

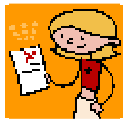
WAYLEE RAP-UP



Waylee Elementary School
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269-323-6500
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Mr. Ron Jones Principal

March 2008



DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Conferences are coming up on February 26th (afternoon & evening) and on February 27th (evening). Be sure you plan to attend. Home/school communication cannot be over-emphasized!!

Spring Vacation will be April 4th (a.m. 1/2 day) through April 13th. Students return to school on April 14th. Have a nice Spring Break with your family.

TARDINESS – is a serious problem. School starts at **8:43 a.m.** It is very important that all students arrive at school on time. Announcements pertaining to all students are given promptly at 8:55 a.m. A great deal of preliminary instruction for the entire day is given at the very beginning of each school day. The tone is set for learning in the classroom. Students need to be in their classrooms, with coats off and ready to learn by 8:43 a.m.

According to Portage Public Schools Board Policy #5113:

“Students are expected to arrive at school and follow their full assigned class schedules promptly. At the elementary level, a student who needs to leave early must be signed out in the main office by parent/guardian.

Excessive tardiness may result in a disciplinary referral to the school administration.

If chronic attendance problems persist, the building administrator will contact the county attendance officer and/or juvenile authorities for further assistance.”

Students need to learn at an early age that punctuality and dependability are important assets to carry with them throughout their lives.

EARLY SIGN-OUTS: Going hand-in-hand with tardiness is the problem of parents who persistently sign their students out early. We realize this is an occasional necessity, for appointments and last minute emergencies. However, students are to be in school until 3:42 p.m. and they need to know that just as mom and dad wouldn't leave work several times a week before the end of their workday, students must also stay “at work” for “their full shift”.

LAST MINUTE MESSAGES - Please try to make all your arrangements for pick up and after-school plans in the morning **before** your children leave for school. The office is calling into classrooms in the late afternoon too often. These too frequent interruptions make it very difficult to teach.

With increased pressure on our teachers and students to achieve high academic standards, we must be very protective of our instructional hours and make sure they are as productive as possible.

Ron Jones
Waylee Principal

SPRING PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS

February 26th: ½ DAY FOR STUDENTS – AFTERNOON & EVENING CONFERENCES. **P.M. KINDERGARTEN & P.M. Y5'S COME IN THE A.M.** (NO A.M. KDG. OR A.M. Y5'S.)

February 27th: Students attend regular schedule. CONFERENCES IN THE EVENING ONLY.

March 28th: **RECORDS DAY**: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS! Elementary Teacher's Records Day.

April 4th – Friday: ½ day of School – **Spring Break Begins P.M. KINDERGARTEN & P.M. Y5'S COME IN THE A.M.** (NO A.M. KINDERGARTEN OR A.M. Y5'S)

April 14th – Monday: **School Resumes REGULAR SCHEDULE**

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING

All parents of students eligible to enroll in kindergarten in August 2008 are invited to attend a parent meeting to discuss our pre-kindergarten screening process, and to schedule their individual testing appointments. This meeting will be held in the Waylee Cafeteria on **Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is for parents only, please.

DURING CONFERENCES PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found bins near the front doors are overflowing with jackets, sweaters, gloves, hats and much, much more! Some of it may belong to your child, so please take a look on your way out. Anything left will be donated to charity so please take a look.



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

There are times when our staff members ***must*** make referrals to Protective Services. School staff members are ***required by law*** to make referrals to Protective Services if they suspect child abuse or neglect. Failure to report these acts is a misdemeanor and may result in civil liability.

Child abuse means any harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare, failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision or medical care. This includes students who are left unsupervised before and after school.

CHILDREN PLAY OUTSIDE DAILY

We consult a wind-chill chart and children DO go out for 28 minutes each day whenever the temperature is at 0 degrees or above. Please help your child to dress appropriately. An extra pair of socks that "live" here at school also come in handy when feet get wet, also a dry pair of pants are nice. With the proper clothing, most children enjoy the time to play with friends and run around.

"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.

Safety Issue

We must remind parents that our turnaround out front, is a "NO PARKING ZONE". It is what the name implies: "A TURNAROUND". We can not have vehicles parking there, especially at the end of the school day because there isn't enough room to fit the busses in. Thank you for your help. **All parents need to be careful when driving around the school, especially when you are on your cell phone or being distracted by other things.**



MARCH IS READING MONTH

WHAT TO DO WHEN A READER MAKES A MISTAKE:

Consider a 5-second WAIT time in all instances first!

