

Central Connection

Central Elementary School

Susan Roberts, Principal

May/June 2010



8422 S. Westnedge

Portage, MI 49002

(269) 323-6100

"Learning and Growing with Commitment and Peace"

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICATIONS



If your child has medication in the school office, you will need to stop by the office to pick up any that is remaining. **We will not be sending any medications home with students.** All medications will be discarded by the end of the day on **June 4**. *New forms are required each new school year for students taking medications at school.*

MEMORIAL DAY

There will be no school for students on Monday, May 31st. This is in celebration of Memorial Day.



LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

If your child is missing any items, please check our lost and found table in the lobby. After June 4th, we will be donating items to the Portage Community Outreach Center. Please stop by and take a look!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday, June 4th is the last day of school. It is a full day of school with dismissal at 3:47. Have a wonderful, restful summer break!



A VERY SPECIAL

Thanks

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to all our volunteers for all you have done to make Central Elementary a very special school! We appreciate all you have done this year.

SPRING CLEANING

With the increased cost of school materials, particularly books, we have to make our school dollars stretch. As you clean closets, drawers, etc., please keep an eye open for books marked *Central Elementary*. Found items can be returned to school anytime.

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 entry in school, 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 the Central Elementary office at 323-6100. Thank you in advance for your help



VOLUNTARY STUDENT INSURANCE:

During this school year the Portage Board of Education made available a voluntary student accident insurance program. Since the District has made this insurance available, an increasing number of parents/guardians have been taking advantage of this inexpensive policy. This fact dictates that as a community service, we will continue to offer this voluntary insurance.

The District offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, and co-payments. Furthermore, in an attempt to limit the Districts' rising insurance costs, this program provides an alternative for claims due to accidental injuries that unfortunately occur on our property. This is the case for both during and after school hours.

The plan described in the brochure you'll receive in the fall has been designed to respond to diverse family insurance needs. Coverage provided can help decrease the burden of unexpected medical and dental expenses, including those left unpaid due to family insurance deductibles and co-payments.

Please watch for the enrollment forms at the start of the next school year.

TRACK AND FIELD DAY



Thursday, June 3rd is our annual 4th and 5th grade Track and Field Day. Mr. Stahr, our P.E. teacher will be supervising the big day. This event is intended to be a fun-filled day of activity, stressing participation, not competition. If you would like to volunteer to help with the events please contact Mr. Stahr at 323-6125 or by email at dstahr@portageps.org. Please be sure that the students are dressed appropriately for these activities (gym shoes, shorts, etc.).

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Do you want your student to ride the school bus next year?

Do you want to save time and money and help the environment at the same too?

In order for Portage Public Schools to provide a safe and orderly bus ride, we require all parents to register their students for bus service.

Portage students will ***not*** be scheduled for bus service unless the parents/guardians notify the transportation department in writing. You may sign up online after May 1 at www.portageps.org; or you may download the form at http://www.portageps.org/departments/transportation/requestform/transportation_requestform.pdf and submit it to the transportation office via fax, mail or your student's bus driver.

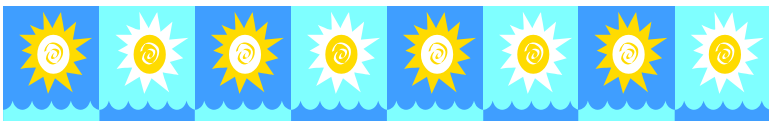
If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a Transportation Request form at any Portage school or transportation office. Obtaining an accurate list of students who will actually be riding our buses is very important for us to design efficient, low cost bus routes and to assure the safety of the students.

As a reminder, all students may be expected to walk up to 1-½ miles to school. Elementary students may walk up to ½ mile to a bus stop and middle & high students may walk up to 1 mile to a bus stop wherever appropriate walkways and traffic signs are available. Eligible students signing up for transportation will be assigned to bus stops based on their home address.

If you would like your students to ride the bus next year, please sign up early. Bus assignments will be based on the student's home address as listed on the schools records. Students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in late August with specific transportation information. **Students not replying by June 30 may compromise our ability to provide timely bus service in the fall.**

For more information, please ask your bus driver or call Transportation at 323-5151. Thank you in advance for your timely responses.

Don't delay, sign up today. You don't want to miss the bus!



STUDENTS IN THE BUILDING DURING NON SCHOOL HOURS

Once school is dismissed, students are not to re-enter the building without the supervision of an adult. We have had some instances where students enter the building after school or in the evening hours. Please be sure your children are aware that this is a safety issue, and should never enter the building unsupervised. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

STAY INFORMED OVER THE SUMMER SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES

The District offers a free list service for anyone who would like to get regular e-mail updates about Portage Schools, any of the individual schools, or about the two district foundations, The Portage Education Foundation and the Portage Athletic Foundation.

To sign-up, simply visit the District's homepage at www.portageps.org, and click on the box in the lower right corner. That will take you to a page allowing you to select the list service messages you would like. Once you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation alerting you that your order went through. Call 323-5000 with any questions.

