

# Angling Road School Family Newsletter

Welcome to the week of January 26, 2009

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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.

**2008-2009 YEARBOOK – If you have any pictures in your digital camera of school events & happenings, please email them to Anne Marie Fleming at [thepamperedgal@yahoo.com](mailto:thepamperedgal@yahoo.com).** Anne Marie and her committee are organizing pictures for the classroom and collage pages. The last date for pictures to be submitted is March 6, 2009.

## CALENDAR DATES:

- January 21:** All School Performance with Von & Fran Washington, 2:15 p.m. "A Seat for Rosa."
- January 23:** **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Records Day for Teachers**
- February 4:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir will perform the National Anthem at the WMU Women's Basketball Game – students are to arrive at WMU by 6:30 p.m.
- February 10:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation Meeting – North Middle School 6:00 p.m.  
For our students who are in West Middle School attendance areas, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation is 7:00 p.m.
- February 12:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards will be sent home with all students
- February 12:** PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Media Center
- February 13:** VALENTINES DAY FUN
- February 17:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Human Growth & Development Meeting, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Community Board Room at Administration Building
- February 20:** K-WINGS FAMILY FUN NIGHT sponsored by PTO
- February 23-26:** ANGLING ROAD BOOK FAIR – Details coming soon!
- February 25:** All day school for students. **Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**
- February 26:** ½ day school for all students with dismissal at 11:57 a.m.  
**P.M. Young Fives/Kindergartners attend in the Morning. Morning Kindergartners do NOT attend.**  
**Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00 -4:00 p.m. 5:00-8:00 p.m.**
- February 27:** Mid-Winter Break – No school for students & staff.
- March 4:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grades attend K-Wings Education Day Game
- March 12:** Kindergarten Parent Informational Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- March 12:** PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Media Center
- March 25:** All School Performance with Von & Fran Washington, 10:00 a.m. "Lost in Kzoo."
- March 31, April 1<sup>st</sup>:** KINDERGARTEN SCREENING AT ANGLING ROAD.
- April 3:** Spring Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF
- APRIL 6-10:** SPRING BREAK
- April 13:** School Resumes
- May 2:** ANGLING ROAD SCHOOL CARNIVAL – Save the date for a great afternoon. Parents, if you are interested in helping with the Basket Raffle, please contact Lisa Nagy, PTO President

**PARENTS - PLEASE HELP US OUT BY SLOWING DOWN IN OUR PARKING LOT!**

**FROM PTO: PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - OFFICE DEPOT 5% Angling Road School ID 70052078.** You can purchase items at Office Depot stores, any locations or on-line and mention the Angling Road ID# 70052078 & scan them at the checkout. Office Depot has all the schools' numbers so just ask them about it!

**SUPERBOOKS** will again be available from Mrs. Russel and our Reading Team, Cost \$39.00. SUPERBOOKS include everything from restaurants to laundry services, movie rentals to golfing and much, much more. Coupons are good from March 2009-March 2010. **All proceeds will buy grade level reading books for kids! Stop by the office.**

**OUTDOOR – INDOOR RECESS: SNOW–Students Need Outdoor Wear!** Just a reminder that our students go outside every day for 30 minutes of recess! With the especially cold temperatures right now, we wanted to let you know how we determine outdoor/indoor recess each day. Around 10:30 a.m. each day, we look at the National Weather Service Wind-chill Index to determine current temperature & wind speed. If the temperature and winter speed factored together equal 0 degrees or below, we plan indoor recess. Please call the office with any questions/clarifications. And please, send students prepared for snow & cold.

**2009-2010 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:** Children who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2009 are eligible for kindergarten during the 2009-2010 school year. We would appreciate your assistance in estimating the number of kindergarten students who will attend Angling Road next school year. If you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten during the 2009-2010 school year, please contact our school office at 323-6000 to register him/her. **Current Young Fives students do not need to register.** If you have a neighbor who has a child who will be five years old prior to December 1, 2009 please encourage them to contact our office. Pre-Kindergarten Parent Meeting will be Thursday, March 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. We will give parents further information about Kindergarten Screening including necessary paperwork for school registration as well as schedule times/dates for your child's kindergarten testing. Kindergarten Screening will be held at Angling Road School, March 31 and April 1, 2009. Questions, call the office at 323-6000.

As we prepare for redistricting, we know that some of you will be moving to either Moorsbridge Elementary (323-6400) or Amberly Elementary (323-5900). All families received a letter from Superintendent Wells concerning next fall's school placement. If you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten during the 2009-2010 school year, please call the school office where your child will be attending in the fall of 2009. Questions, call Karen Witvoet at 323-6000.

**VALENTINES DAY FUN on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.** Most classes at Angling Road will be celebrating Valentines Days on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. **Please remember students are not to exchange valentine gifts or special valentines with specific friends at school. Valentine cards are to be given out in the classroom – all students in the class should receive one. Thank you for your cooperation!**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade parent Human Growth & Development Meeting, February 17<sup>th</sup>.** A district-wide meeting to review the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Human Growth & Development Curriculum will be held on the evening of Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the

Community Room/Board Room at the Administration Building. A letter with further information regarding this meeting will be sent to parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders.



