

# Angling Road School Family Newsletter

## Welcome to the week of September 28, 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.

**Electronic Angling Road Newsletters:** Sign up by going to [www.portageps.org](http://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. Call the office if you need a paper copy.

❖ **CALENDAR DATES:** Thank you for coming to Open House and the Ice Cream Social last week! We are off to a great start of 2009-2010 school year!

**ROAD RALLY IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>! Here is the schedule of when students and staff will be walking (running) their laps! Come on over and cheer us on! THANK YOU for supporting the ROAD RALLY FUNDRAISER!**

9:00-9:45 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades  
9:45-10:15 Kindergartens  
10:30-11:15 5<sup>th</sup> Grades  
11:30-12:15 1<sup>st</sup> Grades  
1:00-1:30 Young Fives and Kindergarten  
1:30-2:15 4<sup>th</sup> Grades  
2:15-3:00 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

September 30: Monthly BOX TOP Collections Day! Congratulations to Mrs. Wilson's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – the Summer Box Top Trophy Winners with 1,123 BoxTops. 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Mrs. Doren's a.m. Kindergarten with 595, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place to Mrs. Fox's 4<sup>th</sup> grade with 553 Box Tops! THANKS!

October 1: PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Media Center

October 23: Angling Road PIZZA NIGHT – Save the date!

October 28: Monthly BOX TOP Collections Day!

October 31: BOX TOP Fall Submission Deadline

November 4: Picture Retakes

November 11-13: 5<sup>th</sup> Graders & teachers at Sherman Lake Camp

**Welcome to our school counselor, Mrs. Hannah Gagie.** We are pleased to introduce Mrs. Gagie to our school community. Mrs. Gagie will be working with the Moorsbridge Elementary School community on Mondays & Wednesdays and with the Angling Road Elementary School community on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She will rotate between her two buildings on Fridays. We are delighted to have Hannah Gagie with us – please feel free to contact her as needed. (323-6075).

**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.

**Student Count Day: Wednesday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**

Student Count Day across the State of Michigan is Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. On this day, the official number of students school districts and schools receive funding for is determined. As with any school day, your child should be in school unless they are ill or have a family emergency. If your child is absent on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, we will need written verification of their absence.

**BREAKFAST/LUNCHESES/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.

**(Checks payable to Portage Public Schools)** Mrs. Laurie Johnson, Kitchen Manager, keeps financial accounts for all students. Contact her at [ljohnson@portageps.org](mailto:ljohnson@portageps.org) with questions.

**PIV – Parent Internet Viewer** *PIV is available to parents /guardians of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders and allows parental access to grades, attendance, assignment scores and the ability to sign up for automated email grade reports.* Parents/guardians have been issued new ID's and PIN codes this school year. Letters have been mailed from the district office informing families of their new codes. Questions, call 323-5102.

**From our Parent Teacher Organization:**

- **Next PTO Meeting is Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.**
- **BOX TOP Box Tops News**

Congratulations Angling Road students and parents for collecting \$566.20 worth of Box Tops over the summer! You all did a fabulous job. Now, keep clipping and remember to ask relatives, neighbors, co-workers, whomever you can think of to collect Box Tops for our school. Don't forget to register on [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to see all the great offers online. Then go to [www.thebigclip.com](http://www.thebigclip.com) and enter Angling Road into the contest to win \$50,000! The next collection date is **Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. So, get clipping!

**Please continue to support: Box Tops for Education: Cartridge for Kids: Save empty inkjet, laser, fax, & copier cartridges and used cell phones. Campbell Soup Labels.**

**Thanks for collecting these various items and thanks to the parents who keep track of this!**

**Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders**  
**Participate in the**  
**Michigan Educational Assessment Program**  
**(MEAP)**

*Third, fourth and fifth graders throughout the state of Michigan will participate in MEAP testing from Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, October 22, 2009.* Third graders will be tested in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. Fourth graders will be testing in the areas of Reading, Mathematics and Writing. Fifth graders will be tested in the areas of Reading, Mathematics and Science. Results from the MEAP are used to

assess Angling Road Elementary School's and the entire school district's performance in comparison to all other schools and districts in the state of Michigan. MEAP results are also used to insure our curriculum is appropriately aligned to the State of Michigan Curriculum Framework. Furthermore, student performance on this test may directly relate to educational services they may be offered in the future.

***The staff of Angling Road Elementary School request that parents/guardians of third, fourth and fifth grade students insure your child eats well-balanced meals, gets sufficient rest, and limits participation in evening activities during testing weeks, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.*** Students perform their very best when they come to school well rested, well nourished and well prepared. We request families of third, fourth and fifth graders spend time with their children discussing the importance of taking the MEAP test in a serious manner. Encourage your child to perform his/her best and to come to school relaxed and with a positive attitude.

***Thank you for reinforcing our efforts to make the upcoming state assessment a successful experience for our students. The success of Angling Road students is ultimately built on the high expectations you have for your child and all children in the Portage Public Schools. Thank you for your ongoing involvement and support of education at Angling Road Elementary School.***

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](mailto: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](http://www.portageps.org).

**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.**

- **Symptoms** 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 offers advice for parents on prevention and on caring for sick child at home at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1/parents](http://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](http://www.portageps.org). September 2009**

