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[Price Laboratory School] Newsletter, v13n1, August 2002

Malcolm Price Laboratory School

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Dear Parents and Supporters

Welcome to new students and families entering Price Laboratory School, Northern University Middle School, and Northern University High School for the first time this fall. Welcome back to all returning members of our extended community. We are beginning the 2002-2003 year. Having addressed the budget reduction, we are planning on having a productive year. The support our PLS community has provided as we addressed these budget decisions is deeply appreciated. We have an outstanding faculty, staff, student, parent, and community supporting the Price Laboratory School tradition of providing quality programs.

There are several initiatives we have highlighted for the 2002-2003 year. Significant progress was achieved on these initiatives.

• The PLS Citizenship Curriculum, "Building a Caring Community," is an innovative citizenship program that focuses on character education. This program is now available on the PLS website as a model for schools in Iowa. The Iowa Star Schools grant received during the 2001-2002 school year also supports this initiative. As part of this grant, our faculty has received training on developing and managing individual classroom websites that will serve as avenues of communication between PLS and classrooms in Iowa. Activities for these virtual connections will include the Citizenship Curriculum.

• The online Astronomy course that was piloted during the spring of 2002 is available for our students. This course provides flexibility in scheduling and alternative technology-focused teaching methodology providing an excellent model of virtual education.

• The Focus on High School/Senior Year program committee is piloting alternatives for our seniors. They have redesigned elements of the senior year to support student achievement and strengthen preparation for post-secondary transitions. The progress of this pilot program will be evaluated as a model for other schools. The change process being implemented is also being reported to the Iowa Department of Education's "Focus on High School" committee.

• The "Breakthrough to Literacy" program was piloted in kindergarten and first grade during the 2001-2002 year. This is an individualized technology-based literacy program designed to advance the reading skills of children. We will pilot materials for second grade during the 2002-2003 year.

• The PLS Science faculty is leading the development of learning-cycle based high school biology (BIOMES) and earth science (GEOMES) curriculum. They worked this summer with teams of teachers from across Iowa and will continue the process by field-testing the curriculum throughout the next year.

• We are excited about the "Wellness/Physical Education Alternative Model," the National Fitness Foundation Grant we were offered last November. We believe the details of the contract have been settled and anticipate having the equipment for this fall. This grant will provide an alternative delivery model for wellness/physical education that utilizes Polar heart rate monitors and other innovative resources.

The identified initiatives are not all-inclusive but represent accomplishments of our entire PLS community for the 2001-2002 school year. We are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities the next year will provide.

As I began my second year as Director of Price Laboratory School (twenty-second year at PLS), I have reflected on the last few months in relation to the mission and vision of Price Laboratory School. Price Laboratory School has a tremendous impact on education in Iowa and beyond. The programs we provide our PLS students serve as the platform for the work we do in teacher education, research, service, and outreach. We are proceeding with a clear vision to continue meeting the full extent of our mission. Our success will be built upon the support of our entire PLS community. With your support, we are confident we will continue to provide quality programs for all our "students."

-Nadene Davidson, PLS Director

Classes Begin

For children in grades 1-12, the 2002-2003 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 21, 2002. On the first day of school, students will be dismissed at 11:58 a.m. There will be no afternoon classes for elementary and secondary students on Wednesday and Thursday because of parent conferences.

Normal hours for the elementary school are 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students should arrive between 8:20 and 8:30 a.m. unless they are participating in the breakfast program which is open in the cafeteria from 7:50-8:20 a.m. Middle school and high school hours are 8:00-3:08 p.m.

Summer Hours

The office is generally open from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. However, because of vacations the office may not be covered at all times. If you plan to stop in, please call ahead to make sure that someone is in the office, 273-7666.

Administrative Phone #'s

| PLS | 273-2138 |
| Director Office | 273-6136 |
| Principal Office | 273-7666 |
| Activities Office | 273-7667 |
| Attendance NK-5 | 273-2348 |
| Attendance 6-12 | 273-2185 |
| Guidance Office | 273-2220 |
| Health Office | 273-2348 |
| Meal Program | 273-2185 |
| Info Line | 273-7668 |
| Emergency Cell Phone | 240-8351 |
WELCOME BACK!
It has been a challenging and exciting past 12 months here at Price Lab School/NU High and we look forward to the year ahead. The tone from our faculty and staff leads me to believe we are focused, energized, and prepared for the upcoming year. Although things may look a little different at Price Lab School/NU High, I am very confident that our faculty and staff are committed to provide each and every student with the quality of education they deserve.

