



Waylee Elementary School
8106 Waylee Street
Portage, Michigan 49002
Phone: 269-323-6500
Fax: 269-323-6590
Mr. Ron Jones
Principal
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER

WAYLEE RAP-UP

Dear Students and Parents:

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! We hope you all had a fun, relaxing, and educational summer with your children.

SAFE AND ORDERLY ENVIRONMENT:

To provide a safe and orderly environment, all **employees** and **visitors** at Waylee will be required to wear an identification tag on a chain. When you enter the building you must report to the office and **sign in** and pick up a tag to be worn while you are in the building. You will then return it to the office when you **sign out**. Students are being advised that they are to report to their teacher immediately if they see anyone in the building not wearing a tag.

The only door open after the school bell rings to start the day will be the main front door on Waylee Street.

If you are here to sign out your child, you must report to the office. After you sign the child out, we will call the classroom and have them report to the office.

If your student is coming to your car after school, please pick them up in our turn-around. If they must cross Waylee Street make sure they **only cross at the crosswalk where an adult can supervise their safe crossing.**

Ron Jones, Principal



QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS??

CALL US AT 323-6500:

Ron Jones – Principal
Missy Griffioen – Secretary
Vicki Joffe – Secretary

TARDINESS AND 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. We want your children at school and on time. Studies show that kids who have poor attendance in the elementary years are much more likely to drop out of high school later. Schedule doctors appointments, haircuts, music lessons, and family vacations after school hours.

Stress to your children that school is their "job", and punctuality is a requirement on any job.

The 2007-08 school year promises to be very exciting and productive.

READ THE WRAP-UP & BE INFORMED

This newsletter is published monthly & will come home the end of month. The calendar will inform you of upcoming events during the month so keep it hanging on you refrigerator! Each month Mr. Jones will feature news; the PTO will include an update on their events, and other important announcements will be shared. Check your child's back pack every night!

ATTENTION PARENTS...

We need everyone to know that we **DO NOT** use PEANUT OIL in the popcorn that the Student Council sells usually the 1st Friday of the month. We have a 4th grader and a 5th grader who are deathly allergic to peanuts and others who are also allergic to any peanut product.

NO WEAPONS AT SCHOOL

Please read and explain to your children the mandatory expulsion rule on page 12 of the Elementary Handbook. Please make sure your children understand the consequences so this doesn't happen at Waylee.

WAYLEE FAMILY DIRECTORY

Your name, address, and phone number will appear in the Waylee Family Directory (published in Oct.) exactly as it appears on the enrollment sheet. If you have an **UNLISTED** phone number, we do **NOT** print it in our directory. If you do not want any family information printed, please let us know **IN WRITING** before September 21, 2007. If you do want your unlisted phone number printed, we'll also need to know that. Directories are sent home in mid-October, (one per family), with the youngest child in the family that attends Waylee.

LABEL PERSONAL ITEMS

We had so many clothes accumulate in our "Lost & Found" for which we could not find an owner last year. We would like your cooperation in marking your child's name on items of clothing belonging to him/her to aid us in assuring proper ownership. Keep checking our "Lost & Found" wooden bin in the front lobby if something comes up missing!

VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

During this school year the Portage Board of Education will make available a voluntary student accident insurance program. Since the District has made this insurance available, an increasing number of parents and guardians have been taking advantage of this inexpensive policy. This fact dictates that as a community service, we will continue to offer this voluntary insurance.

The District offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, and co-payments. Furthermore, in an attempt to limit the Districts' rising insurance costs, this program provides an alternative for claims due to injuries that unfortunately occur on our property. This is the case for both during and after school hours.

The two plans (Comprehensive 80/20% and Basic 60/40%) described in the brochure you'll receive this week have been designed to respond to diverse family insurance needs. Coverage provided can help decrease the burden of unexpected medical and dental expenses, including those left unpaid due to family insurance deductibles and co-payments.

RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES BOOKLET

Be sure and review the information presented in this booklet with your children. Although the classroom teacher has reviewed these with your child, it is important that **YOU AND YOUR CHILD** understand the rules and responsibilities so they can be discussed should your child bring home an office referral form. Please sign the signature sheet in the Rules & Responsibilities booklet and have your child sign it also, and return it to the classroom teacher. We then keep on file this notification that you and your children know our rules.

NEW PTO OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

PRESIDENT-	Tina Richmond	324-2961
VICE PRES -	Denise Franklin	324-1295
SECRETARY -	Amy Sherman	323-3527
TREASURER-	Holly Boyd	324-9939
TRUSTEE-	Jessica Venturelli	324-7032
PAST PRES-	Susan Fulling	327-0439

SCHOOL HOURS THIS YEAR:

8:35 A.M. - ENTER BUILDING
8:43 A.M. - SCHOOL STARTS
11:44 A.M. - AM KDG AND Y5'S DISMISS
12:40 P.M. - PM KDG STARTS
3:42 P.M. - SCHOOL ENDS

Dismissal on half days is 11:57 a.m.



