

May 2019

Inside this Issue

1 Principal Petralia's Page
End-of-Year Envelope
Character Trait of the Month

2 Good Citizens – April
April Attendance
Memo from the Nurse
Reminder
Correction
Field Day
Cookout!
Lost & Found

3 PTO News
Fun Fair Sponsors
Raffle Winners

4 Important Reminder
Coach's Corner
Last Days of School
Dress Code Reminder
Upcoming Events

5 Read-a-Thon Update
Yearbooks
June Newsletter
Family Folk Dance
Social Media

6 Summer Food Service

End-of-Year Envelope

On the last day of school your child will bring home a large manila envelope. Please take a minute to look through the contents. Included will be info about a variety of things happening this summer such as Book Bus, Summer Food Service, and summer programs at the Lake County Library. There will also be important info about next school year like the corporation calendar, supply list, next year's Young Hoosier lists, and more.

John Wood Elementary School
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Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305
<http://merrillville.schoolwires.net/wood>

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



Principal Petralia's Page

by Mrs. Petralia

Dear John Wood Families,

The 2018-2019 school year has almost flown by! I have to make sure to acknowledge some very special people who have helped to make our school year the amazing one it was:

- Thank you to the John Wood PTO for supporting our students, teachers, and staff and for planning super fun events!
- Thank you to our teachers and staff for always doing what is best for our students and for your unconditional love for them!
- Thank you to our John Wood students who come each morning with smiles on their faces, ready to learn!

With the end of the school year upon us, everyone is getting really excited, especially the students! Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school (no tank tops, short shorts or flip flops). Additionally, we need to remind our students that the rules are still applicable even though it is the end of the year. We have many fun activities planned for the end of the year, and making bad choices can lead to these being taken away. Thank you for your help with these things at home!

Mrs. Petralia

Character Trait of the Month:

Courtesy

Good Citizens April 2019

Multi-Grade

Edward Johnson – Miss Cieslak
Brayden Tufaga – Miss Matthews

Kindergarten

Aliya Mills – Mrs. Anderson
Isabel Whittinghill – Mrs. Scott
Londyn Jackson – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Haley Wright – Mrs. Matthews
Aerionna Byers – Mrs. Pace
Liam Parker – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Aliyah Lagunas – Mrs. Carney
Landon Conners – Ms. Foster
Vittoria Madrigal – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Jori Terpstra – Miss Farver
Serenity Bishop – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Aidan Luskey – Miss Jongsma
Tessa Johnson – Miss Vlassopoulos

April Attendance

As we approach the end of another school year, we must stress that attendance is just as important, if not more, than the rest of the school year. All students are being tested in one way or another as the staff is assessing what the students have learned this year.

We continue to recognize the class with the best attendance for the month. This month, after losing to other classes for a couple of months, the “Beary” trophy returns to a former champ.

April

Mrs. Marshall – 2nd Grade – 97.92%

Mrs. Marshall’s class was recognized at a recent Pirate Power meeting and received a small treat.

Memo from the Nurse

Any medication in the nurse’s office must be picked up by an adult by June 5, 2019. Medication remaining in the office on June 7th will be discarded. Also, medical updates will go home soon for the 2019-2020 school year. Please be sure to fill out the update even if no medication is needed at school. In addition, any students who require medication or inhalers for the 2019-2020 school year will need to have new physician orders on file with the nurse.

Having current medical information helps us immensely in the event that your student becomes ill or injured during school hours. If you did not get a medical update (student does not currently have medical considerations) but if your student has a new diagnosis, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Brack, or visit our John Wood Website to print forms.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Brack at 756-5745. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a great summer!

Reminder

It is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to call and let the school office know why a child is not in school. Make sure you call 650-5305 then press 2 before 9 a.m. if your child will not be in school.

Correction

A name was inadvertently omitted from the March newsletter. Ava Moreno in Mrs. Mahy’s 3rd grade class should have been included in the list of A/B Honor Roll students. We apologize for the oversight.

Field Day

This year Field Day will be held on Thursday, May 30th, rain or shine. A note was sent home asking for volunteers to help on this day. If you have not already returned the form but are interested in assisting, you may send Mr. Battista a note or call and leave a message on his voice mail. He will get back to you with the details. **Please remember, the school policy is that we can’t allow younger children to attend with you.**

Cookout!