Because we have some of the best educators in our classrooms, best practice is expected from our faculty and staff! We are a dynamic school that desires and promotes positive changes. Change can create growth and growth will enable all of us to move forward and lead the way toward improving education at PLS, UNI, across the State of Iowa, and beyond.

Here are some items to keep in mind as we approach the beginning of the school year.

Elementary
Elementary class lists will be posted in the main lobby on July 22. You can stop and take a look when you pick up your registration packet or see the list at the August 1 walk-in registration. Parents, please make sure to have your son or daughter on time for school each morning. It is essential to get off to a good start each and every day.

Middle School
Middle School class lists will also be posted in the main lobby on July 22. You can stop and take a look when you pick up your registration packet or see the list at the August 1 walk-in registration. Remember, conferences are student led which means students and parents must be at the conference. Don’t forget to sign up for your conference.

High School
Students are encouraged to contact Mr. Stichter to finalize schedules starting August 1. Last year students and parents did a job communicating with the Attendance Office. As in the past, we ask that a parent or guardian of a secondary student call the Attendance Office (273-2185) between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. when your student is unable to attend class(es). The student must come to the Attendance Office, pick up an admit slip, have the admit slip signed by the appropriate teachers, and return the admit slip to the Attendance Office within the given time frame. As always, it is the student’s responsibility to check the daily attendance postings for tardies and absences.

Activities
Before students will be allowed to participate in athletic activities they must complete and turn in their registration/emergency form, student handbook form, insurance release form, and physical dated after May 31, 2002. As in the past, we are very excited about the variety of activities Price Lab/NU High has to offer. For thought: Ninety-five percent of Fortune 500 executives participated in school activities - Fortune Magazine. GET INVOLVED!

Reminder
Just a reminder that August 28 is a special early dismissal. The UNI convocation is that afternoon and all faculty are expected to attend, so school will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. instead of the regular time. Lunch will be served on this day.

Students, the sign outside my office door reads: “You are responsible for your own actions.” I challenge all of you to take it upon yourselves to excel to your highest level academically, morally, and socially. You, and only you can control your actions. Make this your best year yet!

I am looking forward to see the new and returning faces of our Price Lab/NU High Family. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with your thoughts or questions.

Let’s make this a great year!

Dave Smith
K-12 Principal/Activities Director
dave.smith@uni.edu

Elementary

Reminders .

✓ Pictures
Elementary pictures are scheduled for September day 19. This is also picture make-up day for students in grades 6-12 from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

✓ Safety Patrol
The school safety patrol will operate at three points of traffic: 1) 19th and Summit; 2) 19th and Campus; and 3) 20th and Campus. Please instruct your children to cross streets at these points as they come to school. Patrol students will be on duty from 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

✓ Absences
When your elementary-age child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please contact Dody Olson, school nurse, at 273-2348 between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. If the school has not been notified of an elementary student’s absence, Mrs. Olson will attempt to contact a parent either at home or at a place of employment to verify the absence. Absence notification for students in grades 6-12 should be called into the secondary attendance office at 273-2185 by 8:30 a.m.

✓ Class lists
Elementary class lists will be posted in the main school lobby on walk-in registration day, August 1, 2002.

✓ Physicals
Physicals are required for:
1) Students entering nursery classes (or an original or copy of a physical done within one calendar year of the first day of nursery).
2) Students entering PLS for the first time as kindergarten students (or an original or copy of a physical done within one calendar year of the first day of kindergarten).
3) Students transferring into Price Lab School. A copy of a physical done upon their entry into preschool or kindergarten, (whichever is later) will be accepted.
- **School Lunch Program**
  We offer both a nutritious breakfast and lunch program available for all PLS students. Breakfast is from 7:30-8:00 a.m. for high school and 7:50-8:20 a.m. for elementary.
  Your advance purchase of lunches or breakfasts will be entered into the computer program. As your student uses meals, they will be charged against the family’s balance in the computer system. Please send payments monthly. You may purchase any amount you wish.

  The cost of hot lunch for elementary students will remain at $1.50 per lunch. Middle and high school lunches will be $1.65. Breakfast prices will be $0.90 for elementary and $1.00 for all secondary students.

