

# Angling Road School Family Newsletter

## Welcome to the week of October 5, 2009

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**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.

**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 to all parents, PTO members, teachers, and students for your amazing support of ROAD RALLY! We had a great day with the kids! The children were excited and determined to support their school with their ROAD RALLY support! What a fantastic day for us!

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| October 1:      | PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Media Center  |
| October 13-29:  | MEAP Testing for all 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders |
| October 15:     | Angling Road GREAT SKATE NIGHT –details coming soon!                               |
| October 23:     | Angling Road PIZZA NIGHT – Save the date!  |
| October 28:     | Monthly BOX TOP Collections Day!   |
| October 30:     | ALL SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARADE at 2:15 p.m. with classroom parties to follow!         |
| November 4:     | Picture Retakes  |
| November 11-13: | 5 <sup>th</sup> Graders & teachers at Sherman Lake Camp                            |

### IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

- **SCHOOL TIMES FOR '09-'10 HAVE CHANGED:** We want to remind all parents that school STARTS this year at 8:35 a.m. We have only one bell that rings at 8:35 a.m. and students enter the building and are expected to go directly to their classrooms to start the day. In years past, the first bell rang at 8:36 a.m. and instruction started at 8:42 a.m. **Students are welcome to wait at the main door entrance any time after 8:30 a.m. All students who eat breakfast at school will enter the building at 8:30 a.m. so they can eat and get to class by 8:35 a.m. Questions, give me a call!**
- **GOOD ATTENDANCE: A KEY TO SUCCESS – Call 323-6000 to report your student absent.** Good attendance supports school success! We want students to be in school every day every minute school is in session. If a student must be absent, parents/guardians should call the Angling Road School office before 8:45 a.m. Please leave your child's name, grade, teacher, date of, and reason for absence. If a student is home sick with the flu, cold, virus, we need to know that in order to inform the Health Department. If parents/guardians would like homework collected, please also state this in the message. **FOR AN ABSENCE TO BE CONSIDERED "EXCUSED" WE MUST HAVE CONTACT FROM PARENT/GUARDIAN VERIFYING**

**THE STUDENT ABSENCE. IF CONTACT IS NOT RECEIVED, THE ABSENCE WILL BE CONSIDERED "UNEXCUSED."** We have an answering machine and expect parents to call if their son/daughter is home due to illness, special appointments, and/or special circumstances. Please call 323-6000 in order to ensure your student's safety and Angling Road attendance policies.

- **HALLOWEEN PARADE: OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**BREAKFAST/LUNCHESES/MILK/SNACKS: Breakfast \$1.20, Lunch \$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)

**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.* Questions, call 323-5102.

**PTO – 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! Let's get clipping! **Please continue to support Box Tops for Education, Campbell Soup Labels. Thanks for collecting & thanks to the parents who keep track of this!**

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

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in MEAP testing from Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, October 29, 2009. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be tested in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be testing in the areas of Reading, Mathematics and Writing. 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The staff of Angling Road Elementary School request that parents/guardians of "MEAPers" 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. 29<sup>th</sup>.** Students perform their very best when they come to school well rested, well nourished and well prepared. Please 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.**