

Angling Road School Family Newsletter

Welcome to the 2008-2009 School Year!

Karen Witvoet, Principal
Linda Bowen & Debbie Slager, Secretaries
Telephone (269) 323-6000 FAX 323-6090
Email: kwitvoet@portageps.org

To Students: We have an exciting year planned for you at Angling Road Elementary School! We want Angling Road to be a school where you feel safe and ready to learn. We know you are ready to meet your teacher, make new friends, and work hard! We are happy to see you - Welcome to Angling Road School!

To Parents: Thank you for sending your child (ren) to our school. We feel privileged to have so many wonderful students and families supporting Angling Road! We look forward to working with you this year. Angling Road students are noted for their strong academic accomplishments, ability to work collaboratively, high interest in athletics, art, and music, love of reading, and excitement to learn about technology to enhanced their learning. Angling Road children care about each other, act with integrity, honor, and are responsible students. This year, our entire staff will implement positive behavior supports with all children in all areas of their school life. We will be talking with students daily about being a valued member of the Angling Road CREW. **CREW stands for Caring, Responsible, Excellent Attitude and Working Together** – important attributes for all. You will hear about CREW from your children – CREW behavior/academic expectations bring common language to all teachers and staff to use with children and give students clear understandings about how to handle themselves to reach their full potential. Angling Road School applied for and received a three year grant to receive positive behavior support training for our staff through the Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative. Many schools throughout the state are working with MiBLSi teams through local Intermediate School Districts and Angling Road is now a MiBLSi school. With 100% of our staff involved, we have worked diligently to develop clear behavioral expectations for all students in their classrooms, hallways, assemblies, with guest teachers, bathrooms, cafeteria, and playground. All staff are committed to telling, teaching, modeling, watching, encouraging and supporting all students to maximize learning and character development. Behavior and academic success are intimately connected and need to be intelligently addressed together – Angling Road School is a high performing school with amazing children!

Angling Road School Mission Statement: The teachers, staff, & parents of Angling Road School will educate our children to be confident, caring citizens, ready for the responsibilities and challenges of the future.

Angling Road CREW - Together Building Excellence!

Welcome to the Angling Road community! The staff at Angling Road is looking forward to a year full of learning & growing with your children! Please know that Angling Road is your school & a place for both students & families to be successful. We are eager to maintain a school community dedicated to providing a nurturing, safe and challenging learning environment for all. The Angling Road staff invites you to be an active participant in your child's education. Please keep in touch your child's teacher & assist our PTO in their efforts to support school programs! We value your children & learning and look forward to working with you.

We believe in providing quality education to your children & value these belief statements:

- *We believe students are our first priority and the decisions we make must be based on what is best for all students.*
- *We believe parents and teachers working as a team provide the appropriate instruction and support for the optimal success of each student.*
- *We believe Angling Road Elementary School must be an emotionally and physically safe environment for all.*
- *We believe Angling Road Elementary School improves instruction and enhances student achievement through a willingness to investigate and implement creative and innovative techniques.*
- *We believe in a flexible curriculum that is developmentally appropriate with high expectations for each child.*
- *We believe significant and appropriate training opportunities must be provided for all individuals involved in learning.*
- *We believe a variety of support systems must exist for all students.*

See you at Open House/Ice Cream Social: *Please join us on Thursday, September 11th to meet your child's teacher, meet new families, and see friends! Scheduled classroom and staff meetings are listed below. If your child's teacher has already had a class meeting, please stop in the classroom and see all the great things going on!*

Grade Level/Class meeting times:

6:30-6:50 p.m. First Grades

***6:30 p.m. Attention Dads, Grandpas, Uncles of Angling Road Students.**

Join Mrs. Cindy Figueroa in the gym at 6:30 p.m. for WatchDOGS Information and Sign ups!

6:30-8:00 p.m. Visit our Encore Staff (Music, Art, Gym, Media Center) – Passports to our Encore Curriculums will be available in the main entrance area and with all specials teachers.

7:00-7:20 p.m. Mrs. Wilson's Second Grade & all Third Grades

7:30-7:50 p.m. All Fourth Grades & all Fifth Grades

Please stop in to see Mrs. Russel, Reading Consultant Room 12, Mrs. Rogers, Resource Room, Room 1, and Mrs. Gross, Speech/Language Consultant, Room 25, Mrs. Conner, Gifted and Talented Programs, Room 23.