On Thursday, May 30th, our students will be treated to a special lunch. The students will take their lunch into the courtyard and eat outside! (Weather permitting.) The PTO has graciously offered to purchase lunch for all the students and staff on this day. If your child prefers to bring their own lunch, the PTO will pay for your child’s milk or water. Students are encouraged to bring a blanket or a beach towel to sit on at lunchtime.

Lost & Found

Do you feel like there are items that belong to your child that have sprouted legs and walked away? Are you missing a scarf, mitten, or maybe a favorite sweatshirt?? Remind your child to stop by the lost & found table in the cafeteria to look for anything that looks familiar.

Remember that labeling items that might be taken off during the day is the best way to make sure it comes home. All unclaimed clothing items will be donated to charity at the end of the school year.

Good manners matter.

PTO News

The PTO would like to acknowledge and give our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who signed up to help at the Fun Fair! We were especially grateful for the dedicated moms, dads, former students, and staff, who went above and beyond what they signed up for and stayed all night to help keep the fun fair going. We truly CANNOT do these events for the children without parental support!

We also thank all of the wonderful families who attended the fun fair. We saw lots of smiles and happy students throughout the evening!

Box Tops/Coke Codes

We are almost done with our final contest of the school year. The sneakers on the bulletin board in the cafeteria are moving towards the finish line! The grade level that brings in the most box tops and Coke codes during this contest will receive an extra recess near the end of the school year! The deadline is Friday, May 17th.

Our school raised almost \$600 this year from the box tops alone. We have also received almost \$300 from Coca-Cola and are expecting one more check before school lets out.

As the school year comes to a close, remember to continue saving your box tops and Coca-Cola points throughout the summer and you'll be ready for the first challenge at the beginning of the next school year! Any turned in after the current contest ends will be documented and will count toward the first contest next year.

Major Changes to Box Tops

Box Tops for Education is making big changes to its program. Soon you will be able to submit box tops DIGITALLY! Eventually all box tops will be digital, but they will continue to accept the paper box tops until they expire, so don't stop saving those! Watch for a letter to come home before the end of the school year (or possibly in the end-of-year packet) with more information about these changes.

Fun Fair Sponsors

A very special thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their generous donations to our raffle. Please make sure to support these businesses that so graciously supported our school.

INDIVIDUALS

- John Wood PTO
- John Wood Staff Members
- Sabrina Goodman (Avon) – Crown Point, IN
- Cassie Madrigal (Paparazzi) – Hobart, IN
- Melissa McLindon (Thirty-One) – Crown Point, IN
- Doug Menacher (PepsiCo) – Crown Point, IN

BUSINESSES

- Albanese – Merrillville, IN
- Chick-fil-A – Merrillville, IN
- Cooper's Hawk – Merrillville, IN
- Gary SouthShore RailCats – Gary, IN
- Harvorth/McLindon Video – NWI
- JAK'S Warehouse – Schererville, IN
- KAM Manufacturing (Stephanie Dawn) – Van Wert, Ohio
- Major Saver – Lee's Summit, MO
- NICTD (South Shore) – Chesterton, IN
- St. Mary's Medical Center – Hobart, IN
- Scholastic Books – NY, NY
- Southlake Firestone – Merrillville, IN
- Teibel's – Schererville, IN
- Zig-E's Funland – Schererville, IN

A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Theodorakos, and Mrs. Mahy, who took charge and were responsible for organizing all of our evening family events this year. Without parent volunteers, we are not able to have these fun-filled family events.

"Thank you" makes smiles grow.

Fun Fair Raffle Winners

Congratulations to all of our winners!!

- Basket #1 – Pepsi Fun – Jaxx Anoman
 - Basket #2 – Avon Calling! – Mrs. White
 - Basket #3 – JAK'S Warehouse – Matt Edwards
 - Basket #4 – Time to BBQ – Zane Theodorakos
 - Basket #5 – Lunch on the Go – (Six winners)
Paula Stephenson, Scalzitti, Anoman, Sofia Foster, Mrs. Street, Mrs. White
 - Basket #6 – Summer Reading #1 – Mrs. Mahy
 - Basket #7 – Paparazzi – Mrs. Serrano
 - Basket #8 – Zig-E's Funland – Sasha Gerstner
 - Basket #9 – Home & Family – Mrs. Cade
 - Basket #10 – Chick-fil-A – Jen Wolstenholme
 - Basket #11 – Let's Go on a Picnic – Scalzitti
 - Basket #12 – Thirty-One – Kristina Scalzitti
 - Basket #13 – Summer Reading #2 – Paula Stephenson
- Basket #14 – Bath & Body Works – Jaxx Anoman
 - Basket #15 – Albanese – Mrs. Mahy
 - Basket #16 – Major Saver – Jaxx Anoman
 - Basket #17 – Summer Fun for Four – Kristen Wiltfang
 - Basket #18 – Summer Reading #3 – Madyson R.
 - Basket #19 – John Wood Spirit Wear – Jen Wolstenholme
 - Basket #20 – Stephanie Dawn – Kristy Scalzitti
 - Basket #21 – Cooper's Hawk – Marshoina J.
 - Basket #22 – Gary SouthShore RailCats – Sofia Foster
 - Basket #23 – South Shore Train – Mrs. Street
 - Basket #24 – Southlake Firestone – (Three winners)
Rochelle Muiser, Lauren Edwards, Mrs. Street
 - Basket #25 – Harvorth/McLindon Video – Anoman
 - Basket #26 – Teibel's – Laura Theodorakos

