

Angling Road School Family Newsletter

Welcome to the week of September 21, 2009

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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.

I wanted to thank our staff, teachers, parents & students for a wonderful first full week of school! We welcome many new families to Angling Road School & look forward to getting to know all of you! You are part of school community who values positive behavior and academic supports to all students. We value clear expectations & excellent communication between home & school. Please contact the school office with any questions! Welcome to Angling Road! Sincerely, Karen Witvoet

CALENDAR DATES:

September 17, 2009 - See you at Open House/Ice Cream Social: *Please join us on Thursday, September 17th to meet your child's teacher, meet new families, and enjoy the Ice Cream Social too! Scheduled classroom and staff meetings are listed below.*

Grade Level/Class meeting times:

- ❖ 6:30 - 6:50 p.m. First Grades
- ❖ 7:00-7:20 p.m. Second Grades and Third Grades
- ❖ 7:30-7:50 p.m. Fourth Grades and Fifth Grades
- ❖ 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please stop in to see Mrs. Russel, Reading Consultant Room 12, Mrs. Rogers, Resource Room, Room 1, Mrs. Walker, Resource Room, Room 1, Mrs. Gross, Speech/Language Consultant, Room 25, & Mrs. Witvoet, Principal near the office areas.
- ❖ 6:30-8:00 p.m. Visit our Encore Staff (Music, Art, Gym, Media Center, Guidance) – Passports to our Encore Curriculums will be available in the main entrance area and with all specials teachers.

September 21: Picture Day – flyers will be sent home next week.
September 25: ALL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER ROAD RALLY! All students and staff will participate in the 3rd Annual Angling Road Rally. Parent information was sent home on Friday, September 11th.
October 1: PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Media Center
November 11-13: 5th Graders and teachers at Sherman Lake Outdoor Camp

A HUGE THANK YOU to our 3RD GRADE GIRLS FROM BROWNIE TROOP #320 for cleaning up our school grounds and flower beds! The Brownies and their leaders weeded, picked up trash, and helped to make our school look so great! A special THANKS to the girls and leaders of Brownie Troop #320! Sydney Kruggel, Kaylee Soulier, Keara Harrison, Macey Hebner, Shea Bigelow, and Stacey Kloosterman.

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*. Fill in your name and email address and that all there is to it! 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. Information about paper copies of the newsletter will be available at Open House on September 17th.

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.

BREAKFAST/LUNCHES/MILK/SNACKS: 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. Laurie Johnson, Kitchen Manager, keeps financial accounts for all students. Contact her at ljohnson@portageps.org with questions. Menus are sent home monthly.

MEDICATION DISTRIBUTION IN SCHOOL: 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.

From our Parent Teacher Organization:

- **ANGLING ROAD RALLY IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH! Details about our one & only Fundraiser went home with all students last Friday!**
- **Next PTO Meeting is Thursday, October 1st, 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.**
- PTO Officers/Board for this year:

President: Lisa Nagy (Scott in 1st Grade, Stephen in 5th grade)

Vice-President: Janet Ingersoll (Ryan in 3rd grade, Kristin in 5th grade)

Secretary: Jodi Hoag (Brooke in 1st, Ashleigh in 2nd grade)

Co-Treasurers: Anne Marie Fleming (Katie in 3rd grade)

Wendy Hyames (Wes in 5th grade)

Please continue to support: Box Tops for Education: Keep collecting box tops! 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, & Campbell Soup Labels. Thanks for collecting these various items and thanks to the parents who keep track of this!

From Karen Witvoet: Thank you for a great beginning to the 2009-2010 school year. Last week we had our first PTO meeting and we are so excited about all the great things coming up and happening, thanks to our active and supportive PTO at Angling Road. This year, our PTO meeting minutes will be attached to our electronic newsletters. As you read through the events and comments in the weekly Family Newsletter and monthly PTO meeting minutes, please feel free to email me or the office staff with any questions. We will work to get your questions answered and often reply in the next Family Newsletter. So, after saying that, I wanted to share a few things....

