

WAYLEE RAP-UP



FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

PLEASE DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!

In this cold weather children need to be dressed for the weather. By that we mean **they need** to be wearing winter jackets, snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves or mittens. Many children are coming to school without, we try to lend some, but there just aren't enough to go around. If you have any snow pants that your child has out-grown, we can put them to good use here at school. Donations greatly appreciated. If the wind chill is too cold we do not send the children out, but if it's nice and sunny, we do send them out for a half an hour to play. They need that time to get fresh air and release all that energy. Thank you for your help.

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.

REPORT CARDS

These will be sent home on January 29th. Please do not seal the envelope when returning the signature card, as we will use these envelopes to mail report cards home in June.

“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.

DANGERS...

The Portage Public Schools issued an advisory on the dangers of children playing in snow mounds. In addition to being exposed to the dangers of mounds caving in on students digging into them, there are also concerns about children sliding into traffic or being injured by snow plows. Snow removal operators often can not see children playing around snow mounds. Children should be warned to stay away from snow mounds that are adjacent to streets or parking lots and not to burrow into mounds.

Waylee Elementary School
8106 Waylee Street
Portage, Michigan 49002
269-323-6500
269-323-6590

**CALLING ALL NEW KINDERGARTENERS
FOR NEXT YEAR 2007-2008**

Please let us know if you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in school in **August of 2007**. (To be eligible for entry in school, a child must be **FIVE YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2007**.)

If you have a neighbor who has a child in this age group, please pass the word along that it is time to notify Waylee School. Our telephone number is 323-6500. Thanks for your help!

How To Choose Your Children's Toys

- Read the labels to select toys meant for your child's age group and abilities.
- Think big. To prevent choking, go for toys and parts that are larger than a young child's mouth.
- Choose only paints, crayons, and markers that are labeled non-toxic.
- Buy electric toys only if they carry the "UL Approved" label. This label means the toy has been tested by a product safety organization. The toys are periodically checked where they are made to make sure they meet safety requirements.
- Purchase protective gear recommended for the activity.

SPECIAL NEEDS FORMS FOR 2007-2008 AVAILABLE

We are making "special needs" forms available for parents to provide information that we can use for making class placements for the 2007-08 school year. We ask that you alert us to the particular needs of your child rather than a specific teacher. This is especially important, as we do not always know which teacher will be teaching each grade. Parents must also understand that we balance our classes according to gender, race and both emotional and academic needs. If you do name a teacher, be sure to give at least a first and second choice. If you do not list two choices, your request will be returned to you.

If you are planning to submit a "special needs" form, please be sure to pick one up in the Waylee Office and return it to us ***no later than March 1st***.

PLEASE NOTE: Some buses are filled to capacity right now so no bus slips can be made for children to ride a different bus than normal. Please contact transportation @ 323-5151 if a problem arises.

Mark your calendars now...

WAYLEE SPRING DANCE

For: Waylee Girls and Their Male Guest

(18 years or older)

When: Friday, March 9th, 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Faith Reformed Church

Theme: Twinkling Nights

"It's Your Night to Shine"

Colors: Silver, White & Sparkles

Further info will be sent home closer to the event.



LUNCH BALANCES NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH PIV

It is now easier to check to see if you need to send lunch money to school for your student! When you access your PIV account for your child, you can choose "Meal Time Report" from the Pull down menu to see a report of the recent purchases and the current balance. This report is updated every night, so your report stays current. This report will tell you exactly what days the purchases were made, what item was purchased, the amount of the item purchase, and the remaining balance for the account. You may still contact the cashier for current balance or to have a printout sent home if you do not have access to a computer.

We have gotten some phone calls from parents asking about how to get an ID and PIN code to view their student's lunch balance information on the Parent Internet Viewer (PIV). The lunch balance information is available for those students who ALREADY have a PIV account established – **which is only for students in 4th and 5th grade.**

We will not be creating ID and PIN code information for students in any other grade levels. If parents of children in those grade levels are interested in reviewing lunch account balance information, please direct them to the food service manager in your building or have them contact Cathy McCormick at the administration building.

AE Aesthetic Education

Supported by EFA
Education for the Arts
PTO-Waylee's Parent Teacher Organization

Deb Meeker, Karen French-Hall and Beth Hinze have taken time during summers to be trained in this amazing program, Aesthetic Education (AE), offered by the New York City Lincoln Center. We present to the students of these teachers a rich level of making and viewing art. A visiting artist visits the 5th graders and we, the teachers and the students will view this Work of Art (WOA) at the school or downtown at one of the theatres or the KIA (Kalamazoo Institute of Art).

