

WAYLEE RAP-UP



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

October 2007

Dear Parents:

What a terrific beginning!! School life is always very busy in September, and we ask our parents to be **VERY** active participants during this month. Our Open House on Thursday, September 20th was a **huge success and one to be remembered, since we did not have power for the first hour**.

ACCENT ON ASSESSMENT

Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students throughout Michigan will participate in the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) tests October 8-26. These tests are generally un-timed. Results are used to determine how well district students are able to meet state objectives. Reports of student performance on the MEAP tests will be mailed home, usually in the summer.

Third grade students will take tests in ELA and in Math along with the Fourth grade students who will also take tests in ELA and math. The reading tests require students to read both a story and an informational article. Each selection is several pages long. Students are then asked to answer multiple choice questions about the selections. They are encouraged to reread and highlight information. The students taking the writing tests will be required to write from knowledge and experiences. The math test includes computation, geometry, estimation and problem solving. These are multiple choice questions. Students are allowed to use calculators. Students will also be asked to write about how they solved a problem.

Fifth grade students will take tests in ELA, Math and Science. The science tests require students to complete an investigation prior to the test and answer questions and report about the scientific findings of the investigation. Students will then complete tests in the areas of physical, life, and earth science which involves many questions and essay-type answers. The science tests require both constructed and extended response answers, which are essay type answers with very specific informational points and requirements to be included. **Brain research tells us that factors critical to students' ability to think includes students being well-rested, eating a nutritional breakfast daily, eat snacks during testing times, and come to school each day ready to think, work hard, and do their personal best!**

Ron Jones, Principal

Coming up in October...

We need YOUR input and involvement in our **PTO**. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 9, at **6:30 p.m. A Bond Meeting** will be held at **7:00 p.m.** Please come!

If you have questions concerning something going on in the classroom, please contact the teacher first. If your concern is something other than the classroom, contact me.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS – We appreciate the parental support we have received to our request that all visitors in the building sign in and wear a “guest” identification tag. This includes those short periods of time at the end of the day when you might come into the building to pick up your students. If you do **NOT** want to sign in and pick up a tag, just wait for your children out in front of the building and ask them to look for you out there.

As you have probably noticed, all staff members at Waylee also wear identification tags. One unexpected benefit to this has been it has helped students and parents to identify those employees that they may not have already known and call us by name. We'll continue to do our best to create a safe environment for your children at school.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS: Students must have a **written** permission slip from parents if they are taking a different bus other than their arranged transportation. Students will be issued a “BUS PASS” from the office. If you need to call the Transportation Dept. their number is 323-5151. This requires a 24 hour notice. Call the school office with questions.

JUST A REMINDER... The turn around in the front of the building is just that “A Turn Around”. No Parking please.

STUDENTS BEING SIGNED OUT - Please try to schedule your appointments after school hours when at all possible. Remember, we **DO NOT** call students down to the office to wait for you. You must come into the office and sign them out, then we call them down. We want every minute to be productive.

DELIVERY OF MESSAGES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ONLY AT THE END OF THE DAY: In an effort to provide the least disruptive learning environment for students and teachers, messages regarding changes in end of the day routines, after school information and/or other communication, will be given to students at 3:30 p.m. each school day. If your child's after school routine will change, please be sure to communicate this to your child and to your child's teacher **in writing prior** to sending your child to school. The secretaries can be overwhelmed by parental phone calls at the end of the school day requesting changes in student schedules. These last minute changes can result in confusion and mistakes for all involved – students, teachers, bus drivers and parents. **Please take the time to write a note before school!** The office staff will not disrupt classes on a case by case basis, but instead will hold messages until 3:30 p.m. and ask for the student to come to the office to receive their messages at the end of the day. *We understand that emergencies come up and we will do the best we can in those situations.