- ❖ **This year, school starts for all students at 8:35 a.m. (this is a change from last year.)** Our student safety patrol will open the bus loop doors at 8:35 a.m. so that the children can make their way to their classrooms. All students who are purchasing breakfast at school will be able to dismiss from their school bus at 8:30 a.m. or enter the building at the main entrance door at that time. The remainder of the children will remain on the bus until the 8:35 a.m. bell rings. If you are dropping off your student, please know that the doors on the east and west ends of the building are not open until 8:35 a.m. Students are welcome to wait at the main entrance area. We ask that student NOT be dropped off at school until 8:30 a.m. as there is no supervision provided. Students may NOT play on the playgrounds before school hours as there is no supervision.
- ❖ **Students with allergies** – Parents had great questions and comments about students with allergies so I wanted to get some information out to you. I am pleased that the parents of students with severe allergies provide us with loads of information in order to keep all children safe at school. At Angling Road, we currently have many students with serious allergies, particularly latex and peanut/tree nut. These are the procedures we currently have in place for our staff and students.
 1. All peanut free allergy students will sit at the specified table in the cafeteria. Supervisors will monitor.
 2. Students sitting at the peanut free table may bring 1-2 friends with them. Friend lunches will be checked by supervisors for peanut free contents. If a particular item is questionable, the friend will be asked to join peers at a different cafeteria table.
 3. The peanut free table (s) will be washed after each lunch period by the cafeteria supervisor with specific peanut free allergy bucket/wipes.
 4. **STUDENTS MAY NOT SHARE FOOD IN THE CAFETERIA.**
 5. **Additional Classroom procedures:** Students may not share snacks from other children. Parents are responsible to send snacks to school for their son/daughter. The teacher does NOT supply snacks.
 6. Children will be instructed NOT to share or trade food.
 7. No ART projects or class projects will include nuts – teachers will also NOT use M&M's as classroom incentives or math manipulatives as M&M Plain and M&M Peanut are made on the same machines.
 8. Birthdays-Holiday Parties-Celebrations: Snacks/food served will be selected according to above stipulations. All foods must be ingredient checked prior to bringing them into the classroom. Room parents will be advised by the teacher.
 9. Medications/Epi-pens will be available in the office and possibly in the classroom (this is student-specific). The school office maintains all of that information and works with staff.
 10. Students with health related issues will be included in our Red Flag Folder. Red Flag students and information will be clearly marked and included in all substitute teacher information.
 11. Peanut Free students will be assigned to clearly marked Computers in the computer lab (4 computers are designated and marked) Lap Tops #1 & #2 on every mobile lap top cart will be peanut free. Keyboards will be cleaned before and after each use.
 12. Chartwells Food Service does not serve peanut products, but we can not guarantee that any of our items are not made in a facility with peanuts or peanut oils. Pizza served on Thursdays in the cafeteria is made with whole wheat crust and is NOT gluten-free.
- ❖ **We will continue to communicate effectively with parents and staff on school related issues. I hope you feel welcome at Angling Road, feel that we care about our students and value a strong communication between home and school. Thanks for “giving” us your wonderful children! Please email Karen Witvoet (kwitvoet@portageps.org) or call the office 323-6000.**

Portage Public Schools Offers Advice for Families on the H1N1 Flu

Portage Schools is working with the Kalamazoo Health Department to share information with parents, staff, and students regarding the impact of the pending H1N1 flu virus. We request that students to be vigilant with hand-washing, ask parents to kept sick children at home, and will monitor the health status of both students and staff. During this time, the District will be sending information home to its families as well as parent information online at www.portageps.org.

Health officials are not advising that schools close when some students at a particular building may come down with the virus. The District will closely monitor the status of students and staff who are absent due to the flu. **When reporting student absences to their school offices, parents will be asked if the student has flu symptoms. For students who arrive at school with flu symptoms, the school office will call their parents to pick them up.**

“We want to do everything we can to take precautionary measures at school and help our families do likewise at home,” said Superintendent Marsha Wells.

Portage Schools has been an active participant on Kalamazoo County’s pandemic planning team and involved with Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency’s emergency management training. Portage Schools has been monitoring the H1N1 flu threat throughout the summer and continues to coordinate with area health agencies, Kalamazoo RESA, and other school districts.

Symptoms

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu viruses are thought to spread from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes to someone’s mouth or nose. Flu viruses can also be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets on another person or an object and then touches their own mouth or nose (or someone else’s mouth or nose) before washing their hands.

Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, says the CDC. Some people also experience diarrhea and vomiting. The CDC encourages those with severe illness or who are at risk for complications to seek medical care.

The CDC offers advice for parents on prevention and on caring for sick child at home at www.cdc.gov/h1n1/parents. Highlights include:

- Frequent hand-washing with soap and water for 20 seconds (long enough to sing “Happy Birthday” twice).
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue and throw the tissue away immediately.
 - ❖ Stay at least 6 feet away from people who are sick.
- Those who are sick should stay home from school and work for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.

The District will continue to update its website with helpful links for parents at www.portageps.org. September 2009

