

Portage Lake Center



10011 Portage Road, Portage, MI 49002
Telephone: (269)323-6300 Fax:(269)323-6390

Mark A. Root, Principal
Pat Baltmanis, Secretary
Chris Dally, Secretary

SCHOOL HOURS 8:43-3:42
YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN AM 8:43-11:44
YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN PM 12:40-3:42

OCTOBER 2008

LOOK IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR ITEMS ON:

- Conferences
- Halloween
- Counselor's Corner
- PIV (Parent Internet Viewer) Information

TARDINESS & POOR ATTENDANCE SPELL T-R-O-U-B-L-E

When your child is absent from school, he misses more than the day's lessons. Class discussions can be just as valuable.

If your child is truly sick, he/she should stay home, of course. But missing school for any other reason can become a bad habit. Studies show that kids who have poor attendance in the elementary years are much more likely to drop out of high school later.

You can show your child how important you think good attendance is. Schedule doctors' appointments, haircuts, shopping, and family vacations after school hours.

If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher if assignments can be sent home.

Keeping up with schoolwork will make things easier when he returns.

Finally...remind your child that going to school is their number one job!

ZERO TOLERANCE – The Portage Public Schools impose serious disciplinary action for major misconduct. The Board of Education has adopted the enforcement of a "Zero Tolerance" policy in dealing with students who use profanity, who are engaged in substance abuse, or who display harassing, intimidating, or violent behavior towards other people. The *Code of Student Conduct* is included in your student Handbook, **please take time to read it thoroughly** and review the described consequences with your student. Zero tolerance means the consequences will be enforced as described in this code.

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT – If you have not signed one yet please do so soon. This agreement is explained in the Portage Public School Handbook given to each child on the first day of school. Failure to turn in a signed agreement will result in your child not being able to use the computer lab.

RECORDS DAY – Tuesday, November 4th is Records Day, there is no school for students.

HALLOWEEN PARADE – Our annual Halloween parade will take place on October 31st at 2:30. Morning Kindergarten students will parade at 10:30.

LAKE CENTER P.T.O. FAMILY DIRECTORY will be distributed soon. This directory is funded by the P.T.O. One copy per family will be sent home, and we hope you find it useful.

STUDENT ARRIVAL - When your child arrives at school after 8:43A.M., please stop at the office first and sign in. Otherwise, you may receive a call that your child is absent because attendance slips have already been sent to the office. We have been having a number of students dropped off at the back side door (by Mrs. Champion's room). Please do not continue to do so, as it is interfering with the bus drop off that is done there. Thank you for your cooperation.

HEALTH PROBLEMS - If your child has a specific health problem that may need special attention, please notify the office so proper attention may be given.

GYM SHOES - A reminder to parents that children are asked to have a pair of gym shoes for their class. If you cannot provide a pair, please contact the school. Donations of used gym shoes will be appreciated - please send them to school.

BUSES – Our buses are at or near capacity so we will not be able to issue bus passes for parties, play dates or scout meetings. Please make other arrangements for your child.

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 during the noon hour, and barring rain or severe cold, all children are expected to go out for that recess.

WEATHER ALERT - If we have a weather watch or warning, please stay tuned to your TV or radio for school closings. Please do not call the school. We need to keep our lines open for calls from the Administration offices.

SCHOOL VISITS - The staff at Lake Center wishes to extend a continuous "Welcome" to parents to visit their school and observe their children. However, I ask that you not ask for the teacher's time and attention when they are responsible for and needed by twenty-some children. (This includes when the children are entering the classroom in the A.M. and dismissed in the P.M.) Teachers get caught in the dilemma of either being impolite to you or ignoring their students. It is very important that they use this time to attend to the needs of their students and help monitor hall traffic. After dismissal is a much more relaxing time to talk--either in person or on the telephone. Thanks for your cooperation!

VISITORS' BADGES –Portage Public Schools requires all visitors to wear a nametag that has been made especially for that building. So when you visit please put on a nametag after you have signed in, and please return the badge when you sign out.

FALL CONFERENCES - As we begin to lay the groundwork for conferences, we ask your cooperation with the following:

- We are happy to send a second copy of conference reports and report cards to parents not living in the home. However, it is extremely difficult for us to schedule double conferences. If at all possible, we ask that you arrange to conference jointly or consider alternately attending Fall and Winter Conferences.
- Please make every effort to keep your scheduled conference time. It is very difficult to make up missed appointments.
- If something unexpected comes up and you are unable to make your conference, please notify the teacher as soon as possible so your conference can be rescheduled.

