



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

**November
2007**

WAYLEE RAP-UP

DEAR PARENTS & STUDENTS:

Conference time is a busy time for parents and teachers. Parental support is so important to the education of our students. Thanks for taking the time to come to your child's conference. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of home/school communication. Please feel free to call us at any time.

Ron Jones, Principal

***It's time to start thinking about **COLD WEATHER!!** A couple of things we want to discuss with you are:

EARLY MORNING SCHOOL CLOSINGS. When Portage Schools cancels or delays the start of school, the announcement will be made in time to make the 6 a.m. news on local television and radio stations. **Parents may also call our "School Closing Hotline" at 323-6800** or check the District web site at www.portageps.org and click on the "Parents & Visitors" link for the WWMT-TV Channel 3 school closing announcements (you will see the link on the upper right, under the weather forecast). Portage Cable Access Channel 20 also carries school closing announcements.

If Portage is not among those names as closed, please assume we are **OPEN!**

NO SNOWBALLS! Please remind your children that the Waylee policy is **NO SNOWBALL THROWING AT ANY TIME: AT SCHOOL, AT THE BUS STOP, OR ON THE WAY TO AND FROM SCHOOL.** This is for the safety of all students. All of our students have been informed and will be frequently reminded. Thanks for your help.

WARM KIDS...

We don't want any of our Waylee Students to go without a coat this winter. We have some donations in the office, so please, if your child needs a winter coat, have them stop by and we will try to hook them up. We also have a few pairs of boots and several hats & gloves, donated by the "Warm Kids" program. Don't be bashful...just ask, we are here to help.

ACCELERATED READER

Waylee has a marvelous program called Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is a program designed to create a motivational environment in which students are encouraged to read as much as possible. When students read more they become even better readers.

Students are given a brief computerized assessment to determine the level of books that would best support their growth in reading. Then students simply select a book, read the book, and take a computerized quiz. The quiz results allow students and teachers to monitor reading comprehension closely. Students are awarded points on the length and difficulty of the book AND how well they answer the quiz questions.

Please encourage your children to read. Ask about the Accelerated Reader book your child is reading and about the reading report.

If you have any questions you may ask Mr. Cramer, the Media Specialist, Mrs. Hinze, our Reading Consultant, or your child's classroom teacher.

SAFETY PATROL INFORMATION

We thought we would remind you of our most important safety rules.

1. Safeties are on duty from 8:20-8:40 a.m. and from 3:30-3:45 P.M. Please be aware that if your child is late arriving at a crossing post we cannot be responsible for his/her safety in crossing the streets.
2. Children should cross streets **ONLY WHERE THERE IS A SAFETY ON DUTY.**
3. Children should not come to school through the woods at the end of Waylee Street.
4. Bicyclists are required to cross at safety posts also and must walk their bikes while crossing roads. Because of the danger of running into walkers, we are asking bikers to **WALK** their bikes in the catwalk and on the sidewalk in front of Waylee.
5. Parents please do not stop directly on the crosswalk to unload children from your cars, nor encourage them to cross in any place other than the crosswalk. Children should exit your car from the **passenger side**...not on the traffic side.
6. Do **NOT** drop students off in our parking lot when busses are loading or unloading. If you drive them to school, they must be dropped off in front of the building (preferably on our turn-around traffic loop).

Patrol members **DO NOT** stop traffic. We wait for traffic to clear...

Mr. Johnson & the Safety Patrol



Get the Lead Out: Creating Lead Awareness
Cheri Woodhams
Bronson Methodist Hospital

ESTABLISH FAIR & CONSISTANT FAMILY RULES

Before playing a game, children discuss the rules. That's because kids appreciate rules – even when fun isn't involved. Rules work best when parents:

- **Discuss possible rules.** Consider your child's opinions, but make final decisions yourself. As your child matures, review rules to make sure they're appropriate.
- **Enforce rules consistently.** Always enforce rules, even if your child whines about them.
- **Don't go overboard.** If you make too many rules, no one can keep track of them. Post a few key rules with related consequences (and rewards).

