



WAYLEE RAP-UP

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

Mr. Ron Jones
Principal

April 2009

DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2009-2010:

A great deal of time is devoted to the formation of classes for next fall. Our goal, as we make the classroom assignments, is to place each child in a learning environment that encourages the best possible growth academically, socially and emotionally. The teachers and I work carefully to develop balanced class lists considering such factors as academic strengths, personalities and behavior.

For the past 2 months placement request forms were available in the office. We asked that a specific request not be made unless there are extenuating or special circumstances which would not normally apply to other children. All requests have to be completed and returned to Waylee by Thursday, March 26th. This is a firm deadline. This year we will be working on the 12th Street Students. Waylee Placement Forms should be delivered to their new schools.

Once class assignments have been completed, no changes will be made. We do our BEST to plan a successful placement for all our children. This is a trust we don't take lightly and hope we maintain your faith in us as professionals in this placement process.

We would also like to remind those families who live in another attendance area in Portage but will attend 12th Street because they have a babysitter in our area, that this is a special permission decision. You will need to put your request for the 2009-2010 school year in writing as soon as possible. Once you get permission, you don't have to reapply unless your schedule changes during the time your child attends elementary school.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO MOVE? If you will be moving out of our attendance area before school starts in the fall, please call the Waylee Office or send us a brief note. This helps us so much as we begin to plan our classes for 2009-2010.

IS YOUR FAMILY PLAN IN PLACE FOR AN EMERGENCY DISMISSAL?

1. Does your child have a house key or know where to find one?
2. Does your child have a neighbor to go to in case you are not at home?
3. Have you discussed several possibilities so your child knows what to do? If not, please **do it now!**

Local radio stations will give the most up-to-date information on school closings. Spring often brings storms and tornado warnings/watches. When the weather is threatening...stay tuned!

WHAT TO DO WHEN A TORNADO THREATENS:

--Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls. Protect your head.

--In homes and small buildings, go to the basement or to an interior part on the lowest level. Get under something sturdy.

--In schools, hospitals, and public places, move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest floors are best.

--In mobile homes or vehicles, leave them and go to the nearest shelter. If there isn't shelter close by, lie in the nearest ditch and shield your head with your arms.

NEWS ABOUT BIKE RIDING

A signed permit is required before students are allowed to ride their bikes to school. We do not encourage (but we do allow) students to ride bikes to school if they are in 3rd, 4th or 5th grades ONLY. Parental discretion is recommended with this decision to ride to school due to individual situations and neighborhood safety factors. Any child not following the safety rules will lose their permission to ride their bike to school. (There is no way we can ensure the safety of the bikes from vandalism.)

BUS RIDERS WHO WALK

Bus riders must have a parent note if they want to walk home from school. Parents are to send a note to the teacher granting permission for their child to walk home, and the notes must be initialed in the office between 8:35-8:43 a.m. We do not allow phone calls except in cases of emergency.

TARDINESS & POOR ATTENDANCE

SPELL **T-R-O-U-B-L-E**

When your child is absent from school, he misses more than the day's lessons. Class discussions can be just as valuable.

If your child is truly sick, he/she should stay home, of course. But missing school for any other reason can become a bad habit. Studies

show that kids who have poor attendance in the elementary years are much more likely to drop out of high school later.

You can show your child how important you think good attendance is. Schedule doctors' appointments, haircuts, shopping, and family vacations *after school hours*.

If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher if assignments can be sent home. Keeping up with schoolwork will make things easier when he returns.

Finally....remind your child that going to school is their number one job!

HONORS ASSEMBLY

Our Honors Assembly is still in the planning stage. Watch for a special notice later in the year with date and time. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly which honors some of our 4th & 5th graders.



YEARBOOK

The yearbook will be sent to the publisher shortly and we should receive our copies in late May. Thank you to all of you who ordered a yearbook and/or ad. When they come in, we will have a limited amount of extra copies available for purchase if you did not pre-order. These copies will be \$19.00 AND they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Christina DeHaan at 329-0284 if you would like to order one or have any questions. Thanks!

Attention: 5th Grade Parents

Just a reminder: It is a state law that all children must have three Hepatitis B shots to enter Michigan Schools. Since your child is going to be moving into another school (Middle School) they must have these shots. Also, it is State Law that your child must have the Varicella immunization or proof of chickenpox disease. If your child was born in Michigan you should be fine because they started giving these at birth, but if you have come from another state you might want to check on your child's immunization record. Thank-you Parents!



