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**No School
Friday,
April 19th
Good Friday**

Reminder

It is the responsibility of the parent/ guardian 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.

John Wood Elementary School
6100 E. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305
<http://merrillville.schoolwires.net/wood>

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



Principal Petralia's Page

by Mrs. Petralia

Dear Families,
March and April are exciting months in an elementary school. After weeks (sometimes months) of indoor recess, the weather warms up and our students are able to get back outside to play. Please keep this in mind when preparing your child for school each morning. We ask that students not wear sandals or flip flops to school. Also, shorts, skirts, and dresses must be below finger length. Shirts that are sheer and expose the midriff are not permitted.

Our PTO this year has really put on some wonderful events. In February, we had the Valentine Dance that was a huge hit. Coming up on May 3rd is the Fun Fair. Please consider volunteering your time if you are able. The more volunteers we have, the more stations we can offer. Volunteers are also provided with a reward, so please consider helping us out.

ILEARN testing will begin Monday, April 22nd and will go through May 17th. Please be sure that your child is getting adequate sleep and has breakfast each morning. We want to be sure that we are doing our best on the test.

Happy Spring!
Mrs. Petralia

Character Trait of the Month:
Honesty

PTO News

Our final PTO meeting of the school year will be on May 1st at 2:30 p.m. We will be wrapping up any loose ends before the fun fair and finalizing any end-of-year plans. All are welcome to attend.

Fun Fair

We are looking forward to our upcoming Fun Fair which will be on Friday, May 3rd. As you may know, this is our biggest event of the year and we need your help to make it the best yet. Soon your child will bring home a bright colored flyer asking for volunteers. Please consider offering some of your time to help with this family fun event. To volunteer, just fill out the note and return it to the school.

As we get closer to the day of the event, your child will bring home a flyer from the PTO. This flyer will be filled with details about the fun fair, how to pre-purchase a wristband, request for baked goods for the Cake Walk, and the prices of additional activities, concessions, etc.

See page 4 of this newsletter for more details about the fun fair.

Box Tops/Coke

The March contest has concluded and the winning class, with a total of 375 box tops and Coke codes was Mrs. Carney's 2nd grade class. They received a Dr. Seuss pack that included a pencil, eraser, and book mark. Congratulations!

The final contest of the school year has begun. The grade level who brings in the most box tops and Coke codes will receive an extra recess near the end of the school year. Deadline for the final contest is May 17th.

Major changes coming to the Box Top Program

Box Tops for Education has notified coordinators that there will be major changes coming to the program, including the way box tops are collected, beginning this summer. We will send home a note with more information as soon as we know details.

We Need You!

Our PTO is currently being run by only a few parents and staff members. We are desperate to find additional help! Keep in mind that any of these positions can be filled with more than one person. We welcome co-chairpersons if you and a friend would like to take a position together!

Among the positions we need to fill are:

- **BINGO** – promoting, running, and finding prizes.
- **Fundraising** – researching, presenting, and promoting your picks.
- **Donations** – finding businesses and individuals throughout the year.
- **Volunteers** – call/email volunteers as needed, set up and manage Sign-Up Genius if you choose to use it.
- **Event Planning** – help decide on and plan family fun events throughout the school year.

Without a PTO, John Wood's classrooms and students would lose:

- Annual family events like the Valentine Dance and Fun Fair...
- Student Cook-Out, VIP Event (formerly Grandparents' Day), Book Fair...
- Additions to the classroom libraries, Scholastic News, Young Hoosier books...
- Student gifts and prizes for contests...
- Various new recess equipment, field trips, school assemblies, plays, guest visits...
- Classroom/Student rewards for academics and behavior...
- Student/Teacher appreciation gifts and prizes...

...and so much more!

You may ask, "But what do I get out of this?"

- Take an active role in helping to enhance the educational experiences of your children.
- Meet other families in the school who have children the same age as your children (and may be your neighbors).
- Get to know some of the staff in the building on a more personal basis.
- Set an example to your children that you care about their education, school, and learning environment.
- Studies show that children whose parents are involved in the school tend to have better behavior in school and better grades.
- Know about (and help decide) events before the rest of the parents.
- Voice your opinions about fundraising, family events, and more.
- Your children will have a sense of pride knowing that their parents care enough about them to help out at their school.
- Have fun working with other parents toward a common goal.

If you are interested in one of these positions or would like more information about these positions, please send a note to school with your child with your name and the best way to contact you. Make sure to mark the envelope "PTO".

