

# The Nurse News

*From the Nurses Office*

FIRST EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2009

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of The Nurse News. This newsletter is meant to bring you the most current and relevant information pertaining to your child's health.

## CONTENTS

Section 1 Novel H1N1 update.....	
Section 2 Healthy Choices.....	
Section 3 Immunizations.....	
Section 4 Allergy and Asthma Action Plans.....	
Section 5 Nurse Office Hours.....	
Section 6 Denta Health.....	
Section 7 Vision and Hearing Screenings.....	
Contact Information.....	

## SECTION 1 NOVEL H1N1 UPDATE

As most of you know, the school district has been preparing for Novel H1N1 and the effects it will have on our school children. We are working closely with the St. Charles County Health Department and will keep our district informed with updates that include: Inoculations when and where they will be available, and any important information that we can pass along.

Right now the Health Department anticipates late October for vaccine availability. Good hand washing, staying home if you are sick, coughing or sneezing in to the corner of your elbow instead of your hands and getting the vaccine as soon as it is available are the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control.

## SECTION 2 HEALTHY CHOICES

This year the Nurses Office will have a different spin on the Healthy Choices Program...Stay tuned for announcements. Fun and exciting challenges will be opened up to the entire elementary student population.

## SECTION 3 IMMUNIZATIONS

The State of Missouri requires that school age children have a series of immunizations in order for them to attend a Public School. If you have any questions or concerns about these immunizations or if you feel that your child's immunization record is incomplete, please notify the Nurses office immediately. Immunizations are available from the County Health Department for a "donation". The number to contact the immunization department/County

Health Nurse is 636-949-7400. A recording outlines the hours that immunizations are available.

Children coming to Kindergarten need a “comprehensive eye exam” from an ophthalmologist or an optometrist by January 1, 2010. Call the office if you need more information.

## SECTION 4 ASTHMA AND ALLERGY ACTION PLANS

The State of Missouri now requires that any child that has a history of asthma or allergies have an Action Plan on file in the Nurses Office. An action plan is a document, signed by your child’s physician, which outlines a plan of action in case he or she should have a problem at school. Please contact the Nurse’s Office if you need an Action Plan for your Doctor.

**Why are my child’s medications in his or her back pack?** The Nurse’s office feels that the best and safest place for your child to keep his or her emergency medication is near them. Each backpack that contains emergency medication should be marked with an Orange “M” tag. The tag signifies to Bus Drivers and Teachers that there are emergency meds in the backpack. If your child needs to use his or her medication during the school day, he or she will bring the backpack to the Nurse’s Office and it will be administered by the Nurse.

Children old enough to carry their own emergency medications need a current Doctor’s order on file in the Nurses Office.

## SECTION 5 OFFICE HOURS

The Orchard Farm School District has 2 Nurses that cover the campus. High School Office Hours are from 7:30 am to 8:30 am and again from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Nurse will respond to emergencies.

Middle School Students that are able are asked to see the Nurse in the Elementary School Office.

## SECTION 6 DENTAL HEALTH

The Nurse’s office has resources to help district Children that are under or uninsured obtain dental services for. Call 636-250-5218 if you need assistance.

**Give Kids A Smile** is a program that provides free Dental Care at a clinic in St. Louis. The spaces fill up quickly so if you are interested you need to fill out an application and send it off now. The clinic dates are October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2009. Call the office for an application; we can fax it off for you.

## SECTION 7 VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS

This district can provide hearing and vision screening for your child. Teachers or parents can request a screening if there is a concern. Results of the screenings are sent to the requesting Teacher and to the parent.

The University of Missouri Ophthalmology School screens the children in Grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 every year. This year UMSL will be here on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and November 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be notified if their child fails the screening.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Nursing Staff are:

Mrs. Betsy VanScoyk RN      Mrs. Amy Liesmann RN      Mrs. Debbie Pohlmann Clerk

We are in the office from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm daily.      Phone: Elementary 636-250-5219

Phone: High School 636-250-5404      Fax: 636-250-5204