  Free and reduced-price meal applications which were approved last year will be honored during the first two weeks of the school year, but new applications must be filed if a student is to continue to receive free or reduced meals. The application for Free or Reduced Meals is available to all families. We handle these applications with the strictest of confidence. Students on this program are treated no differently than paying students. It is a good idea for parents to visit with students regarding this option as only one breakfast and lunch are allowed each day. If a student wishes to have a second lunch, partial lunch, or a la carte items, that will be billed to the family. Applications are included in your registration packet.

  Parents are welcome and encouraged at any time to visit school and eat breakfast and/or lunch with their child(ren). Simply come to the office to purchase a ticket (Breakfast: $1.00, Lunch $2.00). Children are thrilled to have their parents accompany them to the cafeteria!

- **Change of Address**
  We need to be notified immediately of any change of address or telephone number. Please call the Elementary/Secondary Office at 273-7666.

- **Student Records**
  Cumulative student records may be examined by parents on request. Appointments for that purpose may be made by calling the Guidance Office at 273-2220.

- **Insurance forms**
  The school has purchased catastrophic insurance on all students that provides coverage in all school-related activities. This insurance has been arranged through the Iowa High School Athletic Association. It does not replace the need for school or family health insurance; it only supplements such coverage. This insurance goes into effect after the first $25,000 in medical expenses (incurred within one year) related to a school accident has been covered by the individual or by another insurance company. Information on medical insurance is included with the registration materials.

- **Nursery/Kindergarten**
  For nursery/kindergarten children, all day August 21 & 22 will be devoted to parent-teacher conferences. Parents of students entering the PLS nursery or kindergarten for the first time should bring the completed physical and immunization forms and a copy of the child’s birth certificate to the conference, if it was not available at the Round-Up or the time of preregistration. The first regular day of classes for all nursery/kindergarten children will be Friday, August 23, 2002.

  School hours for nursery students will be 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Monday through Friday.

- **Bus Transportation**
  Free bus transportation is provided to Laboratory School students under two types of arrangements. Rural Cedar Falls students (K-12 only) may ride the Cedar Falls Community School bus without charge. Cedar Falls students who reside within the city, but are a great distance from school or located in a hazardous pedestrian area, may wish to purchase monthly bus transportation passes. Such passes are sold on a "space available" basis, and require children to walk to and from the most convenient pick-up point near their home. Information about the passes is available from Claire Brooks, Personnel Director for the Cedar Falls Community School District, 277-8800.

- **Parking information**
  The parking area on Campus Street in front of the school is designated as a "No Parking" zone. Parents needing to conduct school business at other times are generally safe in parking on Campus Street and using emergency flashers on a short-term basis. All parents are encouraged to get and use a PLS parking sticker from Karen William's office that will allow longer term parking in the visitor parking places in the "B" lot just south of the building. There is no cost for this sticker.

- **Get Involved with PTP and the Booster Club**
  We encourage all parents to get involved with our Parents and Teachers in Partnership (PTP) organization and the NU Booster Club this coming year. These groups provide support that is essential to maintaining quality programs at PLS.

  Membership applications are included in the registration packet. Please take time now to fill the form out and return it to school with your registration materials!

- **Thank you John Deere**
  We would thank to give a special thanks to John Deere for their generous contribution of office furniture to PLS.

- **Important Information about Student Schedules**
  As you remember, student registration forms were completed last spring for the upcoming 2002-2003 school year. However, some master schedule changes have occurred over the summer, which may cause some students to reconsider some of their schedule options for this fall. These changes reflect the needs of our students and serve to provide a program that will prepare every student for his/her postsecondary experience.

  Schedules can be picked up on registration day Thursday, August 1, in the Guidance Office. If you would like to make changes to your schedule you may contact Mr. Stichter in the Guidance Office (273-2232 or 273-2220) to make appointments starting August 1.
Middle and High School Reminders...

**Lockers**
Students are to use the locker assigned, according to our Master Schedule, unless approval to move has been given by the principal. Students are held responsible for the locker assigned to them by the Administrative Offices.

Locks are not provided by the school. It is expected that students will bring a secure lock with them the first day of classes and keep their locker locked at all times. Preferably, they should be high quality combination padlocks, although key locks are acceptable. If keys are lost or forgotten it may be necessary to cut keyed padlocks off student lockers.

