October 3, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian of Menomonee Falls 5K Student:

Beginning the week of October 15, children in the 5K kindergarten program will be participating in the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) assessment. This literacy assessment is a requirement of the state of Wisconsin and will be completed once in the fall and once again in the spring. This is the first year of the assessment and consists of tests in the following areas: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary. The series of tests will be given over the course of the week of October 15th with about one of these short tests each day (see schedule below). If a child misses one of these days, times during the following week will be set aside to do the make-up. Total time that your child will be testing is about thirty minutes.

Monday, October 15	Group Rhyme Awareness Letter Recognition (1/2 of Class)
Tuesday, October 16	Group Beginning Sound Awareness Letter Recognition (1/2 of Class)
Wednesday, October 17	Individual Rhyme Awareness (if necessary) Letter Sounds
Thursday, October 18	Individual Beginning Sound Awareness (if necessary) Spelling
Friday, October 19	COW Word Recognition in Isolation (optional)

In order to provide you with further information about the PALS assessment, please see the attached information on the other side of this sheet from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. It gives more detail related to the assessment and uses of the results. If you would like further resources, please visit the Department of Public Instruction website, http://www.palswisconsin.info/parents.html. You can also contact my office at 262-250-3204. As we come closer to the testing window, there is no academic preparation that is necessary at home. As a parent, encourage your child to do his/her best and give your child opportunities to talk about his/her experiences.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to sharing the results with you.

Sincerely,

Gary Kiltz, Ph.D.
Director of Curriculum and Learning