FUNDRAISER - We launched our **FUNDRAISER** for the school year on September 13th. The students received information at an assembly and were given their information packets at that time. The sale will last for 2 weeks. The last day for add on orders is Friday, September 28th. Thanks to: Susan Fulling, and **ALL** the Waylee student sellers and their parents for their support in this effort. When we all work together A LOT can be accomplished. If you have any suggestions on how the fundraisers monies should be spent, please put it in writing and place it in the PTO mailbox in the office. Pick up and payment will be during Conference times **on November 20th. Please make check out to: “Waylee PTO”**. Thank you!

PLEASE COME TO THE HALLOWEEN

PARADE -Our big All School Halloween Parade at Waylee will be held on Wednesday, October 31. You are invited to view our parade from our halls, the Cafeteria, or the Gym. Our families are always very creative and we love seeing all the wonderful costumes. As students get older they sometimes like to have “gory” costumes....however, since we have younger students who love watching the parade, we ask that parents keep the costumes from being too frightening. The PM Kdg. parade will be held in the afternoon on Wednesday, October 31 @ 1:00 p.m.

HEARING AND VISION TESTING - School-wide hearing and vision testing were done on October 1, 2 & 3. Hearing is tested in grades Kindergarten, Second and Fourth. Vision is tested in grades First, Third and Fifth. Make Up screening date will be on October 22nd.

DATES FOR PLANNING AHEAD

WINTER BREAK...December 24 to January 4
Return to School on January 7
SPRING BREAK... April 7-11 off, Return on April 14

TITLE I SUPPORT AT WAYLEE

The Portage Public Schools believe that the school and the parents are partners in each student's education. Working together promotes the student's academic and emotional development. We are fortunate at Waylee School to have Title I support services for our students. Over the course of the year, most students will benefit from the support provided by Title I.

Our Title I group is Mrs. Beth Hinze, Mrs. Laura Winters, Mrs. MaryEllen Tang, Mrs. Ruth Beranek, Mrs. Karen Casanto and Meghann Tang. They provide support using a "Frontloading" approach at all grade levels.

FRONTLOADING...WHAT'S THAT?

Concentrating support help in the early grades is the proactive practice of staying "in front" of problems. Research clearly shows that early intervention is more effective than waiting for students to experience learning difficulties and then implementing remedial techniques. We feel this philosophy will help ensure academic success for all of our students. Although students participate in whole-group instruction for the majority of their school day, Frontloading allows for flexible, small group instruction by using our support staff. Our Frontloading team works along with the classroom teacher four days a week for 25 minutes.

VISITING YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM – We want to welcome parents/guardians to visit Waylee and your child's classes. However, we ask that you not ask for the teacher's time and attention when they are responsible for and needed by over twenty students, including times when students are entering and leaving the building before school and at dismissal. Classroom visits are to be arranged with the teacher a minimum of 24 hours in advance. These visits are for observing only. If you need to meet with the teacher, please schedule a conference outside of the instructional day. Thank you!

Portage Public Schools Notice of Non-discrimination

Portage Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status or handicap in the admission to, access to, participation in, benefits of, or employment in its programs or activities as provided by district policy and in compliance with Federal and State statutes. The employees below have been designated to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504/ADA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- **Your school counselor**
 - **Your school principal**
 - **Title IX Coordinator**
- Vickie Herzberg, Manager, SPHR

8111 S. Westnedge
Portage, Michigan 49009

- **Section 504 Coordinator** - (269) 323- 5015

Laurie Montgomery, Director

- **Employment** - (269) 323-5152

Vickie Herzberg, Manager SPHR

- **Special Education** - (269) 323- 5015

Laurie Montgomery, Director

Any person may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, regarding the District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX or Section 504/ADA.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Why is reading aloud to your children the number one suggestion from reading experts across the country? Because it builds the desire to read—in only 15 or 20 minutes a day!

Whether your youngsters are already reading or haven't yet begun, now is the perfect time to start reading aloud regularly. Here are a few tips to help you get the most out of your time together.

Encourage participation

If there's repetition in a story, challenge your kids to repeat the key phrases with you. Take turns saying the lines in a dramatic or silly voice. Or stop occasionally and ask if anyone can predict what will happen next.