CALENDAR DATES:

September 3: 1st Full Day of School – Off we go!

September 9-12: All School Dibels & Writing Assessments

September 11: OPEN HOUSE, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. & Ice Cream Social (sponsored by PTO). See classroom meeting times above. Enjoy the Ice Cream Social sponsored by our Parent Teacher Organization in the cafeteria during Open House! Our PTO is a vital part of our school community and we hope each and every parent will consider being an active part of PTO!

September 15: Picture Day – flyers will be coming home soon!

September 16: 5th Graders meet with Sherman Lake Camp staff at 2:30 P.M. (Students/teachers only)

September 16: 5th Grade Sherman Lake Camp Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m. cafeteria. (Parents/teachers only.)

September 18: 1st PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Media Center

September 26: ALL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER ROAD RALLY! All students and staff will participate in the 2nd Annual Angling Road Rally. Details coming soon!

September 29-October 1st: 5th Graders and teachers at Sherman Lake Camp

Recess & Lunch Schedules

5th Grade: Recess 11:00-11:30 Lunch: 11:30-11:56

2nd Grade: Recess 11:30-12:00 Lunch: 12:00-12:26

3rd Grade: Recess 12:00-12:30 Lunch: 12:30-12:56

1st Grade: Recess 12:30-1:00 Lunch: 1:00-- 1:26

4th Grade: Recess 1:00-1:30 Lunch: 1:30--1:56

SCHOOL HOURS:

First Bell: 8:36 a.m.

School Starts: 8:43 a.m.

Dismissal: 3:42 p.m.

Half-day Dismissal: 11:57 a.m.

SCHOOL HOURS FOR YOUNG FIVES/

KINDERGARTEN:

Morning: 8:43-11:44 a.m.

Afternoon: 12:40-3:42 p.m.

Half-day Dismissal: 11:57 a.m.

Electronic Angling Road Newsletters: Get the Angling Road School Newsletters by Email - just sign up by going to www.portageps.org, then *elementary*, then *angling road*. We have about 425 newsletters going home each week electronically. If you do not have email access, we will send a paper copy of the Newsletter home with the youngest student in your family.

Be in the Know about What's New...

We welcome several new families to our school community! We have added an additional 3rd grade classroom this year in order to improve class sizes to approximately 20 students in each 3rd grade classroom. Mrs. Stephenson's 3rd grade classroom is in Room 5, formerly the Head Start preschool classroom.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF at Angling Road this year!

- We welcome Mrs. Samantha Stephenson to Angling Road. Mrs. Stephenson is teaching third grade. Her teaching career includes being a technology teacher in 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades, and most currently at Moorsbridge Elementary, 3rd grade. We added an additional section of third grade and we are delighted to have Mrs. Stephenson with us! Welcome!
- Welcome to Mrs. Stacey Bonine. Mrs. Bonine is teaching fourth grade. She is replacing Ms. Nichols who retired at the end of the '07-'08 school year. Mrs. Bonine's teaching career includes teaching 1st grade in Farmington Hills and 4th grade in Aurora, Colorado. Mrs. Bonine joins our fourth grade team and we are thrilled to have her smile and energy with us! Welcome Mrs. Bonine!

THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW...

1. LOADS OF FORMS will go home on the 1st day of school! Please send completed forms to school by September 3rd. Questions call the office.

- **STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET**—Update & complete including phone numbers, cell numbers, allergies, addresses, daycare numbers, medical info., Emergency contacts, and important student information.
- **FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORM**—One form per family. It is important to us to have all forms returned, whether applicable or not.
- **EMERGENCY DISMISSAL FORM (pink form)** Complete & return in case of early dismissal and various emergencies. This information will help us in seeing that your children are dismissed to your home or day-care, grandparents, etc. in case of an emergency.
- **MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION FORMS** –Complete if your son/daughter is taking medications (prescription or over-the-counter) during school hours. These forms are located in the back of the Elementary Handbook.
- **ANGLING ROAD SCHOOL DIRECTORY INFORMATION**--Complete & return by September 3rd (1/2 sheet blue)
- **ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK with CODE OF CONDUCT & INTERNET USAGE FORM: Code of Conduct/Internet Usage Form for new students, Kindergarten & Young Fives Only.** This is in the back of the Elementary Handbook. Students must have these forms on file in order to participate in various activities, including ANY technology/computer work in the lab!
- **STUDENT INSURANCE LETTER AND FORM** if you would like to take advantage of this insurance program.

