



Waylee Elementary School  
8106 Waylee Street  
Portage, Michigan 49002  
PHONE: 269-323-6500  
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JANUARY UPDATE 2009

# 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 (below 0 degrees) 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 30<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.

## CALLING ALL NEW KINDERGARTENERS FOR NEXT YEAR 2009-2010

Please let us know if you have a child who will be eligible to enroll in school in **August of 2009**. (To be eligible for entry in school, a child must be **FIVE YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2009**.)

If you have a neighbor who has a child in this age group, please pass the word along that it is time to notify their Elementary 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 2009-2010 AVAILABLE

We are making “special needs” forms available for parents to provide information that we can use for making class placements for the 2009-10 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. Please fill out the attached “special needs” form, and return it to us **no later than February 27th**. Placement of students at new building- Buildings will send over to new buildings students placement information from classroom teachers- Parent Input forms are the same. All students who are changing buildings should have a Parent Input form on file for use of classroom placement at their new building.

**Kindergarten Screening**- Due to redistricting students will be screened in the building where they will be attending in 2009-2010. Assessment should be completed by April 2009 due to the Y-5 Parent Meeting in May 09. The screening for Y-5 will need to be tightened considering the foundation funding from the state.

The January Calendar was sent home with the December Wrap up.

### **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.

Greater 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 16, 2009. 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.



### **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)
- Talk 20%, Listen 80%
- Always maintain a positive attitude

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

**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.

RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

PLACEMENT 2009-2010 \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSLIST/CARD \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASS PLACEMENT FORM**  
**2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

We are beginning to plan for next year and will spend a great deal of time creating the best learning environment for each child. The entire teaching staff is involved with this process. Parent input is also important as we make class placements. Please make us aware of your child's particular needs below. Be sure to complete the entire form. Please complete a form for each child. Forms are due in the office by February 27, 2009.

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE FOR NEXT YR \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

STRENGTHS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AREAS FOR GROWTH \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WORKS BEST \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATE FROM \_\_\_\_\_

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES (HEALTH, MEDICATION, ETC.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO THE WAYLEE OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 27, 2009.