



# Cobblestone Elementary School



August 18, 2015

Dear Cobblestone Families,

As we all realize, regular school attendance is essential to student learning and overall school success. We need to have our students available to learn in our classrooms so that they are able to fully benefit from the outstanding instructional experiences that are provided to them daily in each of our classrooms.

We also are keenly aware that student health contributes to their success in learning. It is extremely important that parents ensure that students do not come to school when they are ill. It is equally important that we ensure students attend school at all other times.

Did you also know that Cobblestone's funding, like all other schools, is determined based on our student attendance rates? We receive money from the state each day a child is in at school. When students are absent, **even for excused absences**, we do not receive any funding from the state! Most parents are unaware of this. They are under the false impression that an "excused" absence means the school receives funding from the state. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Over the last 3 years, the amount of revenue lost from absences just at Cobblestone has been over \$230,000! These absences have also resulted in 41,000 hours of lost instructional time to our children. Given the increase we have had to class sizes in the primary grades, it will be more difficult to help children who have been absent catch up on missed instruction. And given the continued limited funding to education, it is critical to maximize all possible sources of funding by increasing our attendance rates. Towards this end, I am asking for your help by:

- 1) Scheduling vacations or trips during times when school is NOT in session.
- 2) Scheduling medical appointments after school hours. If this is not possible, bring your child to school for part of the day so we reduce the amount of lost instructional time and are able to claim funding for your child for that day. The school receives full funding even if the child is here for only part of the day. The rate we receive is approximately \$40 per day.
- 3) Avoid absences for any reason other than illness.
- 4) Keeping your child at home when they are ill.

**Just imagine if each student could improve their attendance by just**

**1 day per trimester, we could generate approximately \$50,000!!!**

We thank you ahead of time for your assistance in improving student attendance!

Sincerely,

Kathy Goddard

Principal