



Waylee Elementary School
8106 Waylee Street
Portage, Michigan 49002
Phone: 269-323-6500
Fax: 269-323-6590
Mr. Ron Jones
Principal

MAY 2008

WAYLEE RAP-UP



From The Principal

DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

This time of the year gets very busy with lots of special events on our schedule and lots of work that we still need to complete. Please stress with your children the importance of good behavior and staying on task. It sometimes becomes necessary for students to miss "special events" as a disciplinary measure. We'd like to avoid this happening if possible.

Your students will be visiting in their new classrooms for fall on Wednesday afternoon, June 4th, at 2:30 p.m., for approximately 20 minutes. This gives them a chance to meet their new teachers and see who will be in their classrooms next fall. We have done this for several years and find that it alleviates much anxiety for children over the summer.

As we approach the end of another school year, we want to bid a fond farewell to our 5th graders who will be moving on to Central Middle School.

To all our wonderful volunteers and supportive parents, a BIG THANK YOU. You help us make Waylee a great place to work and learn.



½ Day Dismissal Time is
11:57 a.m.

FYI: Some Pediatricians are recommending that children receive a booster for Varicella (Chicken Pox). Check with your doctor to see if your child needs this. It's not required by the schools yet, but we want you to know about the recommendation.

PLEASE REMEMBER PERMISSION SLIPS:

In addition to our regular schedule some of our teachers will be planning walking field trips to the city park, greenhouses, Celery Flats, etc. Please be very prompt in returning field trip permission slips. **Students CANNOT leave the school grounds without a permission slip signed by parents.**

MOVING??



If you have finalized plans to move before school starts in the fall, PLEASE LET US KNOW NOW!

If you move over the summer, please drop us a note at:

8106 Waylee St., Portage, MI 49002

SAFETY ISSUE:

Parents: please do not drop off students at the crosswalk. We can't have cars blocking the area where we cross the children. Drop them off in the turn around or further down the street.



STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR FALL 2008

Your child's placement will again be indicated on the report card in June. Next year's kindergartners will receive a letter in June indicating their teacher and room number and whether they are scheduled for a.m. or p.m.

On Wednesday, June 4, at 2:30 p.m., your child will visit in his/her classroom for fall. We have done this for several years, and find that a lot of anxiety is avoided about "who my new teacher will be, and who will be in my class next year?"



5TH GRADE TRACK MEET

Our 5th Grade Track Meet will be held on Tuesday, May 20, from 9:00-12:00 at the Waylee Track/Playground. Rain date is Thursday, May 22.

Attention parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. We are in need of more volunteers for the 5th grade track meet. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, May 20 from 8:15 – 12:00. (Rain date 5/22).

PLEASE NOTE: If you are able to help for the entire time or even a portion of it, please contact: Nancy Martin in the Waylee Gym Office at 323-6512.

With your help we can make this a successful fun event for our 5th graders!

Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Program:

During this school year the Portage Board of Education made available a voluntary student accident insurance program. Since the District has made this insurance available, an increasing number of parents/guardians have been taking advantage of this inexpensive policy. This fact dictates that as a community service, we will continue to offer this voluntary insurance.

The District offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, and co-payments. Furthermore, in an attempt to limit the Districts' rising insurance costs, this program provides an alternative for claims due to accidental injuries that unfortunately occur on our property. This is the case for both during and after school hours.

The plan described in the brochure you'll receive in the fall has been designed to respond to diverse family insurance needs. Coverage provided can help decrease the burden of unexpected medical and dental expenses, including those left unpaid due to family insurance deductibles and co-payments.

Please watch for the enrollment forms at the start of the next school year.

A GREAT TIME

A great time was had by all at the Waylee Talent Show Wednesday, March 18, 2008. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who work so hard for the Waylee Talent Show, both as participants in the show and those behind the scenes.

It takes a lot of time and energy to get the show to come all together, please take the time to thank the teachers, interns & helpers when you see them, as they do this on their own time.

WAYLEE YEARBOOKS

Did you forget to order a Waylee Yearbook this year. We have a few left to sell at \$13.00 each. You must pay for them first – it's first come, first serve.

Call Christie DeHaan @ 329-0284.
THANKS!

Attention Parents of 5th through 11th grade Bus Riders

Do you want your middle or high school student to ride the school bus next year?

All middle and high school students must register for bus service. Obtaining an accurate list of students who will actually be riding our buses is very important for us to design efficient, low cost bus routes.

If you would like your middle and/or high school students to ride the bus next year, please sign up early. You may sign up online after May 1 at www.portageps.org or use the pre addressed postcards distributed by the school bus drivers during the last two weeks of school.

