



LAKE CENTER ELEMENTARY
"LEARNING CREATES SUCCESS"

PARTNERS IN LEARNING
NEWSLETTER

10011 Portage Road, Portage, MI 49002-7249
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

NOVEMBER 2007

LOOK IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR ITEMS ON:

- Spaghetti Dinner & Raffle
- Girls on the Run Coaches needed
- Snow Day Procedures
- Thanksgiving food collection
- Transportation Responsibilities
- Yearbook Sales

ELECTION – Please remember to vote on November 6th. Information concerning the bond proposals can be found on the Portage Public School's web site, www.portageps.org. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

CONFERENCES – Parent Teacher Conferences will be held:
Monday, November 19 5:00-8:00
Full Day of School for Students

Tuesday, November 20 1:00-4:00 & 5:00-8:00
½ Day of School for Students (AM Young Five & Kindergarten students attend in the AM)

Wednesday, November 21
½ Day of School for Students and Staff (PM Kindergarten students attend in the AM)

REMINDER FOR KINDERGARTEN AND YOUNG FIVES PARENTS - On half days, kindergarten students are dropped off at the regular bus stop and not at their homes.

Please discuss this with your student before the next half-day so that they will know what is expected of them.

SPAGHETTI DINNER & RAFFLE – Mark your calendar for the PTO Spaghetti Dinner on Nov. 8th. Also, during the evening a raffle will be conducted. The Dinner will be served from 5:00-7:00. The raffle will begin at 6:00. Raffle tickets will not be sold after 6:00. The proceeds from the raffle will support the Summer Enrichment Program. Please preorder your tickets for the Spaghetti Dinner; this will help us know how much food to prepare. Last year over 500 were served. Extra order forms are available in the office.

WEATHER WATCH REMINDER – At this time of year, we find temperatures can fluctuate rapidly during the day. Please be sure your child comes to school dressed for any type of weather. We do take a half hour recess each day and barring rain or severe cold, all children are expected to go out for that recess. Winter and fall activities can be fun when students are dressed for them.

SNOW DAY 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 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 announcements.

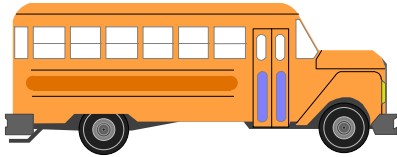
THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION– As in the past, we will be collecting non-perishable food and paper products for the Portage Community Outreach Center (PCOC) to distribute to needy families. Children can bring items from November 1-8. These donations will be delivered to PCOC on Thursday, November 8 in the morning.

GIRLS ON THE RUN - Coaches are needed to lead four teams of our third through fifth graders during Girls on the Run (GOTR) March through May. This after school program will be offered to 60 girls two afternoons per week for 9 weeks beginning the week of March 17, 2008. Greater Kalamazoo GOTR provides training for coaches who will lead the girls in lessons that are intended to enhance the girls' self-esteem and build appreciation for a healthy lifestyle. Each lesson is accompanied by a running activity and work out designed to enhance the girls' overall physical health as well. Please contact Mrs. Kitchen at 323-6332 if you are interested.

SICK CHILDREN – Our Health Room facilities are highly inadequate for the number of children who bring notes to school requesting they not go outside. If your child is recovering from a cold, flu, or similar illness, we recommend an extra day at home to regain strength. Exceptions are made ONLY if your child has been home with an extended illness and there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate the student remain in at noontime.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR STUDENTS – If your child will be absent from school and you wish the classroom teacher to prepare make-up work, please call ahead with your request. This will allow ample time to prepare a list of assignments.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION – The driver of a bus has a great responsibility. A mistake by the driver might mean an injury or death to students on the bus. Students should remember that transportation is provided for their convenience and that it is a privilege to ride the bus, not a right. Students are expected to exercise proper conduct at all times. Because of safety factors, misconduct will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave or in any way place the driver, students and/or bus in jeopardy, will lose their bus privileges.



TRANSPORTATION-PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY –

1. To make sure their children arrive at the bus stop on time in the AM.
2. To provide necessary supervision to, from, and at the bus stop.
3. To understand that students may not ride a bus other than the one to which they are assigned, nor get on or off the bus at a stop other than their designated stop. The building principal may grant variances in an emergency and for day-care purposes only.
4. To send a note to school if your child is not to ride the bus home and he/she is being picked up. If you aren't here at dismissal time, without a note the child will be sent home on the bus - with a note, the child will remain in the office for the additional few minutes to be picked up.