This is the perfect time for parents/guardians to take over these positions. You can shadow and help the current PTO for the remainder of this school year and learn what is expected.

**EVERY OUNCE
OF HONESTY COUNTS.**

**I return all property
that does not belong to me.**

Good Citizens March 2019

ECD

La'Nyla Rice –
Mrs. Cade (Miss Dawn)
Olivia Smith –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Multi-Grade

Kaio Ramirez – Miss Cieslak
Ronnie Kelliehan – Miss Matthews

Kindergarten

Jaxson Mick – Mrs. Anderson
Antonio Suleski – Mrs. Scott
Damian Zamora – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Michael Mathias – Mrs. Matthews
Bella Padilla – Mrs. Pace
Bailey Larson – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Miranda Cabrera – Mrs. Carney
Giselle Villarreal – Ms. Foster
Lucas Mahy – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Aliya Schnaedter – Miss Farver
Fiona Mick – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Anabel Serrano – Miss Jongsma
Anthony Thomas –
Miss Vlassopoulos

Lost & Found

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.

Honesty is part of me.

Proper Footwear for Spring

Flip flops will not be allowed on the playground equipment. These shoes do not give the students the protection they need to play on the equipment/playground area nor are they safe for running. They can easily cause injury due to tripping, open toes, etc., and many times break easily. For the safety of all our students, we are asking that other shoes be worn outside during recess. If your child does wear flip flops to school, he/she will go outside for some fresh air but will not participate in playground activities. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Jazz Appreciation Month

April is Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM). Jazz is a style of music that developed here in America. JAM celebrates the heritage and history of jazz, our country's original music. JAM was created to encourage everyone to learn more about jazz. You might celebrate JAM as a family by attending a jazz concert, by listening to jazz music and talking about it, or by reading a book about jazz. If you would like to learn more about jazz, go to The Smithsonian American History museum website at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/smithsonian-jazz>.

A few of Mrs. Timmerman's favorite kids' books about jazz and jazz musicians are: *Charlie Parker Played Bebop*, *Giant Steps*, and *Mysterious Thelonius*, all by Chris Raschka, *This Jazz Man* by Karen Ehrhardt, *Jazz on a Saturday Night* by Leo & Diane Dillon, *Before John Was a Jazz Giant* by Carole Boston Weatherford, *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra* by Andrea Davis Pinkney and *Hip Cat* by Johnathan London.

Upcoming Events

April 18

End of grading period

Today is the last day of the 5th grading period of the school year. Progress reports will be available on Skyward the following week.

April 18

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

April 19

No School – Good Friday

April 22-May 17

ILEARN Testing Window

Students in grades three and four will be taking the ILEARN tests. This test replaces the previous ISTEP+ test. Please assist your child by making sure they get a good night's sleep and have a nourishing breakfast.

April 25

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

May 1

PTO Meeting

2:30, Cafeteria

This will be the last PTO meeting of the school year. All are welcome to attend.

May 2

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

May 3

Annual Fun Fair

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Come one, come all to our annual fun fair. Join us for an evening of fun, food, raffles and games. Your child will bring home a flyer with information as we near this date.

May 6-10

Teacher Appreciation Week

This is the week that we show our teachers how much they are appreciated for the important job that they do.

May 9

Regular Dismissal-NO EARLY RELEASE

Students will be dismissed at the regular 2:25 dismissal time.

May 10

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be home approximately one hour earlier on this day.
NOTE: THIS IS A FRIDAY

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Important Reminder from the Kitchen

As we get closer to the end of the school year, please remember to settle all debts with the kitchen. Deposits can be made using your child's Skyward account. Debts of \$20 or more will be sent to collections at the end of the school year.

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.

Summer Food Program

It's time to think about the summer food program. If you or anyone you know in Merrillville will be involved with a group of children this summer in any capacity (coaching, church groups, etc), the MCSC food service department would like to provide the children with a FREE breakfast/lunch. The program will be running from June 10th-August 2nd with the exception of July 4th and 5th. The schedule can be flexible to accommodate your needs.

This is a FREE program offered by the USDA and sponsored by the Merrillville Schools Food Service Department. We feed children ages 18 and under with no other stipulations. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Please contact Penny Parmley if you want to schedule your group of any size. She can be contacted anytime from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 650-5300 ext. 7589 or by cell at any time at 219-794-4620.

