

Central Connection

Central Elementary School

Susan Roberts, Principal
March 2010



8422 S. Westnedge
Portage, MI 49002
(269) 323-6100

“Learning and Growing with Commitment and Peace”

ENROLL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2010

Please let us know if you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in school in September 2010. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be **five years old on or before December 1, 2010**. 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 INFORMATION MEETING

A meeting for all parents of incoming kindergarten students will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 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 for Kindergarten if you have not done so.

SPRING PICTURES

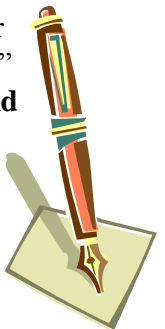
On Thursday, April 21, Lifetouch Studios will be at Central Elementary for our spring pictures. Please watch for more details to come home.



END OF THE DAY PICK-UP

Just a reminder . . . school dismisses at 3:47. If you are picking up your child **please be at the school at 3:47**. 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 no 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.** Too many times we end up with students in the office long after the busses and other students have left because they “thought” someone was picking them up.



One other reminder . . . **please do not park in the student drop off area.** Pull to the front of the circle to safely drop you child off. If you need to walk your child into the building please park in a designated parking spot. Please help us to insure the safety of our students.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

Has your financial situation changed? Free and reduced lunch applications can be filled out any time during the school year. Forms are available through the school office, at www.portageps.org, or by calling 323-5155.



SPRING BREAK



Just a reminder that Friday, March 26th is Spring Friday and there is no school. Spring break begins on Monday, March 29, through Friday, April 2. School resumes on Monday, April 5, 2010. Have a wonderful break!

ILLNESS



During this time of year we see an increase in the number of absences due to illness. Our school needs to monitor and record the presence of certain contagious illnesses. If your child has been diagnosed with Chicken Pox, Measles, Pink Eye or Strep Throat please contact the office as soon as the diagnosis is made. Thank you!

Also remember, if your child is absent or tardy for any reason please phone the office at 323-6100 before the start of school. We have an answering machine available for you to leave a message if you call before the office opens. This is very important to assure the safety of all our students.

REMINDER: ALL EXTERIOR DOORS ARE LOCKED



For safety reasons, students are being asked to enter and leave the building through the **FRONT DOORS ONLY**. All other doors will remain locked from the outside.

Please remember to sign in at the office *anytime* you are visiting the school, this includes the playground. If you are picking up a child early please come to the office to sign them out and we will call them from class. We appreciate your ongoing help in keeping our students safe!



CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC TOYS



Just a reminder . . . cell phones and electronic toys are prohibited at school. Students and parents, please be sure that all cell phones are left at home. This will eliminate the possibility of loss or breakage. Thank you for your help in this matter.

HELP US KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

School starts at 8:30. Breakfast is served beginning at 8:25. **Please do not send students to school before 8:25.** There is no supervision and students will need to wait outside the building, making this a very important safety issue. It is necessary that we keep all our students safe. Please help us do so!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for coming to Parent Teacher Conferences! Your interest and involvement at school shows your child that school is important to you and that you care about their progress. We appreciate all your support and your partnership!

MARCH IS READING MONTH!

Remember to take some time to read with your child, or better yet, have them read to you! Show your child you value their ability. Some of the best times with your child may be when you share a story. Snuggle up and read!

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

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.*

CURIOUS KIDS CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL

CHILD CARE - Curious Kids offers child care for various ages at several sites throughout the district. We provide meals and snacks, fun activities and a safe and welcoming environment! Flexible payment plans and family discounts! Please contact us at 323-6780 for more information!

CK @ Milham – Care for children ages 6 weeks through 14 years. Transportation via PPS buses to and from Amberly, Haverhill, Lake Center, Central, and 12th Street Elementaries.

Curious Kids offers care for children in Young 5's through 5th grade at our satellite sites, located at Woodland and Moorsbridge Elementaries!

New!!! Angling Road Elementary will host a Curious Kids site for the 2010/2011 school year!

PRESCHOOL – 3 and 4 year old Preschool classes are available at our Milham site. Certified teachers teach a ½ day class to students. Please call Sue Haroldson at 323-6764 for more information! Families registering by April 1st receive \$20.00 off their registration fee

REGISTER SOON!

As we attempt to estimate the number of classrooms and staffing needed at Central Elementary during the upcoming school year, it is very important that we keep an accurate count on students we will have enrolled during the 2010-11 school year. If you are aware that you will be moving from the Central El attendance area, please contact our school office at 323-6100 or complete the form below and return it to school with your child. Thank you for keeping us informed!

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Children Currently Enrolled at Central Elementary:

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

We will be moving _____ to _____
Anticipated date of move City/State moving to