Idle threats make discipline difficult. What's the easiest way to lose the upper hand when it comes to discipline? Make idle threats or comments. If you regularly threaten your child with penalties you obviously can't enforce – "If you're late for school again, you'll be grounded forever!" – he'll begin to see that you don't really mean what you say. Instead, use threats only when necessary, and follow through on them.

MAKE THE MOST OF PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Come prepared.

Use positive communication techniques.

Ask key questions.

*What are my child's special interests and strengths?

*What are the goals you'd like to see my child reach this year?

Look for ways to work together.



TIP...

Does your family eat dinner together most nights? Most families don't. Yet sharing meals usually involves sharing a lot more – such as encouragement and love. If dinner doesn't work for your family, try breakfast. You'll like the togetherness as much as the food.

PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retakes will be held on Tuesday, November 13th. Please bring back the old packet to exchange for a new packet. If your child was absent on October 4th, the first picture day, just send in the envelope with your check made out to "SchoolPictures.com".

MARKET DAY PICK UP SCHEDULE FOR 2007-2008

December 7th

January 18th

February 15th

Do you live in a home built before 1978? If so, your child may be at risk for lead poisoning. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has estimated that lead poisoning affects over 400,000 children in this country alone.

Lead poisoning most often occurs in children who live in older homes, built when lead-based paint was commonly used. The most common sources of lead are peeling or chipping lead-based paint and lead in dust or soil. Paint chips are easily crushed into dust inside your home or into the soil around your house. Houses built before 1978 probably have some amount of lead-based paint, and homes built prior to 1950 often have the highest level of lead-based paint.

What to do if you suspect you have lead-based paint

If you suspect your home may be contaminated with lead, call your local or state health department. They may do it for you or give you the names of companies experienced in doing such tests. Home test kits may not be accurate.

Children sometimes eat paint chips or chew on painted surfaces, and they may get dirt or dust that contains lead on their hands and then put their hands in their mouths. Dust tends to accumulate in the corners of floors, windows, and porches, near heat registers, and in the dirt along the outside of the house.

Vacuuming or beating carpets spreads dust into the air. Sanding, scraping, or burning wood that has been painted with lead-based paint also creates lead-contaminated dust. Surfaces that rub against each other (like windows and doors against their frames) may create lead-contaminated dust.

More Tips

- Do not try to get rid of lead-based paint yourself. Disturbing lead-based paint without proper training or experience can make things worse.
- Wipe toys, windowsills, door frames, and uncarpeted floors with a wet cloth or damp mop twice a week with warm, soapy water.
- Vacuum rugs with a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter if possible. Steam-clean carpets.
- Wash pacifiers and bottles any time they fall on the floor.
- Don't let your children eat dirt or put things in their mouths that have been on the floor.
- Wash children's hands frequently, especially before they eat or sleep.
- Don't scrape, sand, or burn painted wood.
- Plant grass or cover bare soil with wood chips. Plant bushes close to the house to keep children from playing in soil next to the house. Provide a sandbox with a solid floor and cover for play and keep it filled with clean sand.

This article is brought to you by The Children's Hospital at Bronson, southwest Michigan's only children's hospital, and Kohl's. For more information about children's health, visit bronsonhealth.com.

Cheri Woodhams is a pharmacist at Bronson Methodist Hospital.

SELF-CARE SKILLS WORKSHOP

This 2-day workshop is for children in the 3rd-5th grades to discuss situations that may occur and require self-care. Topics include: personal safety, stranger danger, answering the telephone & the door safely, emergency & non-emergency responses, internet safety, safety around animals, and basic first aid.

Sessions are held immediately after school in a designated area ending at 5:00pm. Pre-registration is required by calling Eric Stewart at PCOC at 323-1942. (If less than four students sign-up, we reserve the right to cancel.) There is a fee of \$5.00 per child payable at the time of the session. We have scholarships available through PCOC for families whose income qualifies. A light snack will be provided.

We ask parents to attend the last 45 minutes of the second session to view a video along with their child in order to better understand the topics covered in the course. Please come around 4:15.