CONFERENCES DATES:

Monday, November 24:

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Full Day of school for students

Tuesday, November 25:

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

½ Day of school for students

Wednesday, November 26:

No school for students

PARENT INTERNET VIEWER – The PIV was activated on Friday, September 12th. Letters were mailed to all 4th & 5th grade parents with information and codes. The pin code is new this year. If you have any questions regarding the PIV please contact pivsupport@portageps.org.

PORTAGE COMMUNITY CENTER OFFERS FREE TUTORING

The Portage Community Center offers a free tutoring program to students in grades K-12.

Students are able to have a one-on-one tutoring session with a volunteer tutor once a week. To enroll, contact Tia for elementary school tutoring or Ruth for middle and high school tutoring at the Portage Community Center (323.1942) to receive a tutoring packet. According to the PCC, the top three reasons for tutoring are: to help students complete homework assignments, improve study skills and test scores, and achieve higher grades.

LAKE CENTER GIRL SCOUT TROOP 376 is hosting a craft show on October 25 at the Heart of Michigan Girl Scout Training Center at 601 W. Maple Street, Kalamazoo. Troop 376, along with other troops from the area will be showing and selling their crafts from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Canned goods will be accepted for local charities and donations of money for the B-93 Roofsit for Kids to fight child abuse in SW Michigan will also be collected.

ART NEWS - Several Lake Center 4th graders have art work currently on display in the Administration building's Art Gallery, located in the back entrance. Students drew and painted

fall leaves using various watercolor techniques. Artists include: Emily Welch, Emily Stoner, Kristen MacPherson, Madison McAllister, Paige Poulter, Abbie Simonds, Kaitlin Ingold, Kaitlyn Byas, Idris Daranijoh, Allie Romo, Megan McDermott, Bailey Gardner, Ashley Clark, Anna Kahmark, Rachel Pijaszek, Nicole Prihoda, Luke Haskin, Rebecca Barnes, Kayla Blett, and Briana DeLornezo.

DESINATION IMAGINATION -The E² staff is excited to be bringing Theresa Fougne, Director and Denise Cotter, Regional Director from Destination Imagination to share information about this unique enrichment program and discuss how parents can assist in bringing it to our school. Destination ImagiNation (www.idodi.com) teaches students the processes of Creative Problem Solving and teamwork in a fun, positive atmosphere. It is a community-based, non-profit, volunteer-driven educational organization which provides parent trainers with tools to encourage and develop these skills.

When: 6:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 15th

Where: West Middle School Little Theatre

Who should attend: Parents/PTO members interested in bringing Destination ImagiNation to their school

RSVP: Portage Public School Enrichment Center (323-5090)

FAMILY VACATIONS - are some of the most memorable times of a child's life. We hope that you had some wonderful opportunities to make memories this summer. Vacations scheduled during the school year may sometimes present a problem, since many of the educational experiences in today's classrooms cannot be duplicated at home. Cooperative learning, group discussions, simulations, hands-on science, and Chicago Math are some of the instructional experiences that children cannot repeat at home or on an extra vacation. We don't want any child to miss these valuable learning activities so please help us by making sure your child is in attendance as much as possible.

PPS TRANSPORTATION PHONE NUMBER – If you wish to contact the PPS transportation department, the phone number to call is 323-5151.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS – If you have not completed a form to request free or reduced lunches, please contact Lake Center School at 323-6300 as soon as possible. We will immediately send a form to you or you may pick one up in the office.

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION –

Portage Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex sexual orientation, marital status or handicap in the admission to, access to, participation in, benefits of, or employment in its programs or activities as provided by district policy and in compliance with Federal and State statutes.

The employees below have been designated to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504/ADA.

For further information contact:

- **Your school counselor**

- **Your building principal**

- **Title IX Coordinator**

Vickie Herzberg, Manager, SPHR

8111 S. Westnedge

Portage, MI 49005

- **Section 504 Coordinator – 269-323-5015**

Laurie Montgomery, Director

- **Employment 269-323-5152**

Vickie Herzberg, Manager SPHR

- **Special Education 269-323-5015**

Laurie Montgomery, Director

Any person may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, regarding the District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX or Section 504/ADA.