

Woodland



Newsletter

NCA Accredited

January 2009

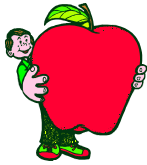
1401 Woodland, Portage, MI 49024

(269) 323-6600

Sue O'Donnell, Principal

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The staff and parents at Woodland school work cooperatively to develop the whole child in an atmosphere of respect and dignity



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a fun-filled and restful holiday. With January's arrival, we will be looking forward to getting back to our daily schedule and routines and continuing to provide the best possible education for your child(ren). We appreciate all you do to help your child be successful in school. Something as simple as checking your child's backpack each night for papers and notes, and taking a few minutes to discuss schoolwork can have a major impact on how your child does. Thanks for your help! We are also trying to help children learn to be independent and responsible for their belongings. We want them to have everything they need for school when they arrive. If parents are constantly having to bring forgotten boots, lunches etc. to them during the day, it can become a pattern and can give the message that students do not have to be responsible for their things. Once in a while, of course, is fine. We just do not want it to become a "crutch".

A big THANK YOU for the outpouring of support for Woodland's PTO Holiday Gift Giving Project. Due to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts of toys and clothing for 14 Woodland children. We'd also like to thank the teachers for making this a part of their classroom celebrations and the shoppers who gave so generously of their time during the busy holiday season. Please enjoy the January edition of the Woodland Newsletter.
Sue

YEAR BOOKS ON SALE

The yearbook committee is busy working on the 2008-2009 Woodland yearbook. Order now, at \$15

each to preserve your child's special memories of Woodland.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

We are beginning to collect names of youngsters who will be attending kindergarten at Woodland next fall. Any child, who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2009, will be eligible to attend kindergarten. It is most important that you register prior to February 15, 2009. Young Fives students need not re-register.

To register, please call Woodland at 323-6600. Specific enrollment and medical information will be sent to you once we have received your registration information. Your help in communicating this request to your friends and neighbors is appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan 23	No school
Feb 25-26	Conferences
Feb 26	½ day of school. Dismissal 11:57am
Feb. 27	No school
March 27	No school
April 3-10	No school
April 10	Classes resume
May 25	No school
June 11	½ day of school. Last day of school

ABSENT/LATE CALL-IN PROCEDURE

With the cold and flu season upon us, we are experiencing more absenteeism. This is just a reminder to call the Woodland office (323-6600) if your child is going to be absent or more than 15 minutes late. We very much appreciate your help with this safety policy.

PARENT MEETING RE: CYBERBULLYING AND INTERNET SAFETY

Tuesday, January 6 at NMS @ 6:30 pm. The internet safety meeting will be presented by the MI Office of Attorney General. Parents are encouraged to call 323-5700 to reserve their seats.

What is Cyberbullying?

- Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images
- Posting sensitive, private information about another person
- Pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad
- Intentionally excluding someone from an online group

Source: Cyberbullying, Stop Bullying Now! (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

What do I do if my child is experiencing cyberbullying?

Source: Education.com

Topics: [CyberBullying](#), [CyberBullying](#)

Although technology allows bullies to target their victims anonymously, there are a number of steps that victims and their families can take:

- **Advise your child to ignore the message. Do not ignore the problem.**
 - Don't respond to the message.¹
 - Save the evidence.
 - Tell a trusted adult.
 - Don't forward it.²
 - Show kids how to block cyberbullies and to delete messages without reading them.
 - Never encourage your children to seek revenge and further escalate the cyberbullying problem.
 - Remind kids to keep their passwords secret.

- Assure kids that cyberbullying is never their fault.

References:

1. [Netsmartz. What to do When Your Child Is the Victim of Cyberbullying.](#)
2. [National Crime Prevention Council. Bullying Prevention: At School and Online.](#)

REQUEST TO STAY INDOORS FOR RECESS

We believe that except on rare occasions, if a child is well enough to be in school they are well enough to go outside and enjoy recess. In addition, an adult must always be present to supervise a child staying in for recess, which takes away from staff lunch times and office staff duties. Therefore, a note from a physician stating the child is to remain indoors for recess is required for a child to be individually supervised during recess time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

PTO NEWS

A great big thank you to all who made the Crop and Shop a great success this year: Spicy Pickle donated over 60 sandwiches and pickles.

Edible Arrangements donated a huge arrangement.

Cookies by Design donated a big cookie basket.

Harding's at Woodbridge donated \$60.00 in goods, and eight shopping carts to help with the loading and unloading for scrapbookers and vendors.