2. STUDENT ABSENCES must be called in to the school office. 323-6000 We have an answering machine and expect parents to call if your son/daughter is home due to illness, special appointments, and/or special circumstances. All students are expected to attend school each day and if absent, students must be accounted for. Please call 323-6000 in order to ensure your student's safety and Angling Road attendance policies. Required attendance records are taken by 8:50 a.m. each day. Please contact the office, 323-6000, when your student is absent from school.

3. BREAKFAST/LUNCHES/MILK/SNACKS HAVE INCREASED THIS YEAR. Breakfast costs are \$1.20, Lunch costs are \$1.80, and Milk costs are \$0.45. All adult lunches are \$2.75. If you prefer to pay by check, please send checks on Mondays for several lunches, in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, teacher's name, amount enclosed, & numbers of lunches/milks purchased. Mrs. Lauri Johnson, Kitchen Manager, keeps financial accounts for all students. Contact her at ljohnson@portageps.org with questions. Portage Public Schools Food Services will be provided by Chartwells School Dining. Their EAT – LEARN - LIVE approach to nutrition focuses on providing students with great tasting nutritionally balanced meals. EAT reflects Chartwells nutrition standards, defining the quality of the food customized meals and menus for each school district. LEARN focuses on providing students the nutrition and physical activity education they need to make wise food choices now, which will establish the foundation for them to enjoy a long and healthy life. LIVE through physical activity and the promotion of a healthy school environment, Chartwells programs assist teachers, parents, and students to bring lessons to life in the classroom and at home. Elementary breakfast and lunch menus for September as well as the Chartbusters sack lunch menu will be sent home. Students will continue to have 5 daily lunch choices; the first two items are listed in order on the menu with items 3-5 being served every day. Item 3 – all beef hot dog. Item 4 – chef salad (which meets a diabetic exchange parameter for any of our diabetic protocol students) and Item 5 - Chartbusters Sack Lunch. The Fresh Food Bars listed on the menu are available daily to all students who purchase a school lunch, even the sack lunches. They have a variety of fresh vegetables, canned and fresh fruits, & trail mix on them for the students to enjoy each day. Selections will vary based on availability of produce each week.

4. MEDICATION DISTRIBUTION IN SCHOOL: Whenever possible, we encourage parents/guardians to administer medication to children at home. In order to administer medications at school, written consent and instruction from a licensed practitioner and a parent/guardian is required for any type of medication (prescribed AND over-the-counter) to be administered at school. Authorization/Consent must be given on a Portage Public Schools Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization Form. All medication must be brought to school in the original container with the child's name, drug & dosage, time & quantity to be given and physician's name and duration of treatment on the container's label. Angling Road staff will NOT provide any antiseptic ointments, lotions, or cough drops to students. We are only able to encourage a child to wash up a bump or scrape and provide an adhesive bandage. Parents will be contacted as appropriate according to the injury, etc. Under no circumstances will a student be given medication or allowed to take medication without written consent from a physician and parent/guardian.

5. BIRTHDAY TREATS, PETS AT SCHOOL, AND CLASSROOM PARTIES!

- *BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT SCHOOL: If your son/daughter would like to bring in birthday treats for his/her class, we ask that children bring a small gift*

*for each student rather than cupcakes, cookies, etc. We have many children in each classroom with potentially serious food allergies so we consider this a serious safety issue. In order to assure that students are safe at school and all students may celebrate together, we ask that NO baked goods, frozen treats, or food items of any kind be sent for birthday celebrations. **Each grade level will send home a letter with details about birthday celebrations!** Children always make cards, sing “Happy Birthday” & have their name/birthday announced!*

