

September 23, 2022

Dear Plainville Families,

It is with pleasure that I end the week by sharing that the town's [boil water advisory](#) has been lifted! We are so appreciative of everyone's understanding and assistance over these past two days.

Also in the good news category has been seeing our schools open to our families this week for the Jackson and Wood School Open House events. We all know the challenges that have been associated with developing home-school partnerships when our schools have been closed to anyone other than faculty/staff and students for the past two years. Seeing children and family members connecting with current and former teachers at Jackson School was heartwarming; likewise, I sincerely enjoyed seeing the parents and caregivers of our older students learning about this year's programs at the Wood School. While we know that our doors opened to students on August 31st, I always feel that it is our Open House programs which confirm that the new year is up and running. To me, Plainville's Open House programs provided the exclamation point on what I believe has been a very positive start to the 2022-2023 school year.

I have received a couple of questions about some of the professional development programs that our teachers attended earlier this month. With the introduction of a new math program this year (Illustrative Math in grades K-5), as well as the purchase of some new reading materials, training sessions were scheduled for early in the school year for teachers of grades K-5. Teachers attended several PD sessions (each lasting 2-3 hours) as a means to ensure that our educators were well prepared to begin using their new materials. While classroom teachers attended the training sessions, we relied on a combination of substitute teachers, specialist teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals to ensure that each classroom was well staffed. Everyone's flexibility was greatly appreciated, and the training sessions were valuable. That said, we agree that this sort of training during the first couple of school weeks was not ideal, and we will continue working to find the best ways of balancing the need for PD with the need for teachers to be with their students. I don't anticipate this same sort of schedule being replicated for next September. What I do anticipate, however, is continued collaboration, planning, and conversations among our educators (including communication with our families) as we become more comfortable and adept at using our new materials. The training sessions provided us with a necessary foundation for the work ahead.

One of the many things that made me smile this week was seeing some of our first graders (and their teacher!) proudly wearing their "first day of fall" crowns around the school. I guess that validates what our calendars are telling us, and I wish you all the opportunity to enjoy what should be some beautiful fall weather this weekend!

Truly,
Jennifer Parson