It sounds as though the DPI may allow school districts to apply for school start date waivers again next year. It has worked out extremely well for us this year to have started school on (M) August 17th and we are looking at possibly starting on (W) August 18th or (M) August 23rd this fall. If you have any thoughts on this, either good or bad, please feel free to contact me.

In the fall, students are anxious and excited to get back to school. The fall also has more breaks and activities that make the time go by really fast. However, the spring isn’t quite the same, and no matter when the weather starts turning nicer, if that’s March or May, the students are ready to get out of school. Having experienced this many times in the past, we know that more learning takes place in the fall than in the spring. I wish the state law on starting school no earlier than September 1st would change, but in the meantime, we will try to get an August start whenever possible.

Valentine’s Day celebrations are still going to be held at Cornell Elementary this year. A little card and piece of candy can do wonders for students! It makes them feel special when they get something from someone. Of course, moving into the middle school and high school, the gifts get bigger and the feelings grow stronger. Valentine’s Day can be a “make it or break it” day for some students. Will they have the courage to give a Valentine to someone special? Will they get one in return? What if that special someone gets multiple valentines besides the one from you? This can be a trying time for teenagers! The lessons of love can be some of the toughest lessons learned for our students. Have a Happy Valentine’s Day and let’s hope spring is right around the corner!