Important Reminder

As we wrap up this school year, please remember to settle all debts to the school. This includes book rental, cafeteria charges and any library fees that are still owed.

Checks must be made out to "John Wood School" and must have your driver's license number on the check. Online payments can be made through your Skyward account.

Deposits can also be made to your child's lunch account through Skyward. Think about the possibility of even putting a little extra in your child's lunch account. The money in the account will be held for the next school year, no matter which Merrillville school they will be attending, and it will be one less thing you will need to pay for in August.

Coach's Corner

by Mrs. Laird, Instructional Coach

Sometimes it is difficult to keep students interested in reading. One way to encourage reading is to read a book and watch the movie.

Current books that have been made into movies include: *The Giver*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Fault in Our Stars*, *Percy Jackson* series; *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*, and *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

A second way to encourage reading is to make it a family event. Talk to your children about what they are reading. You could ask about favorite characters or scenes, read some of the book with them, or share with them what you are reading. If you read the newspaper, read it together to discuss some current events.

The most important part is to make reading a part of life. Over the summer, students can be reading and testing on books to get a head start for their required reading points for the next school year.

Last Days of School

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of another amazing school year. We've made new friends and learned lots of new things.

As the school year nears its end, we need to remember that students are still learning every single day they are in school. Attendance on these last days is just as important as every other day. Many students are taking important tests that will help determine placement for next year.

As the weather begins to get warmer, many times students are anxious for summer to start and they begin to quit working at school and become careless about following the school rules. We find that we have many students not doing homework and being written up for misbehavior during May.

We need to work together as a team during these last days of school. Please talk to your child about the importance of doing their homework and remembering to follow school rules. Together we can stay on course during these last days.

Dress Code Reminder

As the weather outside gets warmer, we are all excited to shed our coats and start wearing summer clothing. However, please remember that we have a dress code at John Wood. The dress code includes no shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length, no sheer or see-through clothing and no bare midriffs or "spaghetti" straps. Also, we ask that the children do not wear flip-flops. If a child is wearing flip-flops, he/she will go outside for fresh air, but will not be allowed on the playground equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Upcoming Events

May 16

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

May 17

Last Day to Check out Library Books

Today is the last day to check books out of the school library.

May 18

GOTR

Girls on the Run will be running a 5K race today at Highland High School. GO GIRLS!

May 23

Book Giveaway/Book Bus Visit

All students will receive free books (some new, some gently used) and see the Book Bus.

May 23

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

May 24

Last Day for Library Classes

Today is the last day for library classes and the last day to turn in any books that have been checked out.

May 27

Memorial Day

There will be no school on this day. Please take time to remember our servicemen, past and present, and the sacrifices they have made for our freedom.

May 30

Field Day/Cookout

Students will participate in a variety of activities this day and have a picnic-style lunch. See the two articles on page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

May 30

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

June 5

End of Third Trimester

Report cards will be mailed next week.

June 5

Last Day of School

August 13

Meet the Teacher Night

Come tonight and meet your child's teacher. The school bookstore will be open this evening.

August 14

First Day of School

Today begins a new school year for all students. This is a full day of school.

Lake County Public Library Read-a-Thon Update

Several of our students recently participated in the Lake County Public Library Read-A-Thon. John Wood students raised a total of over \$1200. Our school will receive a portion of this money for our own school library.

Thanks to all the students who participated in this year's Read-A-Thon and helped to make it a success. All who participated will receive either a ribbon or a trophy.

