

Portage Lake Center



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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

Some of the things you will find in this issue:

- Construction Update
- Internet Safety Meeting
- End of Semester
- Ski Club

JANUARY 2009

Dear Family,

Often times the new year is looked at as a time for new beginnings as well as a time to reflect on past practices. It's a time when people evaluate their goals and assess their needs. As you make your New Year's Resolutions, please consider the following tips:

AS A PARENT, TO START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT, I PLEDGE TO:

Participate in my children's education by supervising homework, talking with my children about school, and volunteering.

Acept my children for who they are. I will try to nurture those qualities that makes each of my children special.

Read to or with my children every day of the year.

Expect the very best from my children at all times.

Never let a day go by without telling my children that I love them.

Turn off the television for homework, reading time, and for special times with my children.

From our family to yours; have a safe and wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Root

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES – The next year and half will be exciting as we watch our new school being built, but we need to have patience with changes that must be made to keep everyone safe and get the needed supplies to the site. When we return after Winter Break we will be using the temporary playground, which is across from the café in the vacant lot. The area behind school where the new building will be built will be fenced off. All walkers, that use the playground path, will need to enter the building at the northeast door (5th grade door). The southern doors, by first grade and kindergarten rooms will not be assessable; do not attempt to drop off students there. Attached to this newsletter is a map showing the drop off route for parent traffic. Please be aware that additional parking has been made in the area west of the temporary playground. The truck traffic will be using the drive to the south of the building.

PPS PARENTS/CAREGIVERS -

Do you know enough to keep your children safe in this technology-rich society? Do you know enough about **Cyber-bullying, MySpace and Facebook**? Your children most-likely do. We'd like to invite you to increase your knowledge regarding, **“How to keep your children safe on the computer/internet!”**

Portage North Middle School will be hosting a presentation by the Office of the Attorney General, Computer Safety Initiative (AGCSI)

When: Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

Where: North Middle School Little Theatre or Library (depending on size of group)

Details: The Office of the Attorney General will be providing information to our Portage Public

Schools parent community (ALL PPS parents/all schools are invited and welcome to attend)

Information that will be Offered:

- How to access the Michigan Sex Offender Registry – including how to sign up for email updates;
- How to obtain reliable information on parental control software.

Plus instructions for using online tutorials on how to:

- Search and access your child's social networking sites (MySpace and Facebook)
- View Internet history logs to determine where your children have been online
- Access and modify settings for safer surfing on Internet search

Please contact Pam Newhouse at 269-323-5700 if you are interested in attending, as well as the approximate number of people who will be attending with you so that we may plan for the appropriate number of materials and a space that will accommodate everyone. You may obtain additional information at www.michigan.gov/ag or contact Kim Kirshman, North Middle School Assistant Principal

HELP THE SCHOOL WHILE SHOPPING - You can purchase items at Office Depot stores, at any location, or on-line and use the Lake Center ID(the stores already have these ID#'s and scan them at the check-out register).

Portage Public Schools- Office Depot 5% Back to the School- School ID's

Lake Center- 70052070

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR FALL 2009– We have begun to collect names of prospective kindergarten students for the fall. If you have a child, or know of a neighbor's child, who will be five years old by December 1, 2009, would you please forward the information to school or call 323-6300. We need the child's name, parents' names, date of birth, telephone number, address and day care information.

***** Portage Public Schools encourage parents to have their children enrolled for kindergarten in the spring prior to their first year of school. We then try hard to create balanced class sizes for all students. This year in order to help us accomplish this goal, we will be implementing a sister school concept. As students enroll they will be placed in a school where the numbers can best accommodate additional students. Transportation will be provided if the district places a child at a sister school. Contact*

END OF SEMESTER – There will be no school for students on Friday, January 23, which is the end of the semester. Teachers will be working on the first semester report cards that day.

