

Angling Road School Family Newsletter

Welcome to the week of October 12, 2009

Karen Witvoet, Principal

Linda Bowen & Debbie Slager, Secretaries

Telephone (269) 323-6000 FAX 323-6090

Email: kwitvoet@portageps.org

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, 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:

- October 13-29: MEAP Testing for all 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders
- October 15: Portage Public Schools 21ST Annual FUN RUN for 4th & 5th Graders! 4:15 p.m. West Middle School
- October 15: Angling Road GREAT SKATE NIGHT
- October 23: Angling Road PIZZA NIGHT 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- October 27: 5th Grade SHERMAN LAKE PARENT MEETING,
5:30 P.M. in the cafeteria. Please bring your completed Health Form to the meeting.
- October 30: ALL SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARADE at 2:15 p.m. with classroom parties to follow!
- November 2: 5th graders and teachers meet with Sherman Lake Staff.
- November 4: Picture Retakes
- November 6: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - Records Day for Teachers/Staff
- November 9: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders attend "Blue Dahlia" at Chenery Auditorium 10:00 a.m. performance
- November 11-13: 5th Graders & teachers at Sherman Lake Camp
- November 16: Report Cards for the 1st Quarter go home with all students
- November 18 & 19: Parent Teacher Conferences from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Students attend school all day as usual.

Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders Participate in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders will participate in MEAP testing from Tuesday, October 13th through Thursday, October 29, 2009. Results from the MEAP are used to assess Angling Road Elementary School and the entire school district's performance in comparison to all other schools and districts in Michigan. The staff of Angling Road Elementary School request that "MEAPers" eat well-balanced meals & get sufficient rest during testing weeks for optimal performance. We will complete most of our testing in the mornings. Thank you!

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.** 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.

- **Junior Achievement:** We are excited to have Junior Achievement in all of our classrooms each year. We are looking for parent volunteers to teach Junior Achievement in the following classrooms – **Mrs. Gavlas, Mrs. Kline, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Terpstra, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. VanderVeen, Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Sefton, and Mr. Wight** – we will train you and provide all materials as you bring exciting information to our students about economics, entrepreneur skills, and how to promote great ideas in today's world. Please call Cindy VanderWeele (501-5017) or Karen Witvoet (323-6000) for more information or to sign up for a classroom or two!

- **HALLOWEEN PARADE: OCTOBER 30th, 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.

➤ **Our 3rd annual Angling Road Rally was a great success!** With any event this size, it takes a lot of people to make it run smoothly. Many thanks to Ms. Split and Stephanie Taylor for leading the pack and keeping the kids organized; Amy Koffler for providing much needed coffee and hot cider to the volunteers; Tom and Janet Ingersoll for all of your help and for providing the wonderful Jet's Pizza lunch for the volunteers; Mr. Trimner for providing our sound system; and to the teachers, staff, and Mrs. Witvoet for adjusting schedules and supporting our Rally. Most of all I would like to thank the wonderful students for their hard work getting sponsors and participating in Rally Day. There would not be a Rally without each and every one of you. You should be very proud of yourselves. I would also like to thank the following businesses that generously sponsored our Rally by donating prizes: Airway Lanes, Best Buy, Bronson Athletic Club, Jet's Pizza/Stadium Drive, Jungle Joe's, Kid's Gym, LazerLand, Putters Family Fun Center, and Sam's Club. Prizes will be awarded soon! Thanks again to everyone involved in the Rally. It has been my pleasure chairing this event for the last 3 years, but again, it was only successful because of the people who helped run it. I will provide Rally updates on prize winners and pledge totals when I have them. Wendy Hyames.

➤ **Box Tops News - Keep clipping!** To register - www.boxtops4education.com to see all the great offers online. Then go to 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 to the parents who keep track of this!**

➤ **ANGLING ROAD BOOK FAIR IS COMING,**
November 16 - November 20! Parents, staff, & students will be able to purchase books during Parent Teacher Conferences, November 18 & 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m. as well as Thursday, 1:00-3:30 p.m. and Friday, November 20th from 9:00-3:30! We are looking for parent volunteers to help us so please call Lori Minnard 323-6085 to sign up! Check out our Book Fair link for all the details!

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

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.**