Kindergarten

Jaxx Anomon, McKayla Edwards,
Jayce Johnson, Mason Russell,
Michael Scalzitti

1st Grade

Amy Avila, Amber Brown,
Makayla Denson, Tyler Eich,
Addison Freeman

2nd Grade

Isabella Balbosa, Vittoria Madrigal,
Lexiana Roop, Sophia Scalzitti

3rd Grade

Isabella Freeman, Daisy Huizar,
Cassidy Pupek, Landon Trama,
Haleigh Tucker

4th Grade

Josiah Horton, Savannah Ortiz

*I say "Please"
with ease.*

Yearbooks

A few yearbooks are still available for purchase. They are \$15 each. Contact our school secretaries if you are interested.

June Newsletter

Watch for one more newsletter to arrive in your email next month. It will include:

- Curt Hoffman Scholarship winner
- Good Citizens – May
- Super Citizens
- 3rd and 4th Grade Honor Roll
- Perfect Attendance

Family Folk Dance

On May 7th, John Wood School held its first Family Folk Dance Night. A nice crowd of students from all grades and families met in the multipurpose room for an hour of moving, laughing, smiles, and fun.

As people arrived, we played an Australian game called "How Do You Do-Ti?" in which everyone had to switch to a new location in the circle. Next we did a circle dance to "Turkey in the Straw" followed by "Sasha" and "The Chimes of Dunkirk."

A few parents who were unsure of what to expect were pleasantly surprised at how much fun they had dancing with their kids. One mom commented that we sure got a work-out. We closed with a relaxing warm-down of movements to Beethoven's piano piece, "Für Elise."

Our first Family Folk Dance was a success. Thank you to all who attended! We hope more people will try it next time!

*I am quiet and kind
when standing in line.*

Social Media

Just a reminder that there are several ways that you can keep updated about what is going on in our school and in the corporation.

In addition to Skyward and the corporation and John Wood websites, there are a few social media sites you can follow. Many times you can find info on the social media sites even before it is on the websites!

Twitter

MCSC Superintendent

Mr. Nick Brown

@MerrillvilleSu3

(If you check out who Mr. Brown is following, you'll also find several other MCSC groups like technology, athletics, and media services.)

John Wood Principal

Mrs. Alison Petralia

@PrinPetralia

John Wood PTO

@PtoWood

(If you follow our PTO on Twitter or Facebook, you recently had a "sneak peek" at all the raffle baskets for several days *before* the fun fair!)

Facebook

Merrillville Community School Corporation

www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/

John Wood PTO

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

*Every ounce of
honesty counts.*

Summer Food Service Program

"Continuing good nutrition throughout the summer"

The Merrillville Community School Corporation will once again be participating in a Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children 18 and under without charge. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program is the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Serving Days:

Monday through Friday
June 10 – August 2

NO MEALS WILL BE SERVED ON JULY 4 & 5

Fixed Site Times:

Serving both breakfast and lunch

Monday-Friday

Breakfast – 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Lunch – 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

unless noted otherwise

Fixed Site Locations:

Fieler 407 W 61st Ave.

Iddings 7249 Van Buren

Miller 5901 Waite St.

Salk 3001 W 77th Ave.

MIS 1400 W 61st Ave.

Merrillville High School 276 E 68th Pl. Door I

Collins Park 9500 Merrillville Rd. Crown Point

Impact Church 7071 Broadway

Pruzin Center 5750 Tyler Pl.

Stefek Park 70th & Harrison

Faith Academy 7601 Whitcomb St (Starts June 13)

Breakfast 8-9; Lunch 11:30-12:30

Gary-Merrillville Salvation Army – 4800 Harrison

Breakfast 9-10; Lunch 12-1

Mobile Sites:

Serving both breakfast and lunch

Monday-Friday – Times vary

Tan Tar Apartments/Edgewood Apartments 5850 Pennsylvania St. (between two complexes)

Breakfast: 8:15 – 8:45 a.m.

Lunch: 11:00 – 11:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church 5375 Harrison St. (parking lot)

Breakfast: 9:00 – 9:15

Lunch: 12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Birchwood Apartments 5790 Grant St. (in front of the second building)

Breakfast: 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Lunch: 12:45 – 1:00 p.m.

Small Play Area 73rd & Bigger St.

Breakfast: 10:10 – 10:25 a.m.

Lunch: 1:20 – 1:35 p.m.

More sites may be added.

Check the corporation website as we get closer to the beginning date.

A menu will be in your child's end-of-year envelope.