

Central Connection

Central Elementary School

Susan Roberts, Principal
February 2009



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“Learning and Growing with Commitment and Peace”

MEDIA CENTER NEWS FROM MS. NICOL

Lights! Action! Book Fair! We will be rolling out the red carpet for the Scholastic Book Fair February 20th-26th. Please plan on stopping by to see the hundreds of ‘winning’ books during school hours and parent-teacher conferences. Check out the Book Fair website linked to our Central Elementary homepage (www.portageps.org) for a preview.

During this winter, the first and second graders have enjoyed literature and authors that correlate with their reading series while third graders have been busy researching animals using print and on-line sources. Students at all levels continue to use the Media Center for games, reading, small groups, research and Accelerated Reader testing.

Please help your child be a responsible library user by remembering books when they are due. Thank you!

NO SCHOOL/HALF DAY

There will be **no school on Friday, February 27th**. This is a mid-winter break. Due to conferences, we will also have a half-day of school on **Thursday, February 26**. The *afternoon kindergarteners* will attend school on this day. Please mark your calendars!

ENROLL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2009

Please let us know if you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in school in September 2009. To be eligible for entry into school, a child must be **five years old on or before December 1, 2009**. If you have a neighbor who has a child in this age group, please pass the word along that it is time to notify Central Elementary. Thanks in advance for your help.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

A meeting for all parents of incoming kindergarten students will be held on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:00 p.m., in the Gym. At this meeting you will learn about the kindergarten screening process, as well as schedule your child’s screening date. Also, information about Young 5’s and Kindergarten programs will be given. Please call the office at 323-6100 to register your child for kindergarten if you have not yet done so.



SHERMAN LAKE CAMP

Our fifth graders will be attending Sherman Lake Camp on Wednesday, February 18th through Friday, February 20th. The parent portion of the camp fee is \$61.00. It is due to the fifth grade teachers by Friday, February 6th. Students will return from camp on Friday, February 20th at 11:30 AM. Arrangements will need to be made to pick up your student at that time. The fifth grade staff and students are very excited about this upcoming event.

FIFTH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

Middle School Parent Night will take place on **Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30** at Central Middle School and North Middle School. You should have received an invitation letter from the middle school your 5th grader will attend next year. Please contact the middle school if you have further questions.



STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNT DAY

Wednesday, February 11th is the State of Michigan count day. On this day students are officially counted as attending our school. Please try to have your child in attendance. If your child is absent on that day please send them to school with a dated, signed note upon their return. Thank you!



WHY IS THE BUS LATE?"

As the weather and road conditions continue to challenge us, our bus drivers are instructed to think **safety before schedule**. Therefore, some of our routes may be delayed in picking up and dropping off students. We will continue on routes and service all stops that are accessible. Please have your students wait at their stops. For current information about your bus, call the transportation office at 323-5151. They are there until the last regularly scheduled student is delivered home safely. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during inclement road and weather conditions.



SPRING CONFERENCES

Spring conferences will be held the evenings of Tuesday, February 24 and Wednesday, February 25. Afternoon conferences will be held on Thursday February 26th. *This is a change from the previous schedule.* The conference schedules will be sent home in early February. Please watch for this important information. If you need to change a conference time, please contact Pat in the office before Friday, February 13th, to do so. We look forward to seeing you there!

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

On the back of the newsletter you will find a Student Information Form. ***This is not a teacher request form.*** Please fill out this form and return it to your child's teacher before February 27, 2009. This form will assist us in the placement of students for the 2009-2010 school year.



SPRING PICTURES

On Wednesday, March 18, Schoolpictures.com will be at Central Elementary for our spring picture day. **This year, spring pictures will need to be paid for in advance, as the fall pictures were. Only those students who wish to purchase pictures will have them taken.** Additional information will be sent home with your child at a later date.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

With the redistricting that is currently taking place and with the many fifth graders who will be moving to middle school, the PTO will be in transition next year. We will have many committee chair and officer positions open. Without volunteers to fill these spots, the PTO will not be able to offer the activities and programs that help make Central Elementary what it is. Now is the perfect time to get involved. With a variety of opportunities available, you can decide what you'd like to work on and how much time you would like to volunteer. PTO is a great way to get to know your school and get to know other parents. Please stop by one of our monthly meetings or call the school office to learn more. February's PTO meeting will be on February 17th at 6:30. We hope to see you there!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If there is a change in your emergency contact information for your student, please contact the office. Your children will only be released to those people listed on the emergency contact form. It is very important that this form remains up to date. If you have questions, please contact the office at 323-6100. Thank you for helping to assure the safety of all our students.

SITE-BASED COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The site-based committee is working on packets of information to send to our new families next school year. If you have suggestions of information you think they would find helpful, please put them in the site-based mailbox in the lobby of the school. We appreciate your input!

