

Angling Road School Family Newsletter

Welcome to the week of October 27, 2008

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

Parents-Please help! We are having a difficult time right now with week-end paint graffiti on the I-94 wall & paint ball fights! If you drive by school & see anything suspicious, please contact the Portage Police Department. (329-4567)Police are patrolling on a regular basis, especially on weekends. Thanks for helping us keep our school grounds safe for our children!

ANGLING ROAD SCHOOL DIRECTORIES are here! Thank you to our PTO for helping us with the School Directory. Cost- \$2.00 each. Please send your money to school with your son/daughter and we will send home a school directory!

CALENDAR DATES: *Thanks for returning Road Rally donations as soon as possible.*

- October 24: POPCORN SALES during all lunches \$0.25/bag!
- October 24: "Dreams Come True When You're Drug Free!" WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS TO SCHOOL! (Please, appropriate PJ's!)
- October 27: "Living Drug Free is No Sweat" WEAR SWEATPANTS/SWEATSHIRTS TO SCHOOL
- October 28: "Drugs Turn You Inside Out!" WEAR YOUR CLOTHES INSIDE OUT TODAY! (Oops, after Picture Retakes!)
- October 28: School Picture Retakes
- October 29: "Drugs Stink!" WEAR CRAZY OR MISMATCHED SOCKS!
- October 30: "Use your Head, Don't Do Drugs" CRAZY HAIR/WIG DAY
- October 31: "Say BOO to Drugs!" WEAR RED TO SCHOOL AND THEN CHANGE INTO YOUR COSTUME FOR THE PARADE & PARTIES!

October 31: All School Halloween Parade, 2:15 p.m. Class parties after the parade!

October 29-November 12th: Kalamazoo Institute of Arts - ArtReach Exhibit "Legacy and Promise" will be on display in the media center. This is sponsored by Educations for the Arts.

November 4: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Records Day for Staff.

November 14-26: SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AT ANGLING ROAD! The Book Fair will also be available during Parent/Teacher Conferences November 24 & 25. Check out this AR web site!

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/anglingroad>

November 21: Report Cards will be sent home with all students.

November 24: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES from 5:00-8:00 p.m. (This is a regular day of school for all students.)

November 25: ½ Day of School for students with dismissal at 11:57 a.m. PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES, 1:00-4:00 p.m., and 5:00-8:00 p.m.

November 26: No School for students.

November 27-28: Thanksgiving Recess

PTO NEWS/MINUTES/PTO PAPER is now online! Just go to...
www.portageps.org/schools/elementary/Ang/organizations/pto.htm

ANGLING ROAD DECALS for your car windows - \$3.00 each! We are selling them from the office so stop by & pick one up! Wait until you see them-They are GREAT! Thanks to Jodie & Matt Corliss (Ryan & Jessica Beadle) & their business *Corliss Signs* for designing & making these for us - \$3.00 each.

HALLOWEEN PARADE: OCTOBER 31ST, 2:15 P.M. Please join us and bring your cameras! We will have chairs in the main hallway areas for parents. Just a reminder as students choose costumes: Students are NOT to bring any look-alike or toy weapons as part of their costume. We do not allow any extra props for students to carry. Costumes are NOT to have blood or violent themes. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of your child's costume, please contact Karen Witvoet, Principal, prior to sending your child to school with the costume. *Please note that STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR COSTUMES ON THE BUS so send your child's costume to school in a bag and we will allow plenty of time for students to change into/out of costumes before/after the parade/parties.* Class parties will follow the parade.

Who Can Student Information Be Shared With? The confidentiality of student information is of high importance at Angling Road Elementary School. All schools across the country are mandated to follow the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Outlined below is a quick review of information parents/guardians should know regarding FERPA rules and regulations.

- School districts must give full rights with regard to pupil records to either parent unless there is a court order or other legally binding document relating to custody that specifically revokes these rights.
- A parent who does not have physical custody will be assumed to have retained legal custody unless a court order is provided to the school showing that legal custody has been revoked.
- A parent with legal custody maintains a right to meet with and discuss student progress with school staff.
- A stepparent or grandparent has no legal independent rights to student records unless the stepparent or grandparent is the legal guardian. *Teachers will not be able to share verbally or in writing student progress information with a stepparent or grandparent unless a release of information is signed annually and placed in the student's records.*

A parent with legal custody may release student records to a stepparent via a release of information form. This allows school staff to have direct contact with the stepparent regarding student progress.