*I try not to break
a promise that I make.*

Penny War for Riley

Our March community service project was a Penny War for Riley Children's Hospital. For about ten days, our students had the opportunity to bring in loose change (and bills). Silver coins (nickels, dimes, quarters) and bills were "good points" and went into your teacher's container. Pennies were "bad points" and went into someone else's container to bring down their score.

We had some early leaders, and some classes who formed strategies to wait until the end, then "bomb" the highest class with pennies. In the end the battle was close, but one class rose above the others when they received a donation that came all the way from Afghanistan! The winning class, with a score of 13,857 was Mrs. Scott's kindergarten class!! They received an ice cream party and invited Miss Cieslak's class to join them.

All the students and staff did an amazing job bringing in money for this event. We were able to collect a total of \$290.31 for Riley Children's Hospital!

By the way, in case you were wondering, we had 80 pounds of coins to take to the bank!

Coach's Corner

by Mrs. Laird, Instructional Coach

Did you know the Lake County library has book lists by grade level and even lexile? If you are trying to help your child improve their reading, you can help them choose a "just right" book. If the child can read most of the words, but needs only a little help that book will help them grow. If you want to be more specific and choose a book slightly above their lexile, you can use the library book lists to look for titles. Either way, students should be interested in what they are reading and excited to talk about the book.

Check out the reading lists at:
<http://www.lcpln.org/kids/reading-lists.html>

2019 Fun Fair

Friday, May 3rd
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Here are some of the things that will be available at the fun fair!

- ♦ Games, Inflatables, Prize Bag – **Either a \$10 or a \$12 wristband will be required.** Watch for a flyer with more details.
- ♦ Basket Raffle - **\$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5**
- ♦ Concessions:
 - Hot Dogs – \$1
 - Nachos – \$2
 - Loaded Nachos – \$4
 - Candy, Chips, Popcorn – \$1
 - Pop, Water – \$1

The following will require one or more activity tickets. Activity tickets will be available the evening of the fun fair for **\$1 each.**

- Temporary Tattoos, Face Painting – **1 ticket**
- Cake Walk, Abuelo's Wheel, Chick-fil-A Wheel – **1 ticket**
- Photo Booth – **2 tickets**

Chick-fil-A Cow will be visiting throughout the evening.

All games and activities are subject to change depending on volunteer availability.

Family Folk Dance Night

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., John Wood School will host its first Family Folk Dance Night. Students in grades 1 through 4 will be learning several folk dances in music class, and they will help teach you how to do the dances.

Folk dances are traditional dances of a community or culture that are passed down over time. This is not a music program for spectators; it is a participatory event! You do not have to know anything to come and participate! Dancing experience is not required. All you need to do is come in comfortable clothes and shoes, ready to have some fun!

Mrs. Timmerman will be sending a note home with more information about the folk dance event.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run have started their spring training. GOTR inspires girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one of a kind. Coaches lead small teams through a research-based curriculum which includes dynamic discussions, activities and running games. Over the course of the ten-week program, the girls develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness.

The program culminates with girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event.

We currently have 14 girls from third and fourth grade who are participating. They are preparing for their 5K event which will be in Highland on Saturday, May 19th.

March Attendance

As we continue to encourage good attendance, we would like to recognize the class with the best attendance for the month of March.

March

Miss Farver – 3rd Grade – 97.10%

The “Beary” attendance award was passed to Miss Farver’s class at a recent Pirate Power meeting.

Pop Tab Collection

We are continuing to collect pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana. Collected pop tabs are recycled, generating much-needed funds to support the Ronald McDonald House and the nearly 1,500 families we serve each year.

Funds received from the recycling of tabs usually adds up to between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually. All this money goes to the operating expenses of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana and can cover the cost of operating three rooms in the House for an entire year.

Simply remove the pop tab from aluminum cans and put them in your favorite collection container. When you are ready to send them to school, just put them in a Ziploc-type bag and send them with your child. There’s no competition, no goal, no prizes...just the gift of compassion.

**I know that I must
work hard to earn trust.**

Upcoming Events

Continued from page 3

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 test on Young Hoosier Books.

May 23

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

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

Today is the day that our students will spend a portion of the day participating in a variety of activities both indoors and outside, weather permitting. They will also be eating lunch “picnic-style” in our courtyard (again, weather permitting.) More information will come home as we near this date.

May 30

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

Field Day

Our annual field day is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th. Mr. Battista will need several helpers to monitor stations. A note will be coming home when we get closer to this date. If you are interested in helping with this fun event, mark your calendar now and watch for the note. Once you return the note, Mr. Battista will get back to you with the details. There will be no rain date.