We would like to suggest you consider providing tote bags for students. This would take care of getting many items to and from school safely and also help students getting on and off the bus, crossing the street, etc.

LAKE CENTER DIRECTORY – Thanks to the PTO for again paying for the printing of the Lake Center Directory. The directories were sent home, one per family. We would like to give a very special thank you to Dana Pope for creating the directory.

NEEDED – Sometimes children get wet or muddy during recess, if possible the office will loan them clothes to wear. For this reason we are looking for sweatpants, especially the larger sizes. At this time we have plenty of shirts. If you have any that your child has outgrown, we could put them to good use. Thank You.

LAKE CENTER SCHOOL IS A WEAPONS FREE ZONE! – Please take a moment to talk seriously to your children about the consequences of bringing weapons or explosive devices to school. All materials, objects & toys that are sharp or have

explosive capabilities are prohibited and should not be brought to school. Possession of a weapon of any kind on school property is grounds for permanent expulsion.

REMINDER, ALL EXTERIOR DOORS ARE LOCKED – All exterior doors are locked during the day except the south door by the office. We also ask all visitors to stop by the office, so that we may help direct them to their destination. If a child needs to be picked up during the day we call students from the office. No children are released from their classrooms. These are also measures designed to protect our students.

LAKE CENTER YEARBOOKS – The 2007-08 yearbooks are on sale through November 16th. For the first time our yearbook will be FULL COLOR, the cost will be \$10.00. We are looking for first day pictures, if you have one please contact Mrs. Rutten (Miss Schutte), her email is aschutte@portageps.org. Your photo may be included in the yearbook. Yearbooks will be delivered some time in April or May.

COUNSELOR’S CORNER

Those little white lies could be misleading.....

Ever sneak your kid in or buy a ticket for a “child under twelve” when indeed they are older? Order from a kids menu for kids age twelve and under when your kid is actually thirteen? Keep the money the clerk gave you by mistake? Teach your child to say you are not there when an unwanted visitor drops over or calls? All of the above actions start out as what we claim to be “little white lies”.....but anytime we stretch the truth, you’re actually giving your kid permission to do it also.

So, what can you do if you’ve begun to notice that often times your youngster stretched the truth or even worst has now formed a pattern for doing so?

Michelle Borba, EdD internationally renowned consultant and educator shares these seven tips to reducing dishonesty in her book, No More Misbehavin:

1. **Expect and demand honesty.** Parents who raise honest kids expect it of them. Repeatedly state your expectations, “*Everyone in our family is always expected to tell the truth.*”
2. **Reinforce honesty.** Certainly we should praise them when they are honest by saying, “I really appreciate your honesty. I am glad I can count on you to say the truth.”
3. **Use moral questioning.** If your child is lying, ask: “*Was that the right thing to do?*”, “*Why do you think I’m concerned?*”, “*How would YOU feel if I lied to you?*”
4. **Don’t overreact when truth is stretched.** Stay calm so you can get down to the important issue: why they lied and what they plan to do to remedy or fix the mistruth.
5. **Teach the difference between real and make-believe.** Instead of using the more threatening terms of “telling a lie”, ask if what they said was real or make-

- believe. Often times they will admit to something that was make believe easier saying it was a lie.
6. **Explain why dishonest y is wrong.** People won't trust you, you get a bad reputation, it hurts others are all good ways to explain it even for young children.
 7. **Set a consequence for repeat dishonesty.** If these statements continue it is time for a consequence. The best consequences are ones that help kids think about how they will change their behavior in the future. Drawing or writing a letter of apology to the victim or a loss of a desired privilege or grounding.

Things to also consider as you design your plan:

- Note times when they lie. Is it to everyone or just certain individuals? When did it start? What might be triggers?
- Talk to other adults who know your child well. Are they seeing the same behaviors?
- Make time to discuss progress and/ or consequences and get their agreement to stop this behavior.
- If the behavior continues despite your efforts, see help form a professional don't wait.

~Nancy Ablao
School Counselor