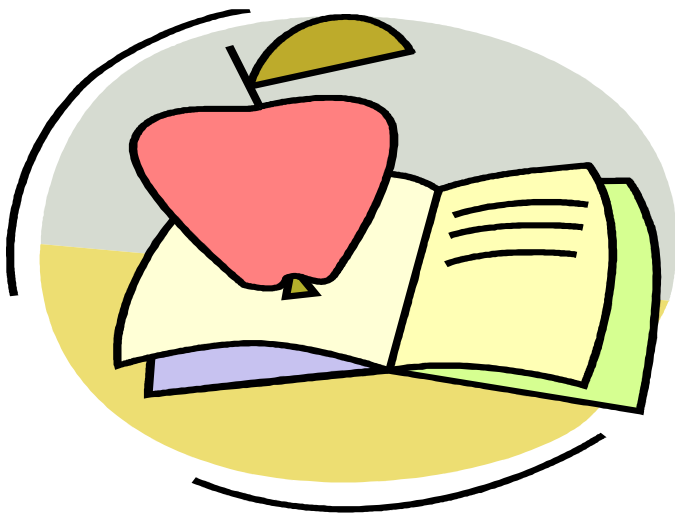
As a reminder, middle and senior high school students grades 6-12, may be expected to walk up to 1-½ miles to school or up to 1 mile to a bus stop wherever appropriate walkways and traffic signs are available. Eligible students signing up for transportation will be assigned to bus stops based on their home address.

Students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in mid-August with specific transportation information.

Students not replying by June 30 may compromise our ability to provide timely bus service for you in the fall.

For more information, please ask your bus driver or call Transportation at 323-5151. Thank you in advance for your timely responses.

Don't delay, sign up today. You don't want to miss the bus!



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.

SUMMER READING FUN AT WAYLEE

The Waylee library will be open again on six Wednesdays this summer. The library will be open between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. The Wednesdays are:

June 18th and 25th
July 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

Waylee students **accompanied by an adult** are invited to select books to take home to read. Students can earn a prize by taking an Accelerated Reader quiz the following Wednesday. Students can also have their reading fluency monitored if needed. It only takes 15 to 30 minutes!

There is no cost. The Waylee PTO is funding this opportunity for Waylee students.

Be watching for additional information coming home in May.

Beth Hinze
Reading Consultant

Not a New Tax

Countywide Millage Renewal
Means \$3 Million for District

Portage School residents, along with all other citizens throughout the county, will be voting on a 1.5 countywide millage renewal in the May 6 election. Portage Schools receives almost \$3 million a year from this operational millage, which covers instructional program expenses. The millage was originally passed in May 2005.

The District is holding informational Open Houses about the vote on these dates:

- Wednesday, April 23, 3:30-4:30, Portage Senior Center
- Wednesday, April 30, 6:30-8 p.m., West Middle School

There is also additional information online from the District's homepage (www.portageps.org), including the following charts:

- PPS Revenue Below Inflation Since Countywide Millage Approval
- State Spending Changes: 2002-03 through 2008-09

This past November, PPS voters approved a bond which is for construction and remodeling, and cannot be used for instructional programs.

Meanwhile, the Board of Education voted unanimously in February to place this renewal before voters. Without the \$3 million provided annually from this millage, students in the District will face cuts in services and programs, such as:

- Cuts in athletic programs, music and theatre programs, textbook purchases and other instructional materials, and busing, resulting in fewer bus stops and more walkers.
- Cuts in teaching staff, media specialists, counselors, and support staff that will reduce up to 40 positions, increase class sizes, and reduce course offerings.
- Cuts in programs that give our students an edge, such as International Baccalaureate and AP fees and support, Education for Employment intern programs, Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center services, Gifted & Talented (E2) Services, and Reading.

Even with the revenues from this countywide millage, the District has had to make about \$1.3 million in cuts to balance the budget. Since the 2002-03 school year, the District has made \$3.8 million in cuts. Meanwhile, even with a millage renewal, more budget cuts would be likely – and therefore failure of the renewal would result in an even greater shortfall.

Those who need an absentee ballot will find a link on the District's homepage (portageps.org) to print the form, or those without computer access can pick up the form at their clerk's office or at the PPS Administration Building at 8111 S. Westnedge Ave, just south of Centre Avenue.

WAYLEE RECEIVED A VERY NICE LETTER FROM THE PORTAGE COMMUNITY CENTER:

Dear Students at Waylee Elementary:

Thank you so much for the wonderfully generous contribution of food to the Portage Community Center's Food Pantry.

It is difficult to believe that people living in this community go without food – but it is true. People living on low wages and fixed incomes often have to make difficult choices on how to stretch their limited dollars. Sometimes they will do without food to pay a heat bill or make a rent payment. With the increase in energy costs as well as higher gasoline prices, people with few resources are facing greater economic hardships. Thanks to all of you, we will be better able to reach out a helping hand offering both assistance and encouragement. Thanks to you, fewer people will go to bed hungry.

On behalf of the Portage Community Center Board of Directors, staff, and the many people who will benefit from the kindness and generosity of your gift, we offer our heartfelt appreciation.

With Warm Regards,

Diane Schrock
Executive Director

