

Woodland

NCA Accredited

April 2009



Newsletter

1401 Woodland, Portage, MI 49024

(269) 323-6600

Sue O'Donnell, Principal

sodonnell@portageps.org

The staff and parents at Woodland school work cooperatively to develop the whole child in an atmosphere of respect and dignity

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



I can't believe how quickly April has come upon us. The next few weeks will go by very quickly as well. We've had a successful year so far and look forward to a productive fourth quarter.

Now that spring break is almost here, the weather is getting nicer, and the days are longer, the students often feel that summer is here already. It becomes harder to keep them focused and on task. Please remind your child that he/she still has nine weeks of school left and needs to keep doing his/her personal best. Frequent, gentle reminders will hopefully help with this!

Our playground is muddy! Please make sure you're still sending boots with your child.

Please check out this month's newsletter for interesting articles and upcoming events such as the new family information session on April 22nd at 6:00 followed by our annual ice-cream social at 6:30.

Thank you, again, for all of your help and support! Have a wonderful spring break.
Sue O'Donnell

REPORT CARDS SENT HOME APRIL 17

The last instructional day of the third quarter was Thursday, March 26. Third quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, April 17th. Please be sure to ask your child for his/her report card on Friday, April 17th.

CURIOUS KIDS... REGISTER TODAY FOR SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL!

Curious Kids is a licensed child care program offering structured activities in a safe and caring environment. Curious Kids offers child care to all children in the community for children ages 6 weeks to 14 years as well as ½ day preschool for 3 and 4 year olds! Curious Kids promotes positive social interactions and offers interesting and fun activities for our children. Via the Portage Public Schools buses, we provide transportation to and from your child's elementary and middle schools! Our flexible schedules and payment plans, along with our super summer discounts, make us the Center of choice with parents in Portage! Please call 323-6780 or check out our web page at www.portageps.org for more information!

COMMUNITY EARTH DAY CELEBRATION!

Build a bird feeder. Learn where to take those dead batteries and dirty oil from the last oil change. Test your knowledge about "ghost energy." Try your hand at a couple of carnival games. Get your face painted, or gather tips on how to conserve water and energy. Lower that electric bill! The PNHS Environmental Club partnered with Sam's Club to bring you an Earth Day Celebration like no other! Mark your calendars! **April 18th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the parking lot of Sam's Club is the place to be!** The event is geared for children elementary and middle school ages, but designed to be FUN for the whole family! The best part --IT'S FREE!



BIRTHDAYS

We want to celebrate your child's birthday, however, in some cases, these events are becoming more of a party and taking away from class instruction. We will take a few minutes to recognize your child's special day, sing Happy Birthday and, if desired, have a special treat. We need these treats to be something easy to eat, such as a cookie, cupcake, or ice cream bar. Please leave the treat in the office, the teacher will be notified, and will come to get the treat at her first availability. Please do not plan something that needs to be served and involves plates, cups, and silverware. The teachers will not be able to give you a specific time they will celebrate. Often times, they will fit it in during a natural break. You may think that it only takes 15-20 minutes to celebrate in class, however, if there are 24 students, that is 8 hours of instruction time that is missed during the year. Parties and/or more involved celebrations need to be held outside of school.

On the same note, please do not have balloon or flower bouquets sent to school. Often these are quite large and become distracting to the children. Taking these home on the bus is a safety issue, especially when it is a large balloon bouquet. Your child will be just as surprised to receive these bouquets at home. We appreciate your help and support with this.

LOST AND FOUND

We have a number of coats, gloves, hats, etc. in our lost and found. Please check it to see if any items are your's. Items not claimed will be donated.

SIGN-UP FOR E-MAIL UPDATES

The District offers a free list service for anyone who would like to get regular e-mail updates about Portage Schools, any of the individual schools, or about the two district foundations, The Portage Education Foundation and the Portage Athletic Foundation.

To sign-up, simply visit the District's homepage at www.portageps.org, and click on the box in the lower right corner. That will take you to a page allowing you to select the list service messages you would like. Once you subscribe, you will receive a

confirmation alerting you that your order went through. Call 323-5000 with any questions.

MOTHER/SON DINNER AND MOVIE NIGHT

Cub Scout Pack 297 is sponsoring a school wide Mother and Son event Friday, May 8. A spaghetti dinner (prepared by our very own cub scout dads!) will be served beginning at 6:00pm, with a movie to start at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 per couple, \$5 individual (for grandmas and extra siblings!). For tickets and info please contact Wendy Wheeler at 324-9574 or wendyjwheel@att.net.