REPORT CARDS – These will be sent home in February 13. Please do not seal the envelope when returning the signature card, as we will use these envelopes to send home report cards in April.

WEATHER AND RECESS – Children should come to school each day dressed appropriately for a thirty-minute outside recess. A decision is made each day concerning temperature, wind factor, dampness and playground conditions as to whether children go outside or stay inside at noon. We prefer that children do go outside whenever possible as we know they need the fresh air and opportunity for supervised physical activity in order to do their best work in the afternoon.

SNOW SKIING - Discounts at Bittersweet Ski Area in Otsego. Discounts on Lift Tickets &/or Rentals. Students (7-18) and/or Adults. EXACTLY same discounts as local school ski clubs. No obligations. No transportation. ONLY DISCOUNTS!. Membership is \$10 Adult, \$12 Student. Students receive 2 FREE LESSONS. Lift Tickets are \$18 Adult, \$13 Student. Rental is \$16 Adult, \$11 Student. Unlimited number of visits. Good EVERY DAY (week-ends & holidays, only after 3pm). Students will save at least \$12 EVERY VISIT. For more information, contact school office OR call 324-7027 (Todd) and leave message. Memberships will be made available until Jan 15. Pass is good until season end.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE – Our warmest thanks to Donna Bourbeau, Jennifer Welch and Kim Bateman and the many parents who worked so hard to make the Boutique a success. Many hours of work on the part of many parents helped make this event a happy experience for the students to select their own Christmas gifts. Thanks for caring enough to give your time.

CLASSROOM VISITATIONS – you are always welcome to visit in your child's classroom - however, we do ask that you let the teacher know in advance. Please be sure

to sign in at the office when you do stop for a visit. Your continued support and cooperation is appreciated.

TOYS AT SCHOOL – Toys at school do cause considerable problems and classroom interruptions. Even with the best intentions, children find it hard to leave them in their desk or lockers until playtime. Therefore, teachers spend much time correcting and giving reminders. It is also difficult to keep other envious children from touching, and sometimes taking, desired items. We ask your cooperation in seeing that toys **are not** brought to school. Bringing balls and game equipment for the playground is acceptable. **Electronic games, radios, tape recorders, dolls, transformers, Beanie Babies, and other small games and toys are NOT ALLOWED.**

PROTECTIVE SERVICES INFORMATION – There are times when our staff members must make referrals to Protective Services. School staff members are required by law to make referrals to Protective Services if they suspect child abuse or neglect. Failure to report these acts is a misdemeanor and may result in civil liability. “Child abuse” as described in the law, means any harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare (including but not limited to parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child’s welfare), failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision or medical care. This includes students who are left unsupervised before and after school.

WHY IS THE BUS LATE? - As weather and road conditions challenge us at this time of year, our bus drivers are instructed to think safety before schedule. Therefore, some of our routes may be delayed in picking up and/or dropping off students. We will continue on routes and service all accessible bus stops. Please have your students wait at their bus stops. For current information about your bus, call the transportation office at 323-5151. We are here until the last regularly scheduled student is delivered home safely every school day. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during inclement road and weather conditions.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR AT LAKE CENTER

We are starting to collect names of prospective Kindergarten students for the Fall. If you have a child or know of a neighbor's child who will be **five years old by December 1, 2009**, please forward the information or call the school (323-6300). We will send enrollment and medical information soon after receiving this information. **If you do not have an official birth certificate, one must be obtained before school starts, as each child must show one during registration.** We need this information to plan effectively for future classes.

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CHILD'S NAME _____
Last, First Middle

MOTHER'S NAME _____ FATHER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ BIRTH DATE _____ Male ___ Female ___

*DAY CARE _____
Name Address

*Will your child be picked up by bus at Day Care? ___Yes ___No

*Will your child be dropped off by bus at Day Care? ___Yes ___No

TELEPHONE (evening) _____ (days) _____

*This information is important. It may make a difference in whether your child attends morning or afternoon.