Day

## November 22

Half Day-All students

## November 25-26

Professional Development Day-No students in attendance

**November 27-29**

No School-Thanksgiving break

Maconce Elementary

6300 Church Rd., Ira, MI 48023

http://www.anchorbay.misd.net. (586)725-2084

Jay Seletsky, Principal

**Mission Statement**

Maconce Elementary School, in partnership with the community, will provide a learning environment by delivering quality instruction that promotes curiosity, creativity and the desire in students to reach their full potential.

**Picture Day**

Picture day is Thursday, October 3rd. Picture re-take day is Wednesday, November 13th. Please return the Lifetouch flyer to your child’s teacher, or place the order online at <http://www.lifetouch.com>.

**School Times**

Students attend school from 9:00 am to 3:51 pm. Half days: 9:00 am to 12:26 pm.

**End of Day Arrangements**

After School arrangements for your child, such as: going to a classmate’s house, leaving with someone else, being picked up instead of getting on the bus or getting on the bus instead of getting picked up **NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF IN ADVANCE.** **Please provide a note for your child’s teacher whenever end of the day plans change. We cannot make any guarantees after 3:00pm.**

**Be consistent. Calling the office to change dismissal plans can be very confusing to your child, especially younger students. Certainly, emergency situations occur, we understand that. The office is a very busy place, your child’s Safety is always first.**

**Parent Pick-ups**—Please use door #8. Be here on time by 3:45 p.m. All students K-5 will meet you there at dismissal. Students K-4 that ride the bus dismiss out Door #1, please do not take your child out of a bus line without letting an adult know. 5th Grade dismiss from Door#2.

**\*\*Remember: There is NO PARKING in the drop off/pick up area in front or the school *at anytime of the day*. This is also our emergency loop for fire or police. Please use the parking lot spaces available in the front lot.\*\***

**Classroom Volunteers**

Please remember that all school visitors must have an Anchor Bay Volunteer Form completed in advance. Forms must be filled out annually. If you, or any family members, are planning to attend activities or field trips, this form will be necessary. Forms are available on the district website, or the office.

**Halloween**

Students can wear costumes to school as long as they can perform daily routines in them (classwork, recess, restroom, etc.). The costume still needs to follow the dress code-nothing too short, scary, or inappropriate. No accessories of any kind (masks, weapons, blood, etc.) are allowed.

We will have a parade that will start approximately at 3:15 pm, WEATHER PERMITTING. If it is raining outside, the parade will be indoors with students and staff in attendance ONLY.

Classroom teachers will send information home regarding individual plans for their class.

Due to the large volume of parents that attend the parade, we ask that you plan ahead. For safety and liability, we ask that you send in a note that morning if you are planning on picking your child up.

We will not be doing early sign out in the office after the parade. We ask that parents please wait the extra few minutes until dismissal to pick your child.

**Students of the Month**

Every month classroom teachers have the opportunity to select a “Student of Month”. Not only are the showcased on our webpage, but also in our hallway showcase. We are very proud of these Maconce B.E.A.R.S. Students. B-Be Responsible E-Encourage Others A-Always do your Best R-Respect Everyone S-Show Pride. We continue to encourage positive behavior with positive incentives, dojo points and spirit week celebrations and NEW this year the BEAR CART sponsored by the Student Council Team.

**Feed the Bay**

Maconce families are welcome to participate in the weekend backpack program. Let us know if you need this service, by contacting the school office or by completing the form online. Your child would come home with food packs every Friday in their backpack. The program is handled with confidentiality and care with the help of the Watermark Church, the AB Community and our Friday Volunteers. If your family needs Christmas help this holiday season, please contact the school office for referral paperwork. We ask that you utilize only one organization per family.

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**Dressing for school and Outdoor Activity**

Make sure your child dresses for the weather every day. We go outside **every day** for recess unless it is raining, the wind-chill is below 16°, or the wind speed is above 26 mph. Fall weather is unpredictable, warm one day and cold the next. It is easier for a child to take off a hat, jacket, or gloves than to try and stay warm without them.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Communication Devices**

 The district recognizes that cell phones and electronic watches (Apple watches) have become a part of daily life. Many students have them, however, we discourage students from bringing them to school. **In the event that students are instructed by parents to bring them,** **they must be turned off and stored in lockers during the day**. The district assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage or vandalism to electronic devises brought onto district property.

**Device Violation**

Since use of such devices can contribute to disruptions and student misbehavior, students whose cell phones go off in class or who use cell phones or electronic communication devices with or without a camera or video capability will be subject to the following consequences:

• 1st offense-warning, parent contact

• 2nd offense-lunch detention

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams! While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it’s bad for our water. Fertilizer that enters our lakes and streams can cause algae to grow and use up oxygen that fish need to survive. So, what can you do to help? Simple.

1. Sweep it. Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so they don’t wash into storm drains.
2. Buy low and go slow. First, find out if you even need fertilizer. Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. If you do need it, choose a fertilizer with no or low phosphorus, which can cause algae growth. You can also use an organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which causes less harm to water.
3. Hire smart. Select a lawn care service that follows the practices noted above.
4. Mow high. Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.
5. Make fertilizer-free zones. Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.

It all drains to our lakes and rivers

• 3rd offense-2 lunch detentions

• 4th offense-3 day suspension

• 5th offense-2 day suspension

• 6th offense-3 day suspension

**Attendance**

If your child will not be in school, or arriving late it is very important that you contact the office. Our answering machine is on when we are not in the building. Please call us at 586-725-0284. Your child’s absence will be unexcused without a phone call.

**Children need to be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school. All medical notes need to be turned into the office.**

Please emphasize to your children the importance of being in school, as daily attendance is essential in order for a student to benefit from his/her educational experience. If a student is not in school on a regular basis, it is not possible for maximum learning to occur. Excessive tardiness is a concern because important announcements and classroom instructions are given at the beginning of the day. Good attendance patterns, which include punctuality, are developed at an early age. They must be emphasized in kindergarten and reaffirmed at every grade level. It is the responsibility of the parent to instill in his/her child the importance of attending school.

All students in the Anchor Bay School District are expected to be in school on a regular day-to-day basis. Absences should occur only for legitimate, excusable reasons, generally illness. It is the responsibility of school personnel, according to the State of Michigan Compulsory School Attendance Law, to monitor all students’ attendance. Parents will be notified in writing, following the seventh, fourteenth and twentieth absence/tardy accumulated within a school year. Excessive absences must be reported to the St. Clair or Macomb County Independent School District Attendance Office.

According to the Michigan Compulsory Attendance Law students are expected to be in school except in cases of emergency or for the following reasons:

* Personal illness – The school may require verification by a doctor.
* Illness in the family – Work with your child’s teacher to keep schoolwork current.
* Death of a relative – Absence arising from a family death. Please notify your child’s teacher should you feel your child might need support when they return to school.
* Religious holiday – Children will be excused from class if the absence is for the purpose of observing a religious holiday that is part of the child’s creed or belief.
* Medical Appointments – Parents are encouraged to schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school. Recognizing that this is not always possible, students will be allowed five (5) one-hour windows at the beginning or end of the day for necessary doctor/dentist appointments. These absences will not be charged if the parent/guardian submits a medical statement or receipt from the doctor. Over five hours will result in a half-day absence for each occurrence over 30 minutes.

**Tardiness** – Students are expected to arrive on time each day and be prepared to learn. If a student is late in arriving to school, he/she must report to the office and check in. Elementary students late to school will be recorded as “tardy” for the first thirty (30) minutes of the day. Reporting more than thirty minutes late to school or leaving 30 minutes prior to dismissal will result in one-half day absence.