

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 8:30-3:46
YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN AM 8:30-11:35
YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN PM 12:35-3:46

FEBRUARY 2012

In this issue you will find:

- Conference Dates
- School Closing Dates
- Enrolling kindergarten students for fall
- Portage Public Schools Placement Information

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES – Valentine's Day parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14th. The classroom teacher will provide specific information.

LAKE CENTER CONFERENCE DAYS –

Tuesday, February 21 – 5:00 – 8:45

Wednesday, February 22 – 5:00 – 8:45

FOR YOUR CALENDAR – Friday, February 24th there will be no school for students, this is Mid-Winter Break. Thursday, March 29th is a ½ day for students. Friday, March 30th, no school for students, this is Spring Friday. Spring Break is April 2nd – 6th. School resumes on April 9th. Monday, May 28th is Memorial Day, no school for students. Friday, June 1st will be the last day of school.

STUDENT INFORMATION – It is assumed that the names listed on the student information system as contact 1 & 2 have your permission to sign your student out in case of emergency. If you are unsure of who you currently have designated as an emergency pick-up, please contact the office.

Parents that are listed as 2nd parent may also pick up your child. If you have court papers that state otherwise, please make sure to bring them into the office so that we can make a copy and mark the system properly.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR FALL 2012– 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, 2012, 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 your home school for enrollment information.*

ART NEWS- The student art show at the Kalamazoo Institute of Art is early this year and the opening for Portage Public Schools will be Sunday, February 5 from 2-4. Congratulations to the following Lake Center students who will have their work on display at the KIA from February 4-22.

Kindergarten: Maddie Crowley and Dominic Pallo First Grade: Lucy Cheatham, Breanna Mira and Mathieu Northuis Second Grade: Elizabeth Longcore and Avery Ojala Third Grade: Lauren Babb, Jenna Camp, Taylor Haring, Aubrey Kitchen, Ryan Pijaszek, Lauren Radcliffe, Madison Still and Carly Wolfe Fourth Grade: Kyle Holroyd, Griffin Lantz, Moriah Nakken and Hunter Tefft Fifth Grade: Jackson Crouse, Schyler Lindahl, Annie Malek, Alana Richmond and Sophia Robinson Hopefully you will be able to attend this county-wide art display showcasing K-12 art work.

UPDATED ENROLLMENT INFORMATION – Please be sure to keep us informed of any changes in your student’s status, telephone numbers, address, emergency telephone numbers, etc. They are all very important. It is extremely helpful if we have the correct information, especially in case of an emergency. Call us at 323-6300 to inform us of any changes.

“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 continue to have your students wait at their bus stops. For up to the minute information about your student's 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.

COLD WEATHER – Thank you for continuing to send us students who can go outside at noon dressed warmly.

STUDENT ILLNESS – As winter weather continues, so does the “cold and flu season.” With such a large concentration of people in one area, the “bugs” can often spread very quickly.

For the health and well-being of all concerned (students and staff), please keep children who are ill at home where they can rest comfortably and recover without spreading the cold or flu to others. With your help, we can anticipate a healthier and more productive learning climate.

When returning to school from an illness, a child may remain inside for recess one day with a note from parents. Any longer requests to stay inside **MUST** be accompanied by a doctor's request or they will not be honored. We have limited facilities and supervision at recess time and must ask your cooperation with this policy. You may sign your child out and take them home for lunch during a recuperation period.

VACATIONS AND STUDENT WORK MAKE-UP – Teachers are frequently asked to provide work for a child who is going on vacation. This request sometimes is made before leaving, with the parental intent that the child complete the work before vacation. This can and usually does place an unfair burden on the classroom teacher. Obviously, we don't like to see students miss school, but we realize special circumstances dictate the timing of such family vacations. It is not fair, however, to expect the teacher to do his or her planning weeks in advance for the convenience of these isolated cases since detailed plans are normally prepared a week ahead and respond to the current pace of learning in each subject. Please be open to suggestions from your child's teacher regarding appropriate vacation learning activities.

