



Waylee Elementary School  
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Mr. Ron Jones  
Principal

# WAYLEE RAP-UP

March 2009



## DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Conferences are coming up on February 25th (evening) and on February 26th (afternoon & evening). Be sure you plan to attend. Home/school communication cannot be over-emphasized!!

Spring Vacation will be April 3rd through April 12<sup>th</sup>. Students return to school on April 13th. 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 25<sup>th</sup>:** FULL DAY FOR STUDENTS – EVENING CONFERENCES.

**February 26<sup>th</sup>:** ½ DAY FOR STUDENTS. AFTERNOON & EVENING CONFERENCES. PM Kindergarten come in AM / No AM Young 5s or Kindergarten.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>:** NO SCHOOL – Mid Winter Break

**March 27<sup>th</sup>:** **RECORDS DAY:** NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS! Elementary Teacher's Records Day.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Friday: **No School – Spring Break Begins**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>** – No School - - - Spring Break

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** – Monday: **School Resumes REGULAR SCHEDULE**

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING

All parents of students eligible to enroll in kindergarten in August 2009 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 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is for parents only, please. We will be screening 12<sup>th</sup> Street students at Waylee. Check with the school your child will be attending in 2009-2010 if you have an incoming kindergartener next fall.

## 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

## 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 AHEAD 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!**



**IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK** please don't send them to school. We would appreciate you keeping them home at least 24 hours after having a fever, throwing up or diarrhea. Pumping them with medicine so their fever is down does not count. We want children to come to school and enjoy it, but we understand that they do get sick. When they are sick we need them to stay home so we don't spread the germs. Thank you for your help!

# 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  
Tuesday, 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 been 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](http://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.

## WAYLEE FAMILY SKATING PARTY AT GREAT SKATE

March 26, 2009

6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$5.00

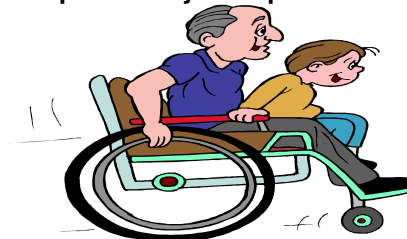
**\*\*FOR WAYLEE FAMILIES ONLY\*\***



VERY IMPORTANT-- PLEASE READ...

### ATTENTION WAYLEE FAMILIES:

During an evacuation or other emergency, it is critical to know who we may release our students too. Should the district ever attempt to retrieve this information from SIS (our computer program) we are trying to standardized all the schools. Waylee has always tried to reach the parent(s) first, then contact one and contact two listed on the information sheet. These contacts are entered from the information you give us at the beginning of each school year. If your contacts have changed, please update that information with the office. Simply call us or write a note and drop it off to either Vicki or Missy. Under 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Information – if a parent is listed here, we assume the associated student may be released to him/her. If you don't want the mom or dad listed here to be able to pick up the child, please let us know. We have sixty-five 2<sup>nd</sup> parents listed, some say do not include in mailings, but we need to know if that parent can pick them up or not. Thank you for your help as we try to improve our emergency plans.



Let's Get Out of Here Grandpa!

## Girl Scouting for Busy Girls!

Have you ever hesitated to sign up for Girl Scouting because of time crunches? Between homework, sports, school and religious activities, you and maybe even your parents can feel overwhelmed at the thought of adding another activity to your schedule. The good news is, you don't have to miss out on Girl Scouting if you aren't part of a troop! You can sign up for one or more of the following options:

**Juliette program** – You can work independently to earn Girl Scout recognitions and participate in product sales, camp as well as local and Council-sponsored Girl Scout events and activities.

**Limited-time programs** – You can choose to attend a three to six week program with a specific focus, such as self-esteem or diversity.

**Special events** – Participate in a day or evening of activities – including Service Unit or Council-sponsored events – that give you the chance to expend your skills in particular areas or learn more about something you're interested in. Visit [www.gshom.org](http://www.gshom.org) for more information.

**Camp** – You can sign up for a day, a weekend or a week of camp! There is something for everyone at camp. From Troop Adventure Camps to Day Camps, they provide the opportunity for you to live and learn in the out-of-doors. You'll build self-confidence, self-esteem, friendships and memories to last a lifetime.

**For more information or a camp guide, call the regional center closest to you TODAY!**

**Ann Arbor Regional Center:** 1-800-497-2688

**Lansing Regional Center:** 1-800-968-9421

**Jackson Regional Center:** 1-800-322-1209

**Saginaw Regional Center:** 1-800-968-1185

**Kalamazoo Regional Center:** 1-800-788-4919



**Don't miss the**  
**Waylee Carnival on**  
**Saturday, March 7th.**

**11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

**TICKETS:** Tickets will be for sale prior to the event and at the door.

**FOOD:** Taco Bob's will be in the cafeteria selling lunch items.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Siblings (6th grade or older), parents, grandparents and other family members are invited to volunteer for 45 minute shifts to run the games. If interested in volunteering your time, please contact Denise Franklin 324-1295 / 271-3349 or [schnurwmn1@chartermi.net](mailto:schnurwmn1@chartermi.net). There are 175+ shifts that we need to fill in order to run all the games.

Let's work together to make this last Waylee Carnival a huge success!

~THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE: Holly Pence, Tina Richmond, Denise Franklin & Mindy Griffin





# PTO News

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the cafeteria.

## Carnival

Grab your hard hats and bring the family to Waylee for the final carnival, Under Construction, on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm. Enjoy tons of fun games and food by Taco Bob's. Tickets will go on sale starting 2/25, 4 for \$1 or 3 for \$1 at the door. This is a huge event and we need lots of volunteers to make it a success. If you are able to help please contact Mindy Griffin at 323-2176 or [mindygyg@yahoo.com](mailto:mindygyg@yahoo.com)

## D&W Days

Remember to shop at D&W  
**February 15-21**  
&  
**April 12-18**  
and use code  
**96491**

for Waylee to receive extra money!

## VIP

Mark your calendars for the final VIP luncheon of the year.

March 11<sup>th</sup>- Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade

March 12<sup>th</sup>-Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade

If you are able to help with this event please contact Shawn Felicijan at 329-4017 or

[sfelicijan@chartermi.com](mailto:sfelicijan@chartermi.com).

## Harding's E-Scrip

Do you regularly shop at Harding's? Pick up your e-scrip card in the office and have up to 4% of your total purchase donated to Waylee.

## Skating Party

The skating party will be March 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30, at Great Skate. Admission is only \$5 a person; parents are encouraged to attend this fun outing with their kids.

## Family Movie Night

The next family movie night is Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and will be "Horton Hears a Who". Check in will begin at 6:30 with the movie ending around 8:30. Just a reminder-you must check your child in & out of this event. We need your help to make this event happen! If you are able to help out please contact Amy Sherman at [tiredmommie2001@hotmail.com](mailto:tiredmommie2001@hotmail.com) or 323-3527

## Father Daughter Dance

Save the Date! "Everything she does is magic", the final father daughter dance is Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be sent home this spring.

## Yearbook

Order forms were sent home last week for yearbooks & ad's. If you are planning on placing a parent message or ad those orders are due by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Yearbooks are all color this year and are \$19. If you've taken any great photos at Waylee this year please email them to Christy DeHaan at [christinadehaan@yahoo.com](mailto:christinadehaan@yahoo.com)