

# 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 28<sup>th</sup>.

### “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 2008-2009**

Please let us know if you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in school in **August of 2008**. (To be eligible for entry in school, a child must be **FIVE YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2008**.)

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 2008-2009 AVAILABLE**

We are making "special needs" forms available for parents to provide information that we can use for making class placements for the 2008-09 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 February 28th***.

**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.

**LUNCH BALANCES 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 @ 323-6595 or have them contact food service at the administration building @ 323-5154.

### **GIRLS ON THE RUN COACHES NEEDED:**

Coaches are needed to lead a team of our third through fifth graders during Girls on the Run (GOTR) March through May. GOTR is a national program that offers a life-changing curriculum. The program combines self-esteem enhancing, uplifting workouts with training for a 5k run/walk celebration event and is in its fourth year of existence in the greater Kalamazoo area.

Great Kalamazoo GOTR provides comprehensive training for coaches who will lead the girls in lessons that are intended to reduce the incidences of low self-esteem and depression, negative body image that sometimes results in serious eating disorders, high risk behaviors such as smoking, underage drinking, use of illegal drugs and early onset of sexual experiences, and violent crimes. Each lesson is accompanied by a running activity and work out designed to enhance the girls' overall physical health as well.

This after school program will be offered to 30 girls two afternoons per week of 9 weeks beginning the week of March 17, 2008. Coaches must be available to attend one day of Girls on the Run Training in March and become first aid and CPR certified. GKGOTR is a collaboration of many area businesses, agencies, organizations and individuals who are committed to the health and well being of our area's children. Donations, sponsorships, participant fees and in-kind contributions from several sources make it possible to continue to bring this program to Kalamazoo.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can be a part of Girls on the Run, please contact Connie Stoll @ 323-6575.



### **Student Directory Opt Out**

Portage Public Schools occasionally provides student directories to organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations, colleges and libraries offering special programs to school age children, and political action committees. This information may include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, parent/guardian name(s), honors, activities, and awards, grade level, and dates of attendance. Parents wishing to opt a student out of directory listings should contact the main office in writing to request omission. Please note – exercising this right will exclude this information from all external requests for directory information, including P.T.O.'s. It will not impact the inclusion of information in school publications such as yearbooks, school newspapers, extra-curricular programs, etc. If you wish your student's information excluded from these publications as well, please contact the school's main office.



### **Input Sought on Facilities Design**

The District has been busy meeting with architects and construction management personnel since community approval on Nov. 6 of the \$119 million facility upgrades.

Programming, the initial phase involving input from a variety of constituents from each of the four locations – 12<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary, Northern High, Central High, and Lake Center – begins with the formation of steering committees. Focus groups may also be created as needed to work on special concerns and asset recycling teams will be formed to ensure efficient use of existing equipment in the projects.

The District Advisory Council, a districtwide think-tank of parents, faculty and staff, and community members, will also play a role in two-way communications on these projects.

Technology upgrades were approved for all schools within the District, and will begin during the second half of this school year.

Updates will be posted online at portageps.org and a listserve is being developed for interested citizens to receive e-mail updates.

Look What's Coming...

Mark Your Calendars!

### Science Night 2008 at Waylee Elementary

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*Sponsored by: Pfizer, Portage Central IB Students and the WMU Chem Club*



- This is a **FREE** family event.
- Taco Bob's will be serving dinner (several items available for purchase) starting at 5:30 in the Waylee cafeteria. Taco Bob's will donate 10% of sales to Waylee.
- There will be at least **14** hands-on experiments for children of all ages including the World of Freeze in the gym. Stop in the lobby for a map of all experiments.
- We need parents to donate 200 cupcakes with white frosting, any flavor, for the periodic chart. Please contact Mindy Griffin by February 1<sup>st</sup> at [mindyqg@yahoo.com](mailto:mindyqg@yahoo.com) if you can donate 2-4 dozen. They will need to be delivered to the cafeteria by 5:30 on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.



Thank you Waylee Families!!  
The **BROWNIE BOOK DRIVE**  
was a huge success!

Our goal is to fill 10 banana boxes.

We actually had at least **18 banana boxes** of books.

It took three cars to deliver all the books to  
Fairplain West Elementary in Benton Harbor.

Angling Elementary Brownie Troop contributed several boxes of books as well.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Brownie Troop #382



## **ASD Parent Network**

Please join us...All parents of children on the  
Autism Spectrum (i.e., Autism, Aspergers, PDD)

For an opportunity to:

- network with other parents
- share resources and information
- develop a community of understanding
- continue the promotion of Autism awareness

in our schools and community

We will be meeting on **Thursdays:**

January 10<sup>th</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup>  
From **9:30 – 11:00am** at Chapel Hill UMC (at the corner  
of Oakland Drive and Romence Road in Portage)

Please contact **Marci Patnoudé** at 324-7904 or  
[patnoudé@tds.net](mailto:patnoudé@tds.net) for more information.

# LIFE SKILLS

*Our life skills spell*

**R-E-S-P-E-C-T**

**Responsibility**

**Effort**

**Solving problems**

**Perseverance**

**Empathy**

**Confidence**

**Teamwork**

## What's a Parent to do?

Value an Education

Support the teacher

Encourage your child

Allow Quiet time for studying

Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep

Stress Reading

Show and interest in your child's work

Praise-Push (but don't Pressure)

When the world says  
"Give Up"  
Hope whispers  
"Try it one more time."

Author unknown

Talk 20%, Listen 80%  
Always maintain a positive attitude

## PERSEVERANCE

### WHAT PERSEVERANCE MEANS...

**Perseverance** according to the Webster dictionary is “*to continue steadfastly, in face of discouragement.*”

#### **Perseverance is;**

Sticking with something

Getting the job done

Working towards a goal

#### **Ways to show perseverance at school**

By getting your assignments done.

By helping in the classroom by listening and completing the work that needs to be done.

Helping your friends when they need help.

#### **Encourage Perseverance at home**

Complete chores around the house

Make sure that children complete their homework.