



Waylee Elementary School  
 8106 Waylee Street  
 Portage, Michigan 49002  
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 Mr. Ron Jones  
 Principal

# WAYLEE RAP-UP

**MAY/JUNE/  
JULY 2009**



Dear Parents & Students:

Put Reading First. Helping your child learn to read is really hard work, but when children become good readers in the early grades, they are more likely to become better learners throughout their school years and beyond. Becoming a reader involves the development of important skills, including learning to:

- **use** language in conversation
- **listen** and respond to stories read aloud
- **recognize** and name the letters of the alphabet
- **listen** to the sounds of spoken language
- **connect** sounds to letters to figure out the "code" of reading
- **read** often so that recognizing words becomes easy and automatic
- **learn** and **use** new words
- **understand** what is read

**Please take the time to read to your children this summer.**

Well, here we are at the end of another school year! I would like to bid a fond farewell to all of our students moving to other schools because of the redistricting. Best Wishes! Waylee students, have a great safe summer, and remember school begins September 8<sup>th</sup> next fall. Good Luck at your new schools – we will miss you all!

Mr. Ron Jones

## LOST AND FOUND

Parents, we will give you all a chance to come in and check out the Lost and Found Bins near the front doors of the school during the Ice Cream Social on 5/19. There are so many nice articles of clothing thrown in there. Whatever is not claimed that evening will be packed up and given to the Portage Community Center or some other charity. Some jackets and snow pants in good conditions have been washed up -- let us know if you need a coat and we will give you one for next winter.

## SCHOOL HOURS FOR FALL:

- 8:35 a.m.** - Students enter building
- 8:43 a.m.** - School starts
- 11:45 a.m.** – AM Kdg./Y5 dismissal
- 12:40 p.m.** – PM Kdg. starts
- 3:42 p.m.** – School ends

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 25<sup>th</sup> **NO SCHOOL – HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Graders having their Wax Museum
- June 4<sup>th</sup> 2:15-5:30 p.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to Soccer Zone
- June 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Graders' Softball Games
- June 8<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to Dairy Queen & Celery Flats  
From 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- June 10th Last day for P.M. Kindergarteners
- June 11th Last day of school for all students  
Dismissal at 11:57 a.m. ½ Day  
A.M. Kindergarteners come in A.M.  
11:00 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Send Off & Slide Show  
Teacher's Luncheon sponsored by PTO
- June 12th Last Day for Teachers
- June 19th Last Day for Office
- August 31<sup>st</sup> Community Open House and the Dedication of 12<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary  
From 4:30- 6:00 p.m.**
- Sept. 7th No School Labor Day
- Sept. 8th School Begins – ½ day  
Dismissal @ 11:57 a.m.

## NEW PTO OFFICERS FOR 2009-10

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a 12<sup>th</sup> Street Open House and a meeting to form our new PTO. This meeting will be held from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Please join us!

## 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.

**Thank you** to the many parents, grandparents & mentors who volunteered to help with the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Track & Field Day which was scheduled on May 12th. Hopefully a fun time was had by all. The students had several stations to run through and afterwards there was a Tug-of-War.

## **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.



## **RECIPIES FOR SUCCESS**

### **Spelling: Picture This!**

Your child can practice spelling and phonics by making these spelling pictures.

*Ingredients: spelling list, old magazines, scissors, paper, glue or tape.*

Let your child cut out magazine pictures that start with each letter of his spelling words. Example: For "cat" he could use a (c)ar, an (a)pple, and a (t)rain. Have him glue the pictures on a piece of paper and write each letter of the spelling word under the pictures.

*Variation for older children:* Glue the pictures on separate pieces of paper. Then, scramble the pictures for a word and have your youngster put them in order.

## **Do you want your student to ride the school bus next year?**

Do you want to save time and money and help the environment at the same time too?

## **With the start of the 2009-10 school year the Portage Public Schools will be requiring all parents requesting transportation to register their students for bus service.**

Portage students will ***not*** be scheduled for bus service unless the parents/guardians notify the transportation department in writing. You may sign up online after May 1 at [www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org); or you may download the form at

<http://www.portageps.org/departments/transportation/requestform.aspx>:

and submit it to the transportation office.

If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a Transportation Request form at any Portage school or transportation office.

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 and to assure the safety of the students.

As a reminder, all students may be expected to walk up to 1-½ miles to school. Elementary students may walk up to ½ mile to a bus stop and middle & high students may walk 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.

If you would like your students to ride the bus next year, please sign up early. Bus assignments will be based on the student's home address as listed on the schools records. Students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in late August with specific transportation information.

## **Students not replying by June 30 may compromise our ability to provide timely bus service 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!**