Get comfortable

Offer your children soft mats or pillows to sit on. Give them blankets to snuggle up on cold days, or sit near a cool breeze when the weather is warm. Let them have a snack or drink before you start.

Remove distractions

Make your reading spot as quiet as possible so your youngsters can focus on the story. Consider turning off the television and ignoring the phone to avoid interruptions.

Keep it appropriate

If your kids have trouble following the language or plot of a story, it may be too difficult for them. Look for books that are closer to their reading levels. *Tip:* Ask a librarian or your children's teacher for suggestions. ☺

REASONS TO WRITE

Writing is a skill children need for a successful future. But for some kids, it feels like a chore. Here are three ways to get your youngster excited about writing. Give your child...

Opportunity. Put a whiteboard or chalkboard in your child's play area. Your youngster won't be able to resist scribbling on the board! *Tip:* Chalkboard paint can turn any wall or surface into a chalkboard.

Inspiration. Let your youngster see you write. It could be a shopping list, a check, or a note to a friend or relative. Use your best handwriting and go slowly when "little eyes are watching".

Tools. Create a pleasing writing environment that includes good lighting, a desk or a table, and a chair. Stock up on supplies like colored pencils, decorative paper, neon markers, and crayons—your child can write with pizzazz! ☺

[A note about the Whooping Cough from the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department....](#)

What is Pertussis?

It is a contagious, vaccine-preventable disease, commonly known as whooping cough. It is caused by bacteria that lives in the respiratory tract.

It is spread by direct contact with discharges from the nose or airborne droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is only found in humans

Symptoms usually develop within 7-20 days after exposure. A person is highly contagious early in the disease and gradually decreases over the 3 weeks following the deep, whooping cough. With antibiotic treatment, the person is usually not infectious after 5 days.

What are the early signs?

It starts out like a common cold. Then in 1-2 weeks, the cough becomes stronger and the child will have attacks of severe, rapid, deep coughs and may have difficulty breathing from the thick mucus in the nose and throat. Sometimes vomiting will occur at the end of an attack. Attacks are worse at night and can go on for many weeks. Teens and adults may have milder symptoms, but they can pass the disease on to younger family members at risk for severe illness.

When is it OK to return to school?

An unimmunized or under-immunized contact may return 21 days after exclusion or after 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Persons suspected of having pertussis should stay at home to avoid spreading this potentially fatal disease to others.

What else should I know?

Pertussis is the P in the DTaP/ DTP vaccines. 90% of deaths from Pertussis occur in infants under 6 month of age, most unimmunized. Thimerosal-free DTaP is available. Scrub hands with warm, soapy water for 15-20 seconds. Encourage children to cover mouth & nose when coughing or sneezing and throw used tissues promptly in to a wastebasket. Close contact (household members) should be treated with appropriate antibiotics. Contacts aged 10-64, who have not had a Td (tetnanus) in the past 5 years, should get the new Tdap vaccine.

PIV

If you have a question regarding PIV please contact pivsupport@portageps.org.

Yearbook

We are publishing our yearbook digitally again this year. If you are interested in submitting photo's to the yearbook, they need to be submitted by e-mail, disk or negatives. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with the yearbook please contact Christy DeHaan, 329-0284 or cdehaan@ameritech.net.

Are You Registered to Vote?

Are you a registered voter? If not, the registration deadline to vote in the Nov. 6 election is Oct. 9. Visit your city or township clerk or any Secretary of State office to register. While there, you can also request an absentee ballot if you will need one.

Also, remember to have your photo ID with you on Nov. 6. This is the first election where voters will be asked to show a photo ID or sign a statement saying they don't have a photo ID.

Here are the following clerk offices throughout our school district:

Portage City Clerk at Portage City Hall, 7900 S. Westnedge Ave., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Texas Township Clerk at Texas Township Hall, 7110 West Q. Avenue, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Pavilion Township Clerk at Pavilion Township Hall, 7510 East Q Avenue, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Kalamazoo City Clerk, Kalamazoo City Hall, 241 W. South St., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Waylee Skating Party

Thursday, November 1st 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$4.50 per student

Waylee Families Only Please