## **Parent/Teacher Conferences: February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up soon. Initial parent/guardian sign up sheets for Winter Conferences were sent home last week to be returned by January 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have not signed up for your conference day and time, please return the form as soon as possible or call 323-6000 to do so. Winter conferences will be held on:

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>: 5–8 p.m. & Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>: 1-4p.m, 5–8 p.m.**

**Additional conference times for Young Fives and Kindergarten are scheduled for:  
Mrs. Doren: February 18<sup>th</sup>, afternoon 1:00-4:00 p.m. and evening, 4:00-7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Maslanka: February 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and February 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

### **ANGLING ROAD BOOK FAIR DURING PARENT TEACHER CONFERNCES FEBRUARY 25 & 26! CHECK OUT THE WEB SITE -**

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

**NO SCHOOL / NON-STUDENT DAYS** *There are a number of non-student days coming up in the near future. Please mark your calendar. Thanks.*

**Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – NO STUDENTS – Teacher’s Records Day**

**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** - Half day students, dismissal at 11:57 a.m. –  
Parent/Teacher Conferences (*Afternoon Young Fives and Kindergarten attend – No School for Morning Kindergarten*)

**Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** – NO SCHOOL – MID WINTER BREAK

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** – No School Students – Teacher 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Records Day

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** – *Spring Break*

### **Fifth Grade Parent Orientation February 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. North Middle School**

All fifth grade parents should plan on attending the Fifth Grade Parent Orientation at North Middle School on February 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the parents of incoming students with a general overview of the sixth grade program and to assist them with the course choices available to sixth graders (Math, English and Music). Much of the program will be delivered by teachers of sixth grade. Parents/guardians are welcome to come early and tour the building if they’d like – maps will be provided for this purpose. This program is primarily for parents as students will have the opportunity to visit the NMS building in May and again in August before the start of school. Course selection sheets will be available at this meeting as well as in the NMS main office or on-line. These selection sheets are due to your child’s fifth grade teacher by Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Any special request forms are also due at this time. Please call the NMS guidance office at 323-5763 if you have any questions.

## **Cyber Safety Procedures: Portage Public Schools**

On the evening of January 6, 2009, PPS hosted a parent meeting sponsored by the State of Michigan's Office of the Attorney General entitled Cyber Safety Initiative. Since the meeting, people have asked, "What do we have in place district-wide to promote cyber safety for our students?"

In grades 2 through 5, media specialists integrate the *iSafe* curriculum into their lessons. There are 13 different units covering issues such as being a member of a cyber community, web site reliability, FBI safety rules and cyber bullying. For more information regarding the *iSafe* programming, please visit [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org).

When students use computers at school, each student has their own internal network account, which means their project files **are not accessible** via the internet and therefore only school personnel can view them. Their account usernames are generally formatted as 1<sup>st</sup> initial – Last name – bldg abbreviation. The password is the last 4 characters of the student's id at the elementary level. For example the student John Doe who attends Angling Road with a student id of 12345678 would have a username of JDoeANG and a password of 5678. Jim Doe would have a username of JDoeANG1. **These usernames can never be seen by anyone on the world-wide-web.**

For students who are using district-sponsored or subscription-based websites at school or at home, their usernames and passwords are only used to gain access to the content and are only viewable by their teachers or web host. **No personal information is published to the world-wide-web for public consumption.**

To protect students while working online, our district uses a **web filter that blocks inappropriate content**. Currently, there are 24 different categories that are blocked from Portage Public School computers including sites related to mature content, chat rooms, instant messaging, gambling, illegal drugs, social networks, pornography, spyware and violence.

# Elementary Boundaries Finalized; Next Step Focuses on Smooth Transition

On Dec. 15, 2008, The Board of Education accepted the recommendations of the Attendance Area Study Committee that concluded the redistricting decision-making process; however, the process continues with the District working to ensure a smooth transition for students attending new schools. Approximately 40% of the elementary student body, or 1,800 students, will be attending a different school in the fall, as a part of the closure of Waylee Elementary at the end of this school year and with the opening of 12th Street Elementary in fall 2009.

All parents/guardians of elementary students (even those not impacted) should have received a mailing with information regarding the grand-fathering request phase beginning in January, and transition programs geared to smooth the way for students and their families changing schools.

With the implementation of the new elementary boundaries starting with the 2009-2010 school year, Portage Public Schools is offering the option for families to request to be grandfathered at their current elementary site. This offer is limited to specific circumstances and conditions as outlined below.

Please note the following items if you are considering grandfathering as an option for your children:

- We will be accepting grandfathering applications only from those families with a youngest child(ren) currently in 4th grade (i.e. in 5th grade for the 09-10 school year) or youngest children currently in 3rd AND 4th grade (i.e. in 4th and 5th grade for the 09-10 school year).
- **Applications are due by Friday, January 30th, 2009.** You can expect a reply on the status of your request by April 3rd, 2009.
- Should we have more requests than available space, a lottery will be used.
- Should your grandfathering request be accepted, you will be asked to confirm this acceptance no later than May 1st, 2009.
- Should your grandfathering request be granted, it will be your responsibility to arrange for transportation for your child(ren) to and from school. Regrettably, Portage Public Schools cannot provide transportation for you.

A link to the application can be found via this link:

<http://www.portageps.org/parents/transfers/Elem%20Transfer%20App%2009-10.doc>

**Please clearly indicate that this is a grandfathering request**