ANNOUNCING THE WAYLEE TALENT SHOW & AUDITIONS

Planning for the Waylee Talent Show is progressing, and we are excited about this year's event! All 3rd through 5th graders have been given an opportunity to audition with their 2 minute act. Auditions will take place the last week of March before school: Monday, the 30th, and Tuesday, the 31st, at 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. each day.

We will have two practices for this year's talent show. Both practices will be held after school on Tuesday and Thursday, April 21st & April 23rd, from 3:45 to 5:30. If your child is participating, they must be at **BOTH** rehearsals for the entire time.

The final performance will be held at the Portage Central High School auditorium on **Wednesday, April 29th** at 6:30 p.m. Come and join us!

Questions about the Talent Show can be directed to Jean Galia 323-6518 or Bill Klinesteker 323-6525.

INTERNET SAFETY

Here are two important tips to keep your children safe on the Internet. Tell them to open e-mails only from people they know. Also, they should never give out information about themselves on the Web. *Examples:* their school, age, or address; friends' or family members' names.



PRETTY LAKE VACATION CAMP

Parents of 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders: Pretty Lake Vacation Camp forms went home February 12, 2009. If your child is planning to attend camp this summer, you must fill out and sign the form then **return it to Pretty Lake ASAP**. A Pretty Lake representative already picked up all the forms to be considered on March 10th. After that date you will have to mail them in. Thank you!

WAYLEE OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

With the warmer weather we are noticing students being dropped off earlier and earlier and getting picked up later and later.

Students are not allowed in the building until 8:35 a.m. unless they are going down to the cafeteria to buy breakfast, at which time they can come in at 8:15 a.m. School dismisses at 3:42 p.m. We appreciate prompt pick up of students as there is no supervision before or after school. Thank you for your help with this matter.

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What do you have to pay when you go to school?



A: **Attention!**

GIRL SCOUTS

Right now, girls in our community are waiting to become involved in Girl Scouts. In order to get Girl Scout troops up and running for these girls, we need adults to team up and become troop leaders or to be part of a troop committee! We're looking for volunteers who represent the diversity of the world we live in – women, men, senior citizens, younger adults, etc. – anyone who wants to help make a difference in the lives of girls. For more information on becoming a mentor for girls, please contact the Girls Scouts of Glowing Embers Council at (269) 343-1516 or stop in at 1011 W. Maple St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Girl Scouts. Where Girls Grow Strong.

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.

LIFE SKILLS

Our life skills spell

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

Responsibility
Effort
Solving problems
Perseverance
Empathy
Confidence
Teamwork

Play It Smart School Tips

1. Learning is your child's job and you're the manager.
2. Show a continued interest in their schoolwork.
3. Set time aside each evening to complete homework.
4. Give praise and encouragement.
5. Set up goals and reward system.
6. Make sure your child eats a wholesome breakfast and has a lunch filled with good foods and snacks.
7. Set and enforce a regular bedtime.
8. Identify any problems your child may have, discuss ways to address them.
9. Schedule educational extracurricular activities like visiting a museum.

TEAMWORK

WHAT TEAMWORK MEANS...

TEAMWORK, according to the Webster dictionary, is "to work together as a team to achieve a goal"

Teamwork:

Is working with others on a common goal.

Is sharing and pitching in to help.

Is not always getting your own way.

Is knowing when to work with others and knowing when to work alone.

We see teamwork on T.V. in sports, we use

Teamwork to play games at school, but

sometimes we forget families use Teamwork too!

When there is a BIG job to do...

- Like fixing a meal
- Like cleaning the house
- Like planting the garden

Do you ask, "What's my share? What should I do?"

"Snowflakes are one of Nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together."



PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PREP PROGRAM



*****FREE PRESCHOOL*****

The PREP Program is a state-funded preschool program designed for children who will be four (4) years old by December 1, 2009, or turning five (5) after December 1, 2009. The child must reside in the Portage Public School district, and meet grant guidelines which determine eligibility of a child. The program is free to eligible children and their families.

An Open House will take place on Thursday, March 19 from 6-8pm and Friday March 20, from 10am-2pm in Room 116 of the Curious Kids Building located at 1010 W. Milham. At that time applications may be obtained for the 2009/2010 school year. If you have any questions please feel free to call Georgia Boyle or Heather Schillaci at 323-6711.

*****The program and placement of families in the program is contingent upon the availability of funds provided by the Michigan Department of Education.*****

Curious Kids... Register today for spring, summer and fall!

Curious Kids is a licensed child care program offering structured activities in a safe and caring environment. Child care is open to all children in the community for children ages 6 weeks to 14 years as well as ½ day preschool for 3 and 4 year olds! Curious Kids promotes positive social interactions and offers interesting and fun activities for our children. Via the Portage Public Schools buses, we provide transportation to and from your child's elementary and middle schools! Our flexible schedules and payment plans, along with our super summer discounts, make us the Center of choice with parents in Portage! Please call 323-6780 for more information!