Student Directory Opt Out

Portage Public Schools occasionally provides student directories with address/telephone numbers to organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations, colleges and libraries offering special programs to school age children, and political action committees. Parents wishing to opt out of all directory listings should contact the main office in writing to request omission

learn some new things? Tell me about them.” This will reinforce what she has learned.

SCHOOL VISITS

We want to extend a continuous “WELCOME” to parents to visit their school and observe their children. However, we 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 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 more relaxing time to talk – either in person or on the phone. To ensure that our students are safe and the educational process is not disrupted, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Classroom visits need to be arranged with the teacher 24 hours in advance.
2. All individuals who are scheduled to make a classroom visit must stop by the office to:
 - a. Register with the office staff
 - b. Be cleared of any possible restraining or other court orders
 - c. Receive a nametag
3. Time is for observation only, not teacher consultation. If you wish to meet with the teacher, please schedule a conference outside of instructional time.
4. During classroom visitation, parents are not to videotape or otherwise record classroom activities without the permission of the principal.

READING FOR MEANING

Who? What? When? Where? Why? Experienced readers ask themselves these questions as they read. Finding the answers helps them understand the story. To boost your child’s comprehension, ask a few simple questions before and after reading.

What do you know?

Together, look at the cover of the book before you begin reading. Read the title and talk about the cover’s picture. For example, a book called “Polar Bears of the Cold” may have a picture of a mother polar bear with her baby. Ask your child, “What do you already know about polar bears?” Her answers could include: “They are white. They eat fish.” This gets your child thinking about polar bears before she starts to read the story.

What do you want to know?

Have your youngster think of questions he has about the story. He might ask: “How much do polar bears weigh?” “How do they keep warm in icy water?” “Do they teach their babies to fish?” By deciding what he wants to know, he has set a goal to reach by reading.

What did you learn?

Ask your child questions about the story after you’ve finished reading it together. Examples: “Did you learn what you wanted to know about polar bears?” “Did you

OUR TEACHERS HAVE PHONES

IF YOU NEED TO REACH A TEACHER, CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THEIR VOICE MAIL AND THEY WILL RETURN YOUR CALL WHEN THEY GET A FEW MINUTES. IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY, YOU WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO DIAL “0” TO REACH SOMEONE IN THE OFFICE.

WAYLEE PHONE NUMBERS 2007-2008

ANDERSON, KENDRA	323-6578
BERANEK, RUTH	323-6501
BEUKER, PAM	323-6504
CASANTO, KAREN	323-6501
CRAMER, LOU	323-6585
DEVRIES, KAREN	323-6571
FLYNN, RENEE	323-6513
FRENCH-HALL, KAREN	323-6523
GALIA, JEAN	323-6518
GRIFFIOEN, LARRY	323-6593
GRIFFIOEN, MISSY	323-6559
HAAS, HEATHER	323-6503
HABER, CARY	323-6526
HECKER, AMANDA	323-6515
HICKOK, MARLENE	323-6517
HINZE, BETH	323-6501
JENSEN, MARY	323-6521
JOFFE, VICKI	323-6561
JOHNSON, RYAN	323-6528
JONES, RON	323-6555
KITCHEN	323-6595
KLINESTEKER, BILL	323-6525
LAM, KEITH	323-6524
MARTIN, NANCY	323-6512
MEEKER, DEBORAH	323-6527
MORRISON, MICHELE	323-6522
RAINIER, JENNIFER	323-6510
REIFF, SUE	323-6508
ROBERTS, RACHEL	323-6507
RUMORA, SUSAN	323-6515 or 6501
STOLL, CONNIE	323-6575
TANG, MARYELLEN	323-6501
TANG, MEGHANN	323-6501
TROYER, JAN	323-6506
VLIEK, PEGGY	323-6505
WINTERS, LAURA	323-6501
WURFEL, JULIE	323-6519



PARENTS! Please provide 24 – hour notice if your child is NOT TAKING REGULAR TRANSPORTATION HOME OR IF SOMEONE IS PICKING THEM UP AT SCHOOL. We are unable to take last minute phone calls, get the messages to children, and “stop the busses!” Also, your child must have a written note, signed by a parent, in order to be picked up in the office, or go home with someone else. If we do not have a note, students will be taking their regular transportation (bus). Some busses are full to capacity and can not accommodate extra students. Check with the office (323-6500) or transportation (323-5151) ahead of time to make sure there is room for your child.