1. If the mistake makes sense, don't do a thing!
2. If the mistake does not make sense, wait until the end of the sentence and see if the reader fixes it.
3. At the end of the sentence, say, "Try that again."
4. Say, "You said...(repeat what the reader read). Does that make sense?"
5. At the end of the sentence, say, "Did what you read look right and sound right?"
6. Tell the correct response.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A READER GETS STUCK:

Consider a 5-second WAIT time in all instances first!

1. Wait and see if the reader can work it out.
2. Say, "Read it again and start that tricky word."
3. Say, "Look at the picture."
4. Say, "Think what would make sense."
5. Say, "Do you know a word that looks like that?"
6. Tell the word.

Keep this close to you at all times! Read these first. Respond to the student second!

☺ Ellen A. Thompson

Sister Kindergarten

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 continue to implement sister school concept when necessary. 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.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET THE WAYLEE OFFICE KNOW WHENEVER YOU CHANGE JOBS OR GET A NEW TELEPHONE OR CELL PHONE NUMBER. WE NEED THIS INFORMATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES. WITH THE FLU SEASON AMONG US...WE NEED TO GET AHOLD OF PARENTS WHEN CHILDREN HAVE A FEVER OR ARE SICK. A DISCONNECTED PHONE OR A CELL PHONE THAT DOESN'T EXCEPT INCOMING CALLS IS NO HELP TO US AND VERY FRUSTRATING. PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE. THANK YOU!



Is Your Child a Target for Heart Disease?

High cholesterol is a condition that puts many adults at risk for heart disease. But recent evidence suggests some children show early signs of this serious problem, too. What can parents do to protect their young ones? Robin Fountain-Dommer, MD, with Bronson Pediatric Cardiology, says recognizing risk is the first step.

What Puts Kids At Risk

High cholesterol can cause arteries to harden—a condition called atherosclerosis. The earliest sign of atherosclerosis are fatty streaks. Children who have fatty streaks have a greater chance of developing atherosclerosis in adulthood.

Some research shows that these streaks can be found in the arteries of babies whose expectant mothers have high cholesterol. Other studies say that too much LDL, or “bad,” cholesterol is causing atherosclerosis to begin in childhood. The following factors also can increase risk:

- Poor diet
- Family history of heart disease
- Obesity
- Diabetes

If your child has any of these risks, you and your Bronson health care provider can decide if a cholesterol screening is necessary. In children, acceptable total cholesterol levels are less than 170. LDL should be less than 110.

GREEN DAY AT WAYLEE!



**To Help us Celebrate
St. Patrick's Day at
Waylee, our Student
Council has proclaimed
Monday, March 17th, as
“GREEN DAY” for the
“Wearin’ of the Green.”**

VERBAL ABUSE—SLURS & NAMECALLING

It is far easier for teachers, parents, and playground supervisors to spot physical harassment than it is for them to notice something that can be just as damaging – slurs and name-calling. In reality, the phrase “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me” has little merit. Words truly can hit as hard as a fist, and unkind labels can follow children throughout their school years.

Don't allow labels in your home. Forbidding your children to use curse words is important, but it isn't enough. You also need to make sure they're not using ethnic, racial, religious, or sexual orientation slurs. Explain that using labels like these is insensitive and prevents them from seeing the person as an individual.

Talk about the cruelty some words convey. The phrase “That’s so gay” has become a common slur among young children, although many don’t understand the cruelty that is behind these words. Help children understand the pain that slurs and name-calling can cause.

Explain that being “different” isn’t justification for being harassed. Although children have always picked on peers who didn’t seem to fit in, today the abuse has become bolder and, in some cases, led to deadly beatings. Other children, long-term targets of bullies, have turned to violence – or even suicide – in a form of sick revenge. It is simply not acceptable for families or schools to allow the harassment of children for any reason at all.

Talk with them about false impressions. A girl who would rather play sports than play with dolls is not boyish or a lesbian; she’s just a girl who would rather play sports. The same is true for boys who may not enjoy rough-and-tumble activities. Calling children names like “gay boy” or “queer,” just because they choose to follow their own interests, is an ignorant choice and cannot be allowed.

Pay close attention to how your children-and their friends-are behaving toward others and talk with them about how it would feel if they were the targets of name-calling.