AE is an inquiry based program, meaning the student is learning to investigate and organize their personal perceptions about what they are viewing in any work of art. This results in higher level of thinking and perception in all subjects. We are training people to be viewers of the art forms, teaching them how to talk about what it is they are looking at. We are teaching them that they have more to say after seeing a dance performance than simply, "I liked it." Aesthetic education gives the students practice at responding to their art work before seeing the actual WOA. We do not tell them of the content of the art they will view but the activities we choose for them inform them towards talking about exactly that, the viewing of the art form.

I have participated in this program at all levels, teaching teachers, acting as the visiting artist, teaching the Waylee kids and going to NYC for further training.

The dialogue at the art work is ALWAYS amazing. The students' ability to talk about and perceive the music, dance, theatre or visual art is mature and insightful. They are brought into a full circle of discovery. Preparing for the WOA, viewing the actual WOA and most importantly instilling the experience through reflection. Reflection is journal writing, an art activity and discussing the field trip to the WOA. These students are viewed as experts by the docents at the KIA when we visit in the spring. The docents whisper, "This will be a great group they are trained in Aesthetic Education".

It is my honor to participate with the Kalamazoo Education for The Arts in the Aesthetic Education program, helping educators become more meaningful teachers that in turn help create a very personal creative experience for our kids, your kids, offering them the experience of guided exploration, discovery and inspiration about the world around them, and most importantly about themselves.

We thank the PTO for their support to fund this program.

Karen French-Hall



WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

A Special Place for Critically Ill or Injured Kids

You don't have to go to places like Ann Arbor, Detroit or Chicago for complex care of seriously ill or injured children. Right here in southwest Michigan we have the same high level of pediatric care you'd expect from a larger hospital. The Children's Hospital at Bronson offers pediatric surgery, pediatric trauma care and pediatric intensive care especially for children, because children are not just small adults.

Pediatric Surgery

Marc Downing, MD, and Michael Leinwand, MD, with Bronson Pediatric Surgery are specially trained in pediatric surgery and only treat children. They work with a team of highly skilled anesthesiologists, orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, operating room nurses, pediatric intensivists, neonatologists, and other specialists. Downing and Leinwand often perform minimal access surgery, which is much easier on the child, has less pain and faster recovery than traditional surgery, and requires less medication afterward. And they both use surgical instruments and equipment designed and sized especially for children's smaller bodies. The pediatric surgery team also cares for children admitted through Bronson's Level I Trauma Center.

Pediatric Trauma Care

If your child is critically injured, The Children's Hospital at Bronson is uniquely qualified to care for pediatric trauma patients. Bronson's Level I Trauma Center has been renewed this year by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and is the only one in the region. The ACS recognizes Bronson as providing the highest level of care for critically injured adults and children. Bronson was first verified by the ACS as a Level I Trauma Center in 1989 and has successfully met the increasingly difficult re-verification standards every three years since.

Pediatric Intensive Care

Critically injured and seriously ill children have been cared for in Bronson's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit for more than 30 years. The eight-bed PICU uses state-of-the-art technology to care for critically ill children. This unit is staffed by a team of doctors and nurses who specialize in providing critical care for children. Along with pediatric intensivists and pediatric critical care specialists, specialists such as orthopedic surgeons, trauma surgeons, radiologists, cardiologists, and pediatric surgeons also provide medical care.

For more information, visit bronsonhealth.com.

Science Night at Waylee Elementary



Mark your calendars for the 1st Annual Family Science Night on Friday, February 9th from 6-8 p.m. Come and enjoy a FREE family event and participate with hands on experiments learning about physics, micro-biology and chemistry.

Erbelli's Pizza will be in the cafeteria selling pizza slices from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and will donate 10% of all sales to Waylee. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Question? Contact Mindy Griffin @ 323-2176 or mindyandtim@sbcglobal.net.

FROM FOOD SERVICE...

Portage Public Schools Food Group held a promotion in November to emphasize good nutrition, exercise and safety. The purpose was to help students recognize that a healthy lifestyle - including eating nutritious meals, regular exercise and safety in play – is important in fighting childhood obesity and related health problems. Portage Public Schools provides nutritious meals in the lunch program.

To promote exercise and safety, the Food Group gave away four bicycles and safety helmets in a random drawing on December 6th. To be eligible for the drawing, students were asked to eat school lunch five times during the month of November. At the elementary schools, the winners are Elijah Lentz of Moorsbridge Elementary and Arin Dampier of Angling Road Elementary. Various vendors helped to purchase the elementary bikes. Secondary winners are Gautam Rajagopal of Central Middle School and Erica Campbell of North Middle School. Coca-Cola donated the bikes for the secondary drawing. Congratulations!