Portage Schools is also on Twitter, the micro-blogging social media tool. You can sign up for your free Twitter account at the District homepage at www.portageps.org and then click the "follow" icon on our Twitter site to receive regular brief updates about Portage Schools.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS FOR FALL 2010

Many factors go into assigning students to classrooms. We try very hard to form well balanced classrooms, both socially and academically. Due to the number of changes that take place over the summer, class lists are not complete until right before the start of school. This allows for the many changes that take place right up until that time. The classroom assignments for the 2010-2011 school year will be posted on the Friday before school starts, on the school's front door. Students and parents are welcome to come to the school on that day, to check who their child's teacher will be. We look forward to another exciting school year!

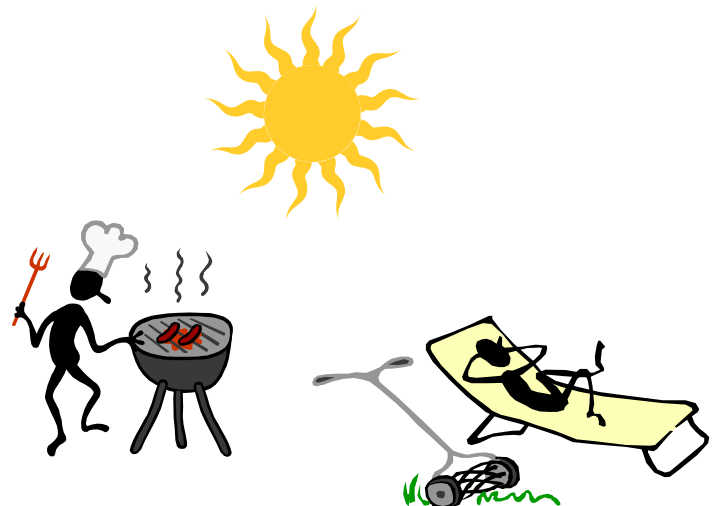
MEDIA CENTER NEWS FROM MS. NICOL

Thank you to all who made our winter and spring Book Fairs a great success. The proceeds went directly to purchase new books for the Media Center from Lowry's and Barnes and Noble. The children are already reading them and loving them!

It's difficult to believe, but the school year is winding down and there are books that need to be found. Please help your child search for any missing books and return them to the Media Center. Reminder notes will be sent out next week. Thank you for all your support and it has been my pleasure to serve you and all the children at CEL this year.

PARTICIPATION/ACTIVITY SURVEY

Portage Public Schools is in the process of considering implementation of a participation fee for middle school and high school students. This fee would impact students that participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics, school plays, debate, forensics, some clubs, and intramural activities. An extra-curricular activity is one that occurs outside of the school day and is not a part of a class (note: marching band, choir, and orchestra are excluded when they are part of a related class). This survey will assist us with completing a final recommendation that would be implemented for the 2010-2011 school year. Please take a few minutes to complete this very important online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6RDHJDN>. Thank you in advance for taking the time to assist us in providing the very best programming possible for students in Portage Public Schools.



REMEMBER TO VOTE ON MAY 4

**Renewal of Building Site Sinking Fund (BSSF)
Sought for School Repairs & Improvements**

A renewal of the .5 millage rate for the District's Building Site Sinking Fund (BSSF) will come before voters on May 4. The average cost to taxpayers is \$38 a year and will continue to generate about \$1.2 million a year.

This renewal is for a period of five years, for school year 2010/2011 through 2014/2015. The last renewal, in 2005, was approved by 70% of voters.

The BSSF has been renewed consistently since 1966, with receipts from this levy going into a separate fund for such things as making necessary repairs and improvements to school buildings, structures, and parking areas.

Since many of our facilities are nearly 50 years old, numerous facility repairs like roofs, mechanical systems, flooring, and asphalt have been funded with this millage.

From 1966 through 1998 the District levied 1.0 mill in this fund, and from 1998 to now, the District levied .5 mill of BSSF, while the other .5 was transferred to debt millage with voter approval.

In 2001 voters approved an increase of 1.0 mill through 2005 for the construction of two multi-purpose facilities at the high schools and for major renovations to the high school auditoriums.

We're Older Than You Think

Schools in our District are older than many of our residents may think; however, we continue taking excellent care of our aging schools with the help of the Building Site Sinking Fund. Our buildings that are more than 40 years old not and not currently being replaced or renovated by the current Bond Construction projects include:

- Administration Building: 88 years old
- Central Middle: 53 years old
- Amberly Elementary: 50 years old
- North Middle: 49 years old
- Haverhill Elementary: 48 years old

- Angling Road Elementary: 47 years old
- Woodland Elementary: 42 years old
- Central Elementary: 41 years old

Questions About Voting?

- Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Not sure where to vote? You only have one voting location now, so it is the same location where you vote in regular elections. Check your voter registration card or visit this web site and enter your home address for your polling station: www.michigan.gov/vote.

Ballot Language

“Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed .50 mill (\$0.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2010 to 2014, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the purchase of real estate for sites for, and the construction or repair of, school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2010 is approximately \$1,232,000 (this is a renewal of millage which expired with the 2009 tax levy)?”

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 4th!

TALENT SHOW

Please come and watch the Central Elementary Talent show on Thursday, May 20th at 6:30. Students, staff and parents have all been working very hard to bring you a fun evening full of the best talent Central has to offer. See you there!