FIELD TRIP LUNCHES

With field trip season getting into full gear, we want to remind you that food service can provide sack lunches. The sack cost is the same as a regular school lunch (\$1.80) and students who are on meal benefits receive these meals at their same benefit level. Students/parents need to fill out a sack lunch order form and turn it in to the café staff in Woodland. We do ask for a 48 hour notice so that we have enough product on hand to complete the sacks. You may get the forms from the café. They are also posted it on the PPS website with the monthly elementary menus.

WALK FOR WOODLAND

We are excited to announce the first annual "Walk for Woodland" at our school on **Tuesday, May 5, 2009**. This healthy event, held during the school day, is intended to raise money to offset the costs of field trips, Accelerated Reader, teacher appreciation and PTO-sponsored assemblies offered to our children this school year. But most importantly, it will be a fun one-day event that will get our children moving!

Look for a letter from the committee with more information. If you are interested in helping please contact Sarah Baker at 544-0941.

12TH ST ELEMENTARY PARENT MEETING

Tuesday, 4/21, 6:30-7:30 at West Middle School. Principal Ron Jones, Supt. Marsh Wells and the transition team will be available to discuss:

- Facilities
- Walk and Bus Zones
- How to join PTO or help with the welcome activities

Woodland Elementary

1401 Woodland Ave. • Portage, MI 49024 • 269.323.6600



Dear Parents,

We would like to invite you to Woodland Elementary for a “new family informational meeting” on Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 pm. We encourage you to bring your children as this will be taking place during our Ice Cream Social & Bookfair.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- share some background about the school.
- update you on how our PTO supports Woodland.
- provide you with some information on other opportunities available for your child during and after school.

We will have staff and parents there to answer questions and provide tours of the building.

We anticipate the meeting lasting about 30 minutes. Our Ice Cream Social starts at 6:30. We would love for you to stay and enjoy some ice cream as well as meet and mingle with other families.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could RSVP by April 10 so we could get a feel for how many additional families to expect for the Ice Cream Social. Please send your response to Joni Shore at jshore1@msn.com or call 324-6273.

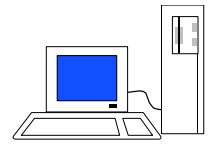
Sincerely,

Joni Shore
PTO President

Sue O’Donnell
Woodland Elementary Principal



Media Center News



Volume XV Number 9

April 1, 2009

I hope everyone will have a restful and enjoyable spring break. **Take time to read a good book** or share a story with a family member.



Chess Club has ended this week and will start again **after spring break**. We had over thirty active players; I have enjoyed watching them play. One can see them improve as they grow more adept and continue to learn the game. Congratulations to all our players.

Spring Book Fair will run from **April 20th through April 24th**. Parents' night will be **Wednesday April 22** when we will be open from 6:00 until 8:00. That is the same night as the PTO ice cream social. This will be a buy one get one free book fair. You will be able to stock up for summer reading, or perhaps buy a present or two.

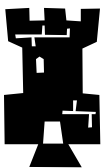
Thank you to those who stopped in the media center during conferences. It is always a pleasure to see you and share what your child is reading. You are welcome to stop by anytime with questions or suggestions.



Many students have taken the **Sudoku** challenge! They have tried the number puzzles and many are successful at solving them. I will continue to put out new ones in the coming weeks.

Many students have been successful at the **Challenge Chair**. Ask your student if he has tried to solve the current puzzle which is a castle that fits together. Congratulations to all those that have tried to solve this thinking problem. The Challenge Chair has various puzzles and mind teasers for students to solve. These are available to all to try and solve during their visit to the media center.

We have a very tight race in grades 3, 4, and 5 for the top **Readers of the Roundtable**. Results will be shared next month when we will see who was diligent and remembered to turn in their bookmark!



April is Adventure month when we will focus on Egypt and adventure stories as well as highlighting special authors. We will also bring back Camp Read A Lot and possibly explore camp experiences such as learn how to read a compass and tie some basic knots. Magic Tree House books fit very nicely into this theme!

A very special thank you to all of our Media Mom helpers for all their help. They are a very dedicated group of volunteers who help the Media Center tremendously.

Thank You!



Spring is coming!