And to all the parents who helped:

Amy Crawford, Haley Dare, Kelly Garcia, Amy Fisher, Joni Shore, Judy Powers, Tonya Erxleben and Julie Toomsen.

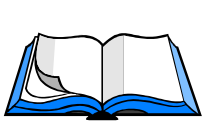
Finally, a big thank you to all the National Honor Society students who helped with sign making, hanging signs, set up, clean up and sign take downs.

To all of you who helped I appreciate it greatly and so does each student and teacher!

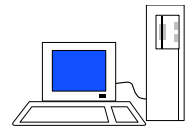
THANK YOU!

Angie Kennard





Media Center News



Volume XV Number 5

January 1, 2009

**Cell phones Cell phones Cell phones We can recycle old cell phones!!!!!!
Send your old phones in and we can earn cash for the Media Center.**

Cribbage Club ended. We had over 30 members meeting to play cribbage. This game builds math fluency and number skills. If you can, try playing at home with your children to help them build their skills.

A way to help Woodland! The **Media Center** is collecting **empty printer ink cartridges** to be recycled. **Any cartridge** will work, ink jet or laser. **What to do?** Bring or send the cartridge in to the Media Center and place in the collection box. The Media Center will take care of the rest. What does Woodland get? Woodland will earn points or cash towards free computers, printers, scanners, cameras, and other technology equipment. Best of all it does not cost anything and the rewards are great! Send in those cartridges! **(laser cartridges can be sent in with the original box)**

Coming in **March** there will be a **Harry Potter Challenge** if we have enough students sign up. We will be using the seventh and last book for this challenge. Teams can be formed from any classes, but they must all be in the same grade and have no more than five members and at least two members. If you have no team, sign up and I will help you form a team. Questions will be asked over three days at lunch recess. Students can be in grades third through fifth for this contest challenge.

American Girl readers: you will have an adventure in February which will include students from first through fifth grade. We will only use the Kristen books - all six in the series for this adventure. You will need to be on teams of two to four and answer questions at lunch recess. There will also be other activities for you to do during February. Get your group together and read the six Kristen books as many times as you want to prepare for this adventure. Each grade will compete with students in only that grade.

Chess Club is open for students in second grade through fifth grade that would like to practice their game. We have all skill levels and have both girls and boys that play. We meet after school on Wednesdays at 3:45 and finish playing at 4:45 when students will need to get picked up. I have other commitments and need to leave so your help with picking up students will be appreciated. I must have a permission slip turned in to be able to stay and play, this is school policy. We will start play on Wednesday, January 17th.

I give my permission for _____ to stay after school on Wednesdays to play chess until 4:45 and will pick my child up at that time.

Return this slip to the
Media Center

Parent _____

First graders heard Chris Van Allsburg's story called Polar Express in the media center. They were excited every time the whistle blew. All aboard !!



Second graders finished up their study of bats and then learned how to graph using software in the computer lab with Mr. Lauritsen. They also had bat wings that they wore back to class and discovered that bats are not such bad creatures after all.

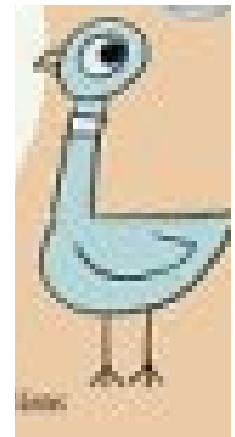
Second graders are finishing their study of the Wright brothers and flight on visits to the Media Center on Friday mornings.

Students in all grades heard holiday stories the last week of school in the Media Center. These stories were enjoyed by all students and some new favorites were discovered.



The castle is going up again for students to use for silent reading in the Media Center. The students have been eagerly awaiting this construction and will be happy to see it is up again.

Students started the year playing Woodland Book Olympics that introduced different genre of books. After playing this game each week when the students came to check out books, they became very knowledgeable about mysteries, adventure, realistic fiction, historical fiction and other types of books. This activity was culminated with the GREAT PIGEON HUNT! When students in second through fifth grade arrived for book exchange, they learned that some pigeons had escaped into the Media Center. They had a score sheet and had to name the type (genre) of the book that the pigeon was on. Students had only 5 minutes to find as many pigeons as they and could and name the type of book. Each class really did a great job with the activity and had fun finding the missing pigeons.



**Happy Holidays to all and to all Happy New Year!
Looking forward to your return next year.**