

# Central Connection

## Central Elementary School

Susan Roberts, Principal  
November 2009



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(269) 323-6100

*"Learning and Growing with Commitment and Peace"*

### CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS

At this time of the year, temperatures fluctuate rapidly during the day. Please be sure your child comes to school dressed for any type of weather that may occur. We do take a half-hour recess each day barring rain or severe cold; all children are expected to go out for that recess.



### CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held the evening of November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Schedules will be sent home soon. We look forward to seeing you to share the exciting news of your children's progress!

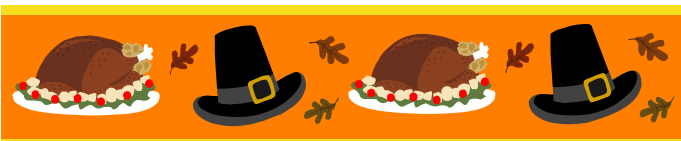
### GENTLY USED SWEAT PANTS NEEDED



From time to time we have students that are in need of a change of pants. If you have gently used, clean sweat pants that you would like to donate, please send them in to the office. All sizes are needed. We appreciate your help.

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

There will be no school on Wednesday, November 25, through Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving break. We hope you enjoy this time with your families! Happy Thanksgiving!



### SCHOOL CLOSING NOTIFICATION

When Portage Schools cancels or delays the start of school, the announcement will be made in time to make the 6 a.m. news on local television and radio stations. Parents may also call our "School Closing Hotline" at 323-6800 or check the District web site at [www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org) and click on the "Parents & Visitors" link for the WWMT-TV Channel 3 school closing announcements (you will see the link on the upper right, under the weather forecast). Portage Cable Access Channel 20 also carries school closing notices.



### JUST A REMINDER...

Please remind your students that **no toys** are to be brought to school. There are many items that are appropriate at home but may not be appropriate for school. These include CD players, hand held games, electronic devices, collectable cards, and radios, etc. Please remind students that gum is not allowed in school.

Also no scooters, skateboards, or roller blade shoes (Heely's) are allowed. These items are best kept at home, where children can be closely supervised while playing. We appreciate your help in reminding our students of these rules.

### STUDENT COUNCIL CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Beginning November 16 through December 9<sup>th</sup>, student council will be collecting non-perishable foods to help families in need in our community. We appreciate any donation you can make!



## END OF THE DAY PICK-UP

***Just a reminder . . . school dismisses at 3:42.*** If you are picking up your child please be at the school at 3:42. Many students are left waiting a very long time at the end of the day. This is a safety issue for our students as there is not supervision after school ends.

Also, **unless we have a note** from a parent or guardian, students will be sent to their “usual” after school place. **Please plan ahead and send any change in writing.** We are receiving many phone calls late in the day to get messages to students. To avoid any possible confusion please send all requests for transportation changes ***in a written note.*** Thank you for your assistance!

## SHARING OF STUDENT INFORMATION

The confidentiality of student information is of high importance in the Portage Public Schools. All schools across our country are bound to follow the guidelines set out in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Outlined below are a few areas parents/guardians should know regarding this educational law.

- ❖ *School districts must give full rights with regard to pupil records to either parent, unless there is a court order or other legally binding document relating to divorce, separation or custody that specifically revokes these rights.*
- ❖ *A parent who does not have physical custody will be assumed to have retained legal custody unless a court order is provided to the school showing that legal custody has been revoked.*
- ❖ *A parent with legal custody maintains a right to meet with and discuss student progress with school staff.*
- ❖ *A stepparent or grandparent has no legal independent right to student records, **UNLESS the stepparent is the legal guardian. Teachers will not be able to share verbally or in writing student progress information with step or grandparents unless a release of information is signed annually and placed in the student's record.** A parent with legal custody may release student records to a stepparent annually by signing a release of information form. This allows contact directly with the*



*stepparent regarding student progress.*

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS FROM MS. NICOL

Fall has arrived and we're enjoying the season in the Media Center. To go along with the autumn books that we read, the kindergarten and Y5 classes colored scarecrows and fall leaf pictures. They're displayed on the bulletin board outside the computer lab. The younger grades are learning about fiction and non-fiction books by hearing selections that coordinate with their classroom reading for the week. The upper grades have been learning about genre (book categories).

Remember that the *Book Swap Cart* is always available in the Media Center to students who want to swap a “gently used” book from home for one from the cart. It's a one-for-one trade so bring in your used books (no more than five books at a time though!)

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be rolling in as we “*Read Around the World.*” Please mark your calendars: November 18-24. We hope to see you there! Thank you.

## FUNDRAISER

We would like to thank our PTO for doing such a great job on the Fundraiser for Central Elementary this year. We would also like to thank all of you for all your donations. Without you, we would not have been so successful. Thank you all for caring and supporting Central.



## RECORDS DAY

Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> is a school records day. There will be no school for students on this day.

**Central Elementary is a place where children are safe and successful!**