**Physicals**
Physical examinations are required for:
1) Students entering grade 7 (or an original or copy of a physical done within one calendar year of the first day of grade 7).
2) Students transferring into Price Lab School. A copy of a physical done upon their entry into kindergarten or grade 7 (whichever is later) will be accepted.
3) All students participating in athletics. Yearly physicals are required for participants in all athletic programs, including cheerleading.

**Absences**
We ask that parents of secondary student call the Attendance Office (273-2185) between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. as soon as you know when your student is unable to attend classes. This procedure gives the school a check on students who may be absent from school without parental knowledge, and it alerts the nurse to situations where the student has been seriously ill, thus allowing an opportunity to adjust the academic expectations for that student. We do need to be informed daily if the student is absent more than one day. Please Note: We will attempt to contact a parent whether at home or place of employment if a call is not received.

**School Pictures**
Pictures will be taken of all secondary students in grades 6-12 on September 4. All students need to be photographed for the yearbook. Parents will have the option of purchasing the pictures. However, if the student is photographed as YEARBOOK ONLY, pictures may not be purchased from that sitting. Payments must be made at the time the student is photographed and checks need to be made out to Lifetouch Studios.

Elementary pictures and grade 6-12 re-takes will take place on September 19. An elementary re-take day will be set for a later date.

**Student Messages**
As we receive many messages for students every day, it is very important that you tell your student(s) (grades 6-12) to check the bulletin board outside the office on a daily basis for student messages. PLS does not have an intercom system, and we simply do not have the staff to deliver messages to students. We will, of course, deliver an emergency message directly to the student.

**Policy Statement for Equal Educational Opportunity**
"Malcolm Price Laboratory School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status, or disability with regard to access to services, or treatment in its programs or activities." A person who feels s/he has been discriminated against is encouraged to contact Katheryn East at 273-6789 and the UNI Office of Affirmative Action at 273-2846.

**Parking Permits**
A permit is required of any student who parks a motor vehicle in the Laboratory School lots. For questions regarding parking permits and charges, call Public Safety at 273-3179. This policy is a University Policy and will be enforced by University Public Safety Officers. Permits are available at the Public Safety Office in Gilchrist Hall.

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**NUHS Choir Information**
Students in the Northern University High School Choir need to have concert black attire for all performances with the exception of the final spring concert in May, when students will wear formal or dress attire. Concert black clothing for men is a long-sleeved white shirt with a button down collar, a black necktie, black dress pants, socks, and shoes (no athletic shoes). For women, any black dress or skirt and top is acceptable, with off-black hose and black dress shoes. Mini-skirts or extreme necklines are not appropriate for performance, and shoes need to be comfortable for standing (heels over 2" are uncomfortable). Students are encouraged to find a comfortable, washable outfit and use it for all performances. If you need help in locating concert black attire for your student, have questions, or wish to donate concert black clothing items (especially white shirts), please contact the NU Choral Office (6238).

– Dr. Linda Sharp

**Support Services: Meeting Individual Student Needs**
We would like all PLS parents to be aware of PLS Support Services. PLS Support Services are a wide variety of services that are designed to meet the individual needs of students at PLS. These services are initiated and coordinated through student team meetings (STM)—a process in which we put our heads together to come up with a good plan for meeting an individual student’s needs. An STM includes parents, students, teachers and other people as relevant. A parent, student, teacher, advisor or other interested person can initiate an STM by contacting Katheryn East. A full description of the process is contained in the Building Equity Plan. A copy of that plan is available in the PLS library. If you have interest in knowing more about STM at PLS please contact Katheryn East (273-6789; eastk@uni.edu)

**Homework Help**
Support Services is interested in staffing an after school homework program. If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering to work on this, please contact Katheryn East (273-6789; eastk@uni.edu).

**PLS Online Newsletter**
The monthly PLS newsletter will continue to be published electronically on the PLS website at www.pls.uni.edu. Families will be notified by email each month when the newsletter has been posted to the PLS website. A link to the newsletter for that month will be included in the email message. To save postage, hard copies will only be mailed to those families without internet access. To place your email address on the PLS Parent mailing list, please send an email message to Karen.Williams@uni.edu requesting that your email address be added to the PLS Parent mailing list.

Parents are invited to submit articles, announcements, and kudos about their student(s) to be included in the monthly parent newsletter to the editor, Lynn.Dykstra@uni.edu