- **PETS AT SCHOOL:** *Due to student and staff allergies, we are asking that NO PETS be brought to school for Show & Tell or any type of classroom visit. We have many students who need to leave the classroom if student pets are visiting. In addition, please do not bring pets into the building when dropping off your students or picking them up at the end of the day. Teachers will not be able to have classroom pets in their classrooms. We appreciate your support! .*
- **HOLIDAY/CLASSROOM PARTIES -** *Teachers have general classroom party information and will talk with Room Parents about classroom party plans. On October 31st, 2:15 p.m., we will have our annual Halloween All School Parade with class parties to follow. As a building, all classrooms will participate in service related projects in the months of November and December. We will support Portage Community Outreach Center with food donations, Adopt A Family projects, Angel Tree contributions, etc. As a building, we will celebrate how you have helped others during these months and consider these great projects in lieu of classroom holiday parties. We will also have an all-school movie in December! Valentines Day will be celebrated on Friday, February 13th. The End of the Year Celebration will be our 2nd annual all-school Field Day. We will provide lots of information in the spring about this exciting time for all students to celebrate the end of a great school year.*

6. ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED (except the main office door) at 9:00 a.m. each day. Doors will remain locked throughout the school day. Your understanding of this safety precaution is greatly appreciated. **ALL PARENTS & VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE USING THE MAIN OFFICE DOOR, SIGN IN, AND RECEIVE A VISITORS BADGE.** Thank you!

7. STUDENT ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL: The elementary school day begins at 8:36 a.m. Students should not arrive on school grounds prior to 8:30 a.m. Afternoon students may arrive at 12:33 p.m. with student safeties supervising students until 12:40 p.m. when school begins. Students who arrive prior to these times will be unsupervised; we are always concerned for student safety and would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

8. BIKE RIDERS, ROLLERBLADERS, SCOOTER RIDERS-- Students in Grades 1-5 who wish to ride bikes, rollerblades or scooters to & from school must fill out a permission slip with parent signature & return to school. Bikes, scooters, and rollerblades may not be used on school grounds. We have a bike/scooter rack at the east entrance of the school.

9. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION is available on the Portage Public School web page. Please note that changes in bussing can only be made with advance

WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION from parents/guardians and approval from the Transportation Dept. If your son/daughter is going home on the bus with a friend, bus notes from parents must be provided 24 hours in advance.

10. VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR.

The Portage Board of Education make available a voluntary student accident insurance program. Parents are able to take advantage of the inexpensive policy for school age children. This program will help families defray the cost of rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles and co-pays and an alternative for claims due to accidental injuries that unfortunately occur on school property, both during and after school hours. **A detailed brochure & enrollment forms will be sent home.**

11. ANGLING ROAD 5th SAFETY PATROL: Mr. Ben Hutchins & Mr. Nic Wight are the Teacher Sponsors for this terrific group! Our Safety Patrol will be posted at both east entrances of the school, bus loop, office entrance, & various posts inside the building.

12. Notice of Rose Pest Solutions Treatments: Due to Acts 636 & 637 of the Michigan State Department of Agriculture's Pesticide notification of schools, we are required to inform you of scheduled pest control service days. The following is a list of service dates (after school hours) for the 2008-2009 school year. September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4.

13. Thank you for providing school supplies for your children.

Your child's teacher will provide a supply list this week for 1st semester and another list just before 2nd semester. Please know we have backpacks filled with school supplies available to any student. Need a backpack? Come on down to the office! Backpacks have been generously donated by the Kalamazoo Valley Community Church. Please call the office with any questions. 323-6000.

14. From our Parent Teacher Organization: Join us at our first meeting, September 18th, 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Hear about our 2nd Annual Road Rally Fundraiser, meet our PTO officers, and find out about the many ways to support our school. **PTO Officers for this year:**

President: Lisa Nagy (Scott in Kindergarten and Stephen in 4th grade)

Vice-President: Janet Ingersoll (Ryan in 2nd grade, Kristin in 4th grade)

Secretary: Anne Marie Fleming (Katie in 2nd grade and Shelby in 5th grade)

Treasurer: Wendy Hyames (Wes in 4th grade)

Please continue to support: Box Tops for Education: Keep collecting box tops! We earned over \$500 last year. **Cartridge for Kids:** Save empty inkjet, laser, fax, & copier cartridges and used cell phones. **Meijer Community Rewards:** If you don't have a card, apply by calling 1-800-962-7011, apply at a Meijer store, or on-line at <http://www.meijer.com/rewards/> **Angling Road Rewards # 500490**

WELCOME TO ANGLING ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