A parent/guardian with legal custody must sign a release of information for any school staff member to complete forms regarding or to discuss student progress with any outside agency. *Teachers will not be able to share information regarding student progress with tutors, counselors, doctors, etc. unless a release of information is signed annually and placed in the student's records.*

Birthday Invites & Deliveries *The staff of Angling Road request that students NOT hand-out party invitations at school.* Disappointment students may feel about not being invited to a party causes a disruption to the educational environment. Invitations to parties should be made outside of the school environment. *We also request deliveries of flowers or balloons not be made at school.* These deliveries to students often turn into a distraction to the learning process. Consequently, balloons and flowers will not be delivered to classrooms and will remain in the office until the end of the school day for the student to pick up. Please note that flowers and/or balloons are not allowed on our school busses.

No Latex Balloons At Angling Road - It is estimated that between 8,800 and 53,000 Michigan school children could have or develop latex sensitivity. Allergic reactions to latex can range from mild to life-threatening. Angling Road currently has students who are allergic to latex. Because of this and the

increased incidence in latex sensitivity, ***NO latex balloons are allowed in the school building.*** Non-latex gloves & Band-Aids are used in our health room. We use latex free materials in all science experiments.

Toys, Gameboys & Walkmans Students are not to bring toys, Game Boys, Walkmans or other electronic devices to school. These can be expensive and the school can not be responsible for items lost. Toys & games brought from home also create controversy in regards to who may touch or play with the item. We have invested in new playground equipment, balls, sidewalk chalk, etc. and indoor recess games for all students to use and share. Except for special “show and tell” times approved by the teacher, students are not to bring toys or electronic devices to school.

Portage Community Center Offers Free Tutoring: The Portage Community Center offers a free tutoring program to students in grades K-12. Students are able to have a one-on-one tutoring session with a volunteer tutor once a week. To enroll, contact Tia for elementary school tutoring or Ruth for middle and high school tutoring at the Portage Community Center (323.1942) to receive a tutoring packet. According to the PCC, the top three reasons for tutoring are: to help students complete homework assignments, improve study skills and test scores, and achieve higher grades.

FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES – We are scheduling Parent Teacher Conferences. If you would like to meet with additional staff members, including Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. Figueroa, Mrs. Minnard, Mrs. Russel, Ms. Split, and Mr. Zerban, please call the school office at 323-6000 to schedule conference appointments. We value talking with parents or guardians about your student’s school success and ways we can work together to benefit your child during this school year. **REMINDER: THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH – THIS IS RECORDS DAY FOR ELEMENTARY STAFF.**
CONFERENCES DATES:

Monday, November 24: Full day of school for students Conferences: 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 25: ½ day of school for students with dismissal at 11:57 a.m.

Conferences: 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 and 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, November 26: No school for students

Parents-thanks for returning your Parent/Teacher Conference slips. You will be getting your conference dates and times this week. Thanks for returning the confirmation slips as soon as possible-our intention is to give all parents their first choice of times/dates. See you in November!

Weapon Free School Zone

All parents/guardians should be fully aware and review district policy 5360, Weapon Free School Zone, listed on page 14 of the Elementary Handbook. The policy states, “the Board shall permanently expel a student from attending school in the District, if the student possesses a weapon in a weapon free school zone or commits arson in a District building or on District grounds.” Weapons include a firearm, gun, revolver, pistol, dagger, stiletto, knife, pocketknife, iron bar or brass knuckles.

Helping Your Child Read A Variety of Books

Does your child like a particular book or series of book? Ever think s/he is stuck in a reading or genre rut? Do you wonder if there are other books s/he might enjoy? If so, the following website may come in handy.

<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/homePage.do> has a “Book Alike” section that will assist in selecting books for a child similar to a particular title, and on a specific topic and reading level. This website is a great resource for students and parents alike!