September Calendar

September 3 – No School Labor Day

September 4 – ½ Day School Begins

September 5 – Full Day – Regular Schedule

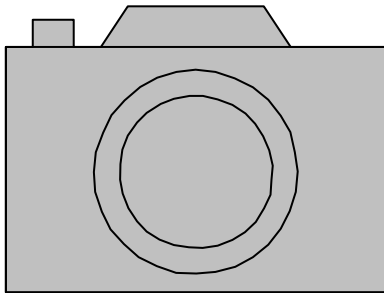
September 6 – 7:00 p.m. Y5 & Kdg Parent Meeting

September 11 – 6:30 p.m. 1st Grade Parent Meeting

September 11 – 7:00 p.m. First PTO Meeting of the Year

September 20 – 6:30-8:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE

October 4 – PICTURE DAY ☺



Recess Before Lunch 2007-08 School Year

Beginning last school year, Waylee Elementary School began a new schedule during our lunch break: we will have “Recess Before Lunch.” Several Portage Public Elementary Schools have already implemented this type of lunch break and others will also be trying this new schedule for the next school year. Before eating lunch, Waylee students will be dismissed for recess to play and then

come to the cafeteria to eat. Following lunch, students will return to class, ready to learn. Students will have the same recess time and will have a slightly longer time in the lunchroom for eating with the schedule.

Why Recess Before Lunch?

- Students are not rushing through lunch to get outside for recess.
- Plate waste studies indicate that children eat more fruits and vegetables, drink more milk and waste less food.
- Students consume more food and nutrients when eating lunch after recess. Students focus on eating and take more time to socialize with each other.
- Students learn to solve their own social problems over lunch and don’t bring these arguments back to the classroom. This results in a more productive educational environment.
- Students are more ready to learn upon returning to the classroom immediately after lunch so less instructional time is lost.
- The students perform better in the classroom because of increased nutrient intake and focused attention.
- Schools who currently have recess before lunch report students behave better on the playground, in the cafeteria and in the classroom with this schedule.

WHAT ABOUT HAND WASHING?

A concern with this new schedule is finding time and space for students to wash their hands prior to eating. To assist with this, we are installing hand-sanitizer stations near the cafeteria. There are also restrooms near the cafeteria to wash very grimy, dirty hands with soap and water.

OPEN HOUSE

Waylee Open House (for the whole family) will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is a wonderful time to bring your whole family to meet the teacher and get acquainted with other parents at Waylee. It's lots of fun!

INTERNS FOR THE FALL:

Allyson Dudley with J. Troyer 1st Grade
Natassia McKillip with Cary Haber 4th Grade
Laura Bosch with Marlene Hickok 4th Grade
Michelle Magalski with Bill Klinesteker 5th Grade
Maura Hannan with Michele Morrison Spec. Ed

ROSE PEST SOLUTIONS 1-800-323-2173.

Due to Acts 636 and 637 of the Michigan State Department of Agriculture's Pesticide notification of schools, we are required to inform you of your schedule pest control service days. The following is a list of service dates at Waylee Elementary for the 2007-08 school year.

9/24, 10/22, 11/26, 12/24, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/28, 5/26, 6/23, 7/28, and 8/25.

DESPERATELY SEEKING noontime PLAYGROUND supervisors for the upcoming year. I am asking that you put in your first newsletter to students a request for "anyone wanting extra monies" or "anyone with some time on their hands and who LOVE kids".. etc. to call the HR Dept. for an application as I have about 5 school vacancies.

These are basically 3 hr/day jobs (15 hr/week) and the pay is \$8.09. They would become Van Buren employees.

If you have any questions, please call me at #5174.

Thanks a bunch!

Susan Ooms

LUNCH TIME NEWS...

The meals prices for this year have been increased 5 cents.

Elementary Breakfast - \$1.20
Elementary Lunch - \$1.80

Secondary Breakfast - \$1.45
Secondary Lunch - \$2.05/2.30

The prices for the associated entrees will also be increasing in price.

All the ala carte items will remain priced the same.

The price for individual milk will also be increased 5 cents to 45 cents per carton. This increase is due to the increased dairy pricing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Lance Gerry @ 323-5154.

SECOND TIME AROUND...

Michigan State University's Second Time Around Kinship Care Program will be sponsoring an Information Series on Tuesday evenings starting September 18-November 13, 2007, 6:00-8:30 p.m. The Series focuses on the concrete and emotional needs of kinship care families who include grandparents raising grandchildren, aunts and uncles raising nieces and nephews, or siblings raising nieces and nephews, or siblings raising siblings.

The Series will be held at the Portage Community Education Building, 1010 W Milham Ave., Portage. Topics include parenting skills, handling stress, financial questions, school & community, legal issues and more.

In addition, a NEW program called Grand Ideas for Grand Kids aimed at grandchildren 3-6 years of age will be held simultaneously with the adult program. Children's topics will be presented using games, arts and crafts, and fun, interactive activities with the goal of enhancing self esteem, increasing social skills, and assisting children to recognize and appropriately express emotions.

The program is FREE and childcare and an evening meal are provided. For information or to register, call Joyce Stout at 384-8054 or e-mail stoutjo@msu.edu. (Note that families whose children fall outside the 3-6 age range are welcome.)