

HAVERHILL ELEMENTARY PARENT NEWSLETTER



6633 Haverhill Ave.
Portage, MI 49024
(269) 323-6200

Focusing on Success for
All Students

May/June/ 2010
Volume 9

IMPORTANT DATES

May 2010

- 5/7/10 9:00 AM- 9:00am- 1st Grade Field Trip to Binder Park Zoo
5/7/10- 3rd Grade Noverr/Anderson & Quinn Field Trip -Milwood Animal Hospital
5/10/10 2nd Grade Field Trip to Kalamazoo Nature Center
05/11/10 3:00 pm & 6:30 pm Kindergarten ABC Musical – Gym
5/12/10– MUFFINS FOR MOMS– 8:00 am in the Cafeteria
5/12/10 9:00 am Mobile Dentist-Office Area-
5/12/10 Wednesday-6:30 pm-HPTO Meeting– Media Center
5/13/10 9:00 am Mobile Dentist– Office Area
5/14/10 9:00 am Mobile Dentist– Office Area (If Needed)
5/18/10 9:00 am Grades 4&5 Recorder Assembly
5/21/10– Kindergarten Screening—Contact the Administration Building at 323-5199 as soon as possible to schedule your student’s screening
5/26/10 5:30-7:30 pm 5th Grade Celebration Party at Great Skate
5/26/10 5:00-6:30 pm– Ms. Hoke 4th grade Wax Museum -Gym
5/27/10 9:00am Kindergarten Field Trip to Nature Center-Full day
5/28/10 Kindergarten do not attend school on this day due to field trip
5/28/10 12:00pm First Grade Picnic
5/31/10 Memorial Day-No school

June 2010

- 6/2/20 Kindergarten Picnic
6/4/10 Friday –Last Day for Students

Friday is a full day of school there are no half days in the school calendar this school year. All students follow the full day schedule.

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS & NOTES

(You can now get the newsletter on the school WEB site–
www.portageps.org)

This will be the final Parent Newsletter for the 2009-2010 school year. I want to thank all the students, parents, parent volunteers, HPTO members, and the community for an outstanding school year. The staff and students have put in a great deal of effort to accomplish the many objectives at each grade level, and parents and guardians have worked extremely hard to support those academic gains. We together continue to make outstanding academic progress in all content areas and the MEAP. Thank you to all whose involvement in the education of our children have made such a positive impact. As we begin to close out the 2009-2010 school year we look forward to the Haverhill Elementary Summer Library Program hosted by Mrs. Bauckham, dates and times to be announced.

Kindergarten Registration

We continue to register students for the 2010-2011 school year. If you know of a family who has not yet registered for kindergarten, they may call the Haverhill Elementary school office for information until June 21, 2010 and after that date may call Mrs. Jerry Reynolds at the Administration office at 323-5199.

Kindergarten Sister School Concept

Portage Public Schools encourage parents/guardians to have their child enrolled in kindergarten in the spring prior to their first year of school. The district works to create balanced classroom sizes for all schools. In order to assist us meeting this goal, a Sister School Concept will be implemented for the 2010-2011 school year. As students enroll, they are placed in a school where the numbers best accommodate additional students. Transportation will be provided if the district places a child at a sister school.



END OF THE YEAR REMINDER

The school year is quickly coming to an end and there are many tasks that need to be taken care of before we can say “Have a happy summer break.”

- No cash refunds will be made for balances on Food Services Accounts. Balances remaining will be carried over for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. Please plan meal purchases accordingly through the end of the school year ending on Friday June 4th.
- Any medication housed in the school office must be picked up by parents/guardians by Friday June 4th. After this date medication remaining in the school office will be appropriately disposed of.
- New families that move into the neighborhood may register their students for school at the Administration Building- 8111 S. Westnedge Ave., 323-5000.
- As the warm weather arrives, please be reminded of the Portage Public Schools Dress Code that requires dress not to be disruptive to the educational process. We discourage students from wearing “short shorts”, strapless tops, spaghetti strap shirts, bare midriffs, or pants/shorts that sag low enough for undergarments to be viewed. Flip flops should not be worn to gym class.

IMMUNIZATIONS NEEDED FOR SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

Parents/guardians of current fifth grade students are reminded of the immunization requirements for next year sixth graders:

- One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap)
- 2 doses of varicella vaccine or has a history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

Incoming sixth grade students **MUST** receive the above immunizations and bring a copy of the immunization record to the perspective Middle School Office prior to the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

STUDENT DIRECTORY OPT OUT

Portage Public Schools occasionally provides student directories to organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations, colleges and libraries offering special programs to school age children, and political action committees. This information may include the student’s names, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, parent/guardian names, honors, activities and awards, grade level and dates of attendance. We also provide information for students who benefit from targeted programs to other educational and community partners offering supplemental programming and services. Parents wishing to opt out of the directory listings should contact the school’s office to request omission. Please note: exercising this right will exclude information from all external requests for directory information, including PTO directory information. It will not impact the inclusion of information in school publications such as yearbooks, school newsletters, extra-curricular programs, etc. If you wish your student’s information excluded from these publications as well, please contact the school office.