HELP WANTED:

Would you like some extra money? 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.

HOMEWORK HELP

Do your children expect your help with their homework? Let them know you're around if they need you --- but their homework is their job. The benefit? They'll learn how to find the answers themselves, as well as boost their skills.

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Autism is a complex brain disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by extreme behavioral challenges. Autism spectrum disorders are diagnosed in one in 166 children, affecting four times as many boys as girls. The diagnosis of autism has increased tenfold in the last decade. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have called autism a national public health crisis whose cause and cure remain unknown.

People on the Autism Spectrum may exhibit, one, several, all or none of these characteristics:

- Not understand what you say
- Appear to be deaf
- Be unable to speak or speak with difficulty
- Engage in repetitive behaviors
- Act upset for no apparent reason
- Appear insensitive to pain
- Appear anxious or nervous
- Dart away from you unexpectedly
- Engage in self-stimulating behaviors (hand flapping or rocking)

Helpful hints for interacting with someone who has autism:

- Speak slowly and use simple language
- Use concrete terms – AVOID SLANG
- Repeat simple questions
- Allow time for responses

- Give lots of praise
- Do not attempt to physically block self-stimulating behavior
- Remember that each individual with Autism is unique and may act differently than others

The PET (Preprimary Evaluation Team) program provides developmental assessment and planning for children ages 0-6 who reside within one of the following school districts: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, or Vicksburg. Any interested parent or care provider may refer their preschool age child suspected of significant developmental delays in the following areas: physical, mental, vision, hearing, speech and language and Autism Spectrum Disorder. For more information contact [Felicia Burnette](mailto:Felicia.Burnette@portageps.org) by email or phone 269-373-3263. You can contact KRESA at (269) 385-1500 for additional information on Autism Classrooms for Elementary, Middle and High School aged children.

The Waylee Elementary Resource Room has recently received the donation of several books about the Autism Spectrum and Asbergers. The books vary in subject from simple informational stories that teach K-6 about what Autism and Asbergers is to detailed guidelines for parents and administrators. The books are available for parents to check out. If you are interested, please contact Mary Jensen (Mjensen@portageps.org or 323-6521) or Michele Morrison (MMorrison@portageps.org or 323-6522).



Sign-Up for E-Mail Updates

The District offers a free list service for anyone who would like to get regular e-mail updates about Portage Schools, any of the individual schools, or about the two district foundations, The Portage Education Foundation and the Portage Athletic Foundation.

To sign-up, simply visit the District's homepage at www.portageps.org, and click on the box in the lower right corner. That will take you to a page allowing you to select the list service messages you would like. Once you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation alerting you that your order went through. Call 323-5000 with any questions.

Michigan State University Extension Kinship Care Provider Workshop

Kinship care, as defined by the Child Welfare League of America, 1994, is the provision of full-time nurturing and protection of children by adults other than parents who have a family relationship bond with the children.

The MSUE Kinship Care Program provides support, community resource information, and education to kinship care families (grandparents raising grandchildren, aunts and uncles raising nieces and nephews, siblings raising siblings). And, perhaps most importantly, we give kinship families the opportunity to meet others who face similar issues in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. (NOTE: All programs are FREE of charge.)

Tuesdays, March 17 – May 19, 2009

5:30-8:30 p.m.

**King Westwood Elementary School
1100 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo**

Cost: FREE- Childcare, materials & evening meal included. Special program for children ages 3-6.

Phone: 384-8045 Joyce Stout



PTO News

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, April 14th at 7pm in the cafeteria.

Skating Party

The skating party will be March 26th, 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.

D&W DAYS

Remember to shop at D&W

April 12-18

And use code

96491

For Waylee to receive extra money.

Interested in being involved in your new school next year?

Then attend one of the following PTO meetings to see what fun stuff is happening.

Lake Center

Monday, April 13 @ 6:30

Central Elementary

Tuesday, April 21 @ 6:30

Woodland

Tuesday, April 21 @7:00

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.

Father Daughter Dance

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

Yearbook

It's not too late to pre-order your child's yearbook. Order forms will be sent home again next week. Yearbooks will be available in May. If you have any questions please contact Christy DeHaan at christinadehaan@yahoo.com

VIP Luncheon

Thanks to everyone who helped to organize and volunteered during VIP Luncheon. Your help made this VIP a huge success!

Carnival

Thanks to everyone who donated time or items to the carnival. The students had a great time at the last Waylee Carnival.