READING NEWS:

Make bedtime stories more fun! Bedtime stories are too important to skip. But if your child’s nightly routine is getting stale, try these tips for perking it back up:

- **Grab a flashlight.** Instead of using her bedside lamp, try reading by flashlight. Not only is it fun, its dimness may nudge her to sleep more quickly.
- **Mix things up.** If you read the same beloved story night after night, surprise your child by inventing a new ending.
- **Let her artwork inspire you.** Gather a few of her recent drawings, and use them to illustrate a made-up story. She’ll be thrilled that she helped “write” a book.

Source: “Smart Solutions,” Parenting, April 2004, The Parenting Group, 1-800-635-2665, www.parenting.com.

FAMILY VACATIONS

Vacations are some of the most memorable times of a child’s life. Vacations other than those scheduled in the school calendar may present a problem since many of the educational experiences in classrooms today cannot be duplicated at home. Cooperative learning, group discussions, simulations, hands-on science, and Chicago Math are some of the instructional experiences that children cannot repeat at home or on an extra vacation. We don’t want any child to miss these valuable learning activities so please help us by making your vacation plans coincide with school breaks.



NEED MONEY?

Would you like some extra money for Spring Break? Maybe Portage Schools can help. We are looking for noontime Cafeteria and Playground Supervisors who can work approximately three hours a day at our elementary schools. For details about these permanent and substitute positions, just call Human Resources at 323-5174.

CURIOUS KIDS

Curious Kids and Portage Public Schools offer a 1/2 day Preschool program during the school year for 3 and 4 year olds. Our certified teachers provide enrichment activities through music, art, drama, expressive movement and environmental awareness. The kids will be introduced to concepts that will be relevant when starting their elementary school experience! Call 323-6764 and talk to Sue for more information! **Enroll by April 1st to receive \$20.00 off your enrollment fee!**

NATURAL LICE PREVENTATIVE RECIPE for the natural protection from them, some have tried it and it has WORKED!!!

This remedy must only be used when the head is clear of lice and eggs, it is a preventative, not a cure. If used while infested, they will jump off onto clothing, furniture, rugs, other people . . . You get the picture. They do not like the smell.

Mix the below essential oils with 15 ounces of any type of shampoo (you may want to choose one with a mild scent, one that will not fight with the oil fragrances):

10 drops of eucalyptus oil

6 drops of tea tree oil

6 drops of red thyme oil (sometimes this must be ordered, the vendor who I was referred to was the People's Food Co-op downtown)

Shake, shake, shake. In others words mix well with the shampoo.

The student should use everyday . . . Or every other day. The scent of the oils is what the lice dislike so it should have a strong presence in the hair for the guaranteed protection. All family members can use this mixture if necessary for prevention in case lice is brought home on clothing. Be sure children/students work the shampoo clear to the scalp when shampooing.

Hope this helps to break the cycle of infestations in your buildings.

SCIENCE NOTES & THANK YOUS:

Waylee Science Night 2008 was a HUGE success!

Thank you....

Pfizer, Portage Central IB Students and National Honor Society Students, W.M.U. Chem Club, Mrs. Beuker (station), Mrs. Rainier (station), Mr. Cramer (signs), Mrs. French-Hall (for letting us use the Art Room), Mr. K (table), Mrs. Wurful (tables), Mrs. Joffe (announcements), Mrs. Griffioen (Wrap-up), Mr. Jones (support), Girl Scout Troop #373 (selling pop), Taco Bob's, the Teachers who utilized the signature sheets, all the Mom's (and Dad) who donated cupcakes and Marci Patnoude (Co-Chair).

It wouldn't have been such a success without everyone's contribution of time and resources.



Thank You!

**WAYLEE FAMILY SKATING PARTY
AT
GREAT SKATE**

**March 27, 2008
6:30-8:30 p.m.
\$4.50**

****FOR WAYLEE FAMILIES ONLY****

**Portage Public Schools
EMPTY BOWLS**

*Did you know that many people in our own community go to bed hungry every night?
How can you help?*

Students at Portage Public Schools have been making bowls in their art classes. These bowls represent the empty bowls that many in our community experience on a daily basis. You can help us fill the community's "empty bowls" by patronizing our first EMPTY BOWLS event.

Thursday, February 21, 2008

5:30-7:00 PNHS cafeteria

(Parking is available in the rear of the building.)

All proceeds will benefit the activities of Portage Community Outreach Center (PCOC).

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!