PLANNING TO MOVE

Will you be at Haverhill Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year? Are you planning to move during the summer break? Do you know where you will be moving and do you want the school records sent before the start of the new school year? If so, please contact the Haverhill school office at 323-6200 and let the office staff know about your changes and they will prepare records for transfer to the new school or district. Letting the office know of your changes will also help in the creation of classrooms for the 2010-2011 school year.

Changes in addresses for bus transportation should be directed to the Transportation Department at 323-5191.

TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES

Looking forward to the 2010-2011 school year also brings the thoughts of bus schedules. If your student rides a bus to and from school the scheduled times for pick up and drop off will be mailed on a postcard to each family in August. You can also call the transportation department at 323-5191 if you are unsure of your transportation schedule.

Lost and Found

We have a lot of items left behind by students. Prior to Thursday June 3, 2010 items will be placed on tables outside the office, please stop by the school to find items that you or your student may have been looking for over the past few months. Boots, coats, hats, mittens, gloves, shirts, and snow pants are all on tables outside the school office. All items will be donated to Portage Outreach Center on Friday June 04, 2010 at 3:45 pm.

TARDINESS AND EARLY SIGN OUTS

School begins at 8:30 am. It is very important that all students arrive to school on time. Going hand and hand with tardiness is the problem of students frequently being picked up from school early. Of course, there is an occasion when it's necessary for an appointment or last minute emergencies, but as much as possible, students need to be in school until 3:47 pm. Students need to learn at an early age that punctuality and dependability are important assets for success throughout their lives.

Enrollment Information Now Online

In efforts to improve customer service and continue to place more information online, Portage Public Schools has launched a new "Enroll Now" section on its website. There is an "Enroll Now" link on the homepage, in the upper left corner of www.portageps.org. The direct link is: <http://www.portageps.org/enrollment/default.aspx>

The enrollment page contains links to all the information and forms necessary for enrolling a new student. The site, launched in April, includes enrollment instructions for both residents and non-residents, including information regarding "Schools of Choice".

There are links to the "Program of Studies" and counseling office contacts for middle and high school students. There is also information including, what immunizations are required, how to find the "Street Guide" for those who may not know which school covers a specific neighborhood, and a listing of postal addresses for schools for those who wish to mail the enrollment forms. A Frequently Asked Questions section also provides further information.

This site is available to all new families who need information regarding enrollment and school placement.



PARENTS AND STAFF: YOUR INPUT NEEDED

Help Portage Public Schools gather community input on participation fees for middle and high school students. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey for Portage Public Schools.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6RDHJDN>

CALLING ALL PARENTS

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

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 students bus driver.

If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a Transportation Request form at any Portage school or transportation office.

As a reminder, all students may be expected to walk up to 1½ 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 323-5191. Thank you in advance for your timely responses.

OVER DUE LIBRARY BOOKS

The Media Center is still having a problem with overdue books. You can help your child develop responsibility by having your child return books on time, by having a special place for them at home. Encourage your student to return the books each week. We currently have over 300 overdue books. All Library books should be returned to school by Friday May 21, 2010. Please help us have all books returned to the library by May 21st.

Bagged Lunch Vs. School Lunch

Ever wonder the value of the school lunch? Are you tired of packing your child's lunch? Convinced you can do it for less? Check out the cost comparison's below to answer these questions and ease your mind when trying to think of healthy lunch ideas to pack! (Prices used in the examples are based on the average retail cost of lunch ingredients at local Portage stores. You may be purchasing higher or lower priced items.)

Sandwich choices:

Smucker's Uncrustable PB&J
(4 pack for \$3.00) = \$.75 each

OR

Ham or Turkey & Cheese
2 slices Home Pride wheat bread
(20 slices for \$2.79) = .14 per slice - \$.28 for 2 slices
2 oz. Deli Ham or Turkey
(at \$3.99/lb.) = \$.50
½ oz. American cheese
(72 ct. for \$6.48) = \$.09 per slice

Vegetable:

Baby carrot bites with Ranch Dip
(4 pack for \$3.99) = \$.99 per pack

Fruit:

Musselman's Applesauce Cups
(6 for \$2.59) = \$.43

OR

1 Banana
(at \$.49 / lb.) = \$.19

Dessert / Snack:

Rold Gold Pretzel Sticks
(1 oz. svq. from \$2.89 bag) = \$.18

OR

Hunts Chocolate Pudding Cup
(4 pack for \$1.29) = \$.32

Drink:

Minute Maid 100% Juice Box
(10 / 6.75 oz. boxes for \$2.99) = \$.30

School Milk or 100% Fruit Juice = \$.45