PARENTS PLEASE HELP – Please read what is written on your child's shirts and sweatshirts. Some things are not appropriate for school. If your

child comes to school in something that is not appropriate we will give them a different shirt to wear. If we do not have anything that will fit, then you will be called to bring a change of clothes to school. We ask your help and understanding in this matter.

WINTER WEATHER – Winter weather is upon us and “snow days” are always a possibility if the weather becomes severe. When Portage Schools cancels or delays the start of school, the announcement will be made in time for 6 a.m. news casts on local television and radio stations. Parents may also check the district web site portageps.org (click on “Parents & Visitors”) for a link to postings at the WWMT-TV Channel 3 website. The District also has a hotline (323-6800) that is updated on snow days, and Portage Cable Access, Channel 99, also posts school closing information.

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Procedures for Placement and Transfer of Elementary Students

The Board and administration of Portage Public Schools believe that elementary-age students should be assigned to a school based on the location of their permanent residence (i.e. where the child regularly resides and spends the night under the supervision of a parent or legal guardian). The Board of Education approves attendance boundaries after considering recommendations made by the District’s administration. The District strives to provide a consistent set of high quality programs and services at each school site so that every student’s academic needs can be appropriately addressed, under normal circumstances, at any elementary school within the District’s boundaries.

1. Attendance at an assigned school will be considered automatic unless the legal parent or guardian requests, in writing, that the District consider one (or more) special circumstance(s) that likely would impact the student’s educational experience. The decision to allow a transfer to another District school site will be the responsibility of the Coordinator of Instructional Services. That decision will be based on a review of information provided by the parent or legal guardian and any other pertinent information that may be reasonably and legally obtained by the Coordinator concerning the student’s needs.

2. A request for another building must be made for the full school year and will remain in effect unless changed by the parent through a written document or unless it becomes necessary to reduce numbers in a building to accommodate neighborhood enrollment.
3. Approved moves may be revoked if attendance or behavior issues are apparent, and it is determined by school personnel that returning to the home school would best serve the needs of the child.
4. Assignment to a particular classroom is the responsibility of the building principal.
5. Special Education programs and services for students with disabilities are regulated by legislation. Administrative rules determine maximum class size in these programs.

The request for an elementary school other than the school assigned by the attendance area must be made by February 28, 2012. Parents will be notified as to the status of their request by March 31, 2012 (kindergarten requests will be determined by May). Written requests will be considered after February 28, 2012 only with a valid extenuating circumstance. District residents will receive priority for placement before Non-Resident 501C Schools of Choice applications are accepted in 2012.

Transportation

Transportation will not be provided except for students who also attend the Curious Kids program.

Questions may be directed to the Coordinator of Instructional Services (323-5162).

IMPORTATE DATES:

- **Feb. 1 -5TH Grade Parents Middle School Meeting 6:30**
- **Feb. 3 –Popcorn Day**
- **Feb. 4 – Popcorn Day**
- **Feb. 6 – PTO Meeting 6:30**
- **Feb. 6 – Report Cards Sent Home**
- **Feb. 7 – Grade 1, Grade 2, 3R, 3B & 3O to Chenery Auditorium**
- **Feb. 9 – Student Council Meeting 7:45 am**
- **Feb. 10 – Father/Daughter Dance 6:30 – 8:30**
- **Feb. 14 – Valentine Parties**
- **Feb. 14 – Extra Conferences Mrs. Candey & Mrs. Vaughn**
- **Feb. 15 – 5D & 5F to KIA**
- **Feb. 16 – EFA Field Trip 2Co & 2M**
- **Feb. 16 – Human Growth Development Meeting Ad. Bldg. 6:30**
- **Feb. 16 – Extra Conferences Mrs. Candey & Mrs. Vaughn**
- **Feb. 17 – Slipper Day**
- **Feb. 21 – Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:45**
- **Feb. 22 – Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:45**
- **Feb. 23 – Staff/Student Basketball Game 2:30**
- **Feb. 24 – No School Mid Winter Break**
- **Feb. 27 – 4th & 5th Grade to KSO @ Chenery Auditorium**