

Woodland

NCA Accredited

April 2010



Newsletter

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

I can't believe how quickly April has come upon us. The next few weeks will go by very quickly as well. We've had a successful year so far and look forward to a productive fourth quarter.

Now that spring break has gone, the weather is getting nicer, and the days are longer, the students often feel that summer is here already. It becomes harder to keep them focused and on task. Please remind your child that he/she still has eight weeks of school left and needs to keep doing his/her personal best. Frequent, gentle reminders will hopefully help with this!

Our playground is muddy! Please make sure you're still sending boots with your child.

Don't forget about our annual PTO ice-cream social on April 28 at 6:30-8:00. It is also a good time to visit the media center's book fair.

Thank you, again, for all of your help and support!
Sue O'Donnell

REPORT CARDS SENT HOME APRIL 30

The last instructional day of the third quarter was April 15. Third quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, April 30. Please be sure to ask your child for his/her report card on Friday, April 30.

LOST AND FOUND

We have a number of coats, gloves, hats, etc. in our lost and found. Please check it to see if any items belong to you. Items not claimed will be donated.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 16	No school
April 28	PTO ice cream social
May 31	No school
June 4	Full day of school
	Last day of school

PARKING LOT

Please remember to park your car in the parking lot if you are planning to walk your child into the building. Never park and leave your car by the sidewalk. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important safety matter.

STUDENT ABSENCES: PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/guardians must contact the school office if their child is absent from school. *The office is the official recorder of student attendance and must be the contact, not the classroom teacher.* Classroom teachers will be notified of student absences.

BIRTHDAY INVITES & DELIVERIES

The staff of Woodland Elementary School request that students NOT hand-out party invitations at school. Disappointment students may feel about not being invited to a party, causes a disruption to the educational environment. Invitations to parties should be made outside of the school environment.

We also request deliveries of flowers or balloons not be made at school. These deliveries to students often turn into a distraction to the learning process. Consequently, balloons and flowers will not be

delivered to classrooms and will remain in the office until the end of the school day for the student to pick up.

**RENEWAL OF BUILDING SITE SINKING FUND
SOUGHT FOR SCHOOL REPAIRS AND
IMPROVEMENTS**

A renewal of the .5 millage rate for the District's Building Site Sinking Fund (BSSF) will come before voters on May 4, 2010. The average cost to taxpayers will be \$38 a year and generates about \$1.2 million a year. This renewal is for a period of five years, for school year 2010/2011 through 2014/2015.

The BSSF has been renewed consistently since 1966, with receipts from this levy going into a separate fund for such things as making necessary repairs and improvements to school buildings, structures, and parking areas. Since many of our facilities are nearly 50 years old, numerous facility repairs like roofs, mechanical systems, flooring, and asphalt have been funded with this millage.

From 1966 through 1998 the District levied 1.0 mill in this fund, and from 1998 to now, the District levied .5 mill of BSSF, while the other .5 was transferred to debt millage with voter approval. In 2001 voters approved an increase of 1.0 mill through 2005 for the construction of two multi-purpose facilities at the high schools and for major renovations to the high school auditoriums. Read the ballot language online:
http://www.portageps.org/departments/finance/BSS_Flanguage22Feb10.pdf

SCHOOL MEALS

Did you know? If you qualify for reduced priced meals you only pay \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 per lunch! That's a savings of \$391 at the elementary level and \$436.00 at the middle and high school level over the course of the school year! If you qualify for free lunches, you won't pay anything at all! Students who participate in the Free and Reduced Meal Program provide extra state and federal funding for reading and math programs in their buildings.

Free and Reduced Meal Benefit Applications can be filled out anytime during the school year.

Applications are available through your school office, at www.portageps.org or by calling 323-5155

PIZZA UPDATE

Littlel Caesar's is back. Only cheese slices are available. If your child would like an extra piece it is an additional \$1.25 for all students.

**PARENTS AND STAFF: YOUR INPUT
NEEDED**

Help Portage Public Schools gather community input on participation fees for middle and high school students. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey for Portage Public Schools.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6RDHJDN>

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Autism affects 1 in 110 children.

Autism affects 1 in 70 boys.

For more information on autism please visit:

www.autismspeaks.org

www.autism-society.org

www.autism-mi.orf

You may also call the Autism Society of Kalamazoo/Battle Creek at 1-800-628-6421.

Autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders known as Pervasive Development Disorders (PDD). Autism is more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes, and pediatric AIDS combined.