******Only one workshop per year is offered at each school so sign up now******

WORKSHOP AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING DATE:
Waylee Elementary: January 29 & 31

Presented by:
PORTAGE COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER
7130 S. WESTNEDGE AVE
PORTAGE, MI 49002
(269) 323-1942
Elementary School Tutoring Through
The Portage Community Outreach Center

Priority placement is given to students in the free and reduced lunch program.

- Contact Eric Stewart @ 323-1942 for more information on this program.



AND THE STUDENT COUNCIL WINNERS ARE:

SENIOR ADVISOR: Emily Fulling

JUNIOR ADVISOR: Karsyn Lambert

5th GRADE PUBLIC RELATIONS: Max Quertermus

4th GRADE PUBLIC RELATIONS: Emily Quertermus

5th GRADE COMMUNICATION ADVISOR: Brooke Boyd

4th GRADE COMMUNICATION ADVISOR: Noah Bielat

Congratulations to all who won and those who ran!
You all did a terrific job!



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

REMINDER: THERE IS A BOND VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH ON TWO BOND PROPOSALS TO REBUILD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AND LAKE CENTER ELEMENTARY. IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION WILL OCCUR AT NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL AND A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT ON 12TH STREET.

IN ADDITION, SAFETY, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION UPGRADES WILL BE MADE BENEFITING ALL SCHOOLS DISTRICT WIDE.

SHOULD BOTH OF THESE BONDS PASS, THE AVERAGE VALUED HOMEOWNERS TAXES WILL INCREASE BY \$3.20 PER WEEK – LESS THAN THE COST OF A GALLON OF MILK. THAT MEANS OUR RATE WILL REMAIN IN THE BOTTOM THIRD OF SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

WHEN MAKING YOUR DECISION, KEEP IN MIND SOME OF THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS BEING REBUILT ARE 90 YEARS OLD.



Thank you Brownie Troop #382 and their families for planting 150 tulip bulbs for our Waylee Beautification Project.



BOOK DRIVE – Don't miss the deadline!

Sponsored by: Brownie Troop #382 (2nd Graders) & Troop #806 (3rd Graders)

Dates of Collection Period: Now – Wednesday, November 21st

Our goal is to fill 10 banana boxes.
We have 3 so far.

We are collecting **NEW** and **GENTLY USED BOOKS** to be donated to students at Fairplain West at Benton Harbor Elementary School.

SPECIAL REQUESTED BOOKS: ABC, NUMBER AND PICTURE BOOKS FOR KINDERGARTERS

LIFE SKILLS

Our life skills spell:
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

- R**-esponsibility
- E**-ffort
- S**-olving problems
- P**-erseverance
- E**-mpathy
- C**-onfidence
- T**-eamwork

HEALTH & WELLNESS

This year we will continue to promote health and wellness. We have 5 nursing students from Western spending all day with us on Tuesday's throughout the year. They will be teaching Project Charlie/Peaceful Partners, helping with organized games and activities during recess that promote exercise, working on health and wellness bulletin boards, head checks, helping in the office with sick and hurt children, and teaching other health lessons. So if you see some new faces say "Hi".

REMINDER: Please remember to send in healthy snacks with your child each day.

This year our school will be working on LIFE SKILLS. Each month a different life skill will be reinforced in the classroom and throughout the building. We will have activities, bulletin boards, daily and weekly announcements. Each teacher has the life skill letters in their room. Throughout the year ask your child about the life skill of the month. We will start with **RESPONSIBILITY** in October.

Here are some ways you can help school-age children assume responsibility:

Daily & Weekly Routines: Children need to understand that everyone has certain dull routine chores that have to be done.

Personal Hygiene: Children need to know how to care for themselves.

Homework: Parents need to be involved in their children's day-to-day education and encourage children to do their assigned work.

Punctuality: Children need to understand that being on time is important.

Following Through: A key to teaching children to be independent is to make them responsible for completing their work.

Model Responsibility: Let your children see you do things that need to be done. **Children learn what they live with.**