WOODLAND RECYCLES

Did you know that Woodland now recycles plastic? Please encourage your children to put their plastic water bottles into the orange recycle bin in the cafeteria. Our Woodland Wildcats can take pride in knowing that they are helping the environment!

PTO NEWS

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Come visit Woodland and get to know other Woodland families at the annual PTO Ice Cream Social on April 28. The time is 6:30pm until 8:00pm and it is in the gym. See you there!

2010 WOODLAND SPRING FLOWER SALE

Buy Daisy dollars to spend at Schuring's Greenhouse. They are sold in increments of \$10 and \$20 (same as cash). Woodland PTO receives 25 cents on each dollar.

Order by Monday, April 12. They will be distributed the week of April 19. Spend them April 25-June 20 at Schuring's Greenhouse, 610 Schuring Road. Contact Amy Engle with questions 327-0755 or amyengel@charter.net

Please note that no change greater than 99 cents will be given for Daisy Dollars. Also, Schuring's Greenhouse or the Woodland PTO are not responsible for misplaced or lost Daisy Dollars.

Thank you for your support.

D&W FRESH MARKET SCHOOL DAYS

Shop at D&W April 11-17 and 2% of your purchase totals can go to the Woodland PTO. Simply give the cashier Woodland's group code which is 96451 and the donation will automatically be credited to Woodland's account. Earn even more for our school by asking your friends and family to help.

The Woodland PTO would like to thank you for your participation in the programs that support our school! Budget cuts have made it even more essential for the PTO to continue to support our classrooms and teachers to help our children become tomorrow leaders.

CUB SCOUT NEWS

Woodland's Cub Scout Pack 297 is sponsoring a MOTHER/SON DINNER AND MOVIE on Friday, May 7, 2010. The dinner will be at 6:00 and the movie will start at 7:00. Look for sign-up sheets to come home in mid April. For more information, please contact Wendy Wheeler at wendyjwheel@att.net.

CALLING ALL PARENTS

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

In order for Portage Public Schools to provide a safe and orderly bus ride, we require all parents 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; or you may download the form at http://www.portageps.org/departments/transportation/requestform/transportation_requestform.pdf and submit it to the transportation office via fax, mail or your students bus driver.

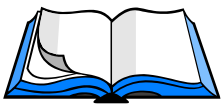
If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a Transportation Request form at any Portage school or transportation office.

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.

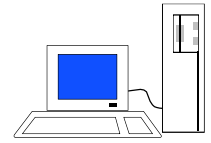
If you would like your students to ride the bus next year, please sign up early. Bus assignments will be based on the student's home address as listed on the schools records. Students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in late August with specific transportation information.

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.



Media Center News



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April 1, 2010

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable spring break and **took time to read a good book** or share a story with a family member.



Chess Club will start up **after spring break** and we will play April 14th and April 21st. We had over thirty players active in the Chess Club this year. Watching them play, one can see improvement as they continue to learn the game of chess and grow more adept with choosing their moves. Congratulations to all our players.

Spring Book Fair will run from **April 26th through April 30th**. Parents' night will be **Wednesday April 28** when we will be open from 6:00 until 8:00. That is the same night as the ice cream social. This will be a buy one get one free book fair. You will be able to stock up for summer reading or maybe buy a present or two.

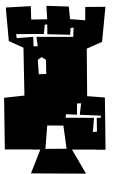
Thank you to those of you who **stopped** into the **Media Center** during conferences. It is always a pleasure to see you and share what your child is reading. You are welcome to stop by anytime with questions or suggestions.



The castle is coming down and a new structure will be going up. Ask your child about his visits to the Media Center and find out what all the excitement is about.

Many students have been successful at the **Challenge Chair**. Ask your student if he has tried to solve the current puzzle which is a castle that fits together. Congratulations to all those that have tried to solve this thinking problem. The Challenge Chair has various puzzles and mind teasers for the students to solve. These are available to all to try and solve during their visit to the Media Center.

April is Adventure Month when we will focus on Egypt and adventure stories as well as highlighting special authors. We will also bring back Camp Read A Lot and possibly explore cam experiences such as learn how to read a compass, and tie some basic knots. Magic Tree House books fit very nicely into this theme!



A very special thank you, to all of our Media Mom helpers for all the help they have provided. They are a very dedicated group of volunteers and help the Media Center tremendously.

Thank You!

