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Early Dismissal

NOTE: Early dismissal is changed from Thursday, December 20th to Friday, December 21st.

No School

December 24, 2018–
January 4, 2019

School Resumes

January 7, 2019

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 Parents,

December is here and Winter Break is closely approaching. While this month is short, there are many things happening and coming up!

I first need to sincerely thank you for your **generosity and selflessness** so far this school year. Your children have donated money to the Red Cross, sent in coats for Coats for Kids, food for the Ross Township Food Pantry, and toys for Toys for Tots. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for helping community members who are in need.

The hustle and bustle this time of year and cold weather brings can make **daily schedules** a challenge. As a parent, I am experiencing this first hand. It is important for us to keep our children in the loop and notified of changes throughout the day. We also need to make sure that bedtime stays as close to normal as possible and that homework remains a priority in the evenings.

I found a quote about school attendance that read "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow." It's no secret that **attendance** is key to student success. Students need to be at school everyday and on time. If you have trouble with morning routines, there is no time like the present to start a new one! One strategy my pediatrician discussed with me was to create a checklist of things that need to be done before getting in the car. I don't care if he uses the bathroom or brushes his teeth first, as long as they both get done! My son loves it because he knows what to expect and that when the checklist is all checked off, it's time to go!

I wish you and your family quality time during the upcoming holidays. Thank you for making 2018 great!

Mrs. Petralia

Character Trait of the Month:

Caring and Sharing

Good Citizens November 2018

ECD

Rashawn Benford –
Mrs. Cade (Miss Dawn)
Jasmine Simpson –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Multi-Grade

Liam Maclin – Ms. Hannigan
Jackson Sims – Miss Cieslak
Kendah Bass – Miss Matthews

Kindergarten

Samantha Gonzalez – Mrs. Anderson
Eliana Lopez – Mrs. Scott
Kaylee Vanek – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Evan Windsor – Mrs. Matthews
Addison Freeman – Mrs. Pace
Molly Garreffa – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Riley Luedtke – Mrs. Carney
Mea Blancarte – Ms. Foster
Lilianna Batista – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Landon Trama – Miss Farver
Isabella Freeman – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Xochilt Flores – Miss Jongsma
Aubrey Salinas – Miss Vlassopoulos

**We would like to thank
Albanese and Chick-fil-A
for their award donations each
month for our good citizens!**

Book Rental

All book rental is now past due. All remaining balances have been submitted for collections. You can check Skyward at any time to see if you owe money to our school for book rental, cafeteria charges, etc.

ECD - \$75
Autism K - \$88.99
Autism 1st Grade - \$83.52
Autism 2nd Grade - \$83.22
Kindergarten - \$134.32
1st Grade - \$127.67
2nd Grade - \$127.77
3rd Grade - \$133.97
4th Grade - \$138.03

Thank you to all of the parents who have already paid their child's book rental.

Emergency Communications

In cases of inclement weather or other emergency situations, there may be times when school may be cancelled or delayed. In those cases, information will be broadcast over the following television and radio stations.

Television

CBS-Chicago
NBC-Chicago
ABC-Chicago
WGN-Chicago
FOX-Chicago
CLTV News
WYIN-Northwest Indiana

Radio

WJOB – 1230 AM
WZVN – 107.1 FM
WAKE – 1500 AM
WGN – 720 AM
WBBM – 780 AM

- Delays and closings will be posted on the Merrillville Community School Corporation website at <http://merrillville.schoolwires.net>.
- You will receive an automated call to the phone number you gave us as your primary number.
- You may choose to receive an email notification by registering with an outside service. Registration for this service is available at the Merrillville Schools website listed above.

**I can always help
in small ways.**

December Community Service: Toys for Tots

December's community service project was collecting new toys for Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots is a program founded in 1947 and run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. This group distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

The mission of the program is to "collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted." Their goal is to "deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, and patriotic citizens."

We were thrilled to be able to donate a total of 88 toys to Toys for Tots this year. Thank you to all who were able to donate a toy!

Our next community service will be collecting for Haven House in Hammond. Watch for a flyer to come home after the break.

Important Info Required

It is vital that we have your current home phone number on file in our office. When we have a delay or cancellation of school due to poor weather conditions, we have an automated system that is used. This system is also used when we need to notify everyone quickly with important information. If we have an incorrect or disconnected number, you may not receive the information. You can update your phone number, along with emergency contact numbers by accessing your Skyward account or by giving this information to the office staff. Please do NOT change your phone number in Skyward to "unlisted". These numbers are kept confidential and the school needs to have the phone number in that slot to be able to contact you quickly in an emergency situation.

**When I share as I should,
it really feels good.**

Important Reminder Regarding Parent Drop-off Procedures

Please remember to use the following procedures for arrival at school if your child is a car rider. Remember that these procedures are in place for the safety of your child.

- If you are an ECD parent, please park in the spaces in front of the building and wait with your child in the foyer until the teacher comes to get them at 7:40 a.m.
- If you are a Grade K-4 parent, please pull all the way up to the yellow painted line on the curb so others can line up behind you.
- Do NOT drop off your child before 7:35 a.m. The doors will be locked and there will be no adult supervision available before this time.
- Do not drop off your child in the middle of the lane. We do not want the children to cut through any cars.
- Please make sure that your child exits the vehicle on the curb side and not the traffic side of the vehicle.
- If you need to get out of your vehicle for ANY reason, please pull into a parking space so you are not blocking traffic. If you are dropping off your child from a parking space, you will need to walk your child to the sidewalk.
- Students must be **IN THE BUILDING** before the 7:55 a.m. tardy bell. Students entering the building after the bell will be marked tardy.

When dropping off students, all students must enter at the front of the building (Entrance A). The east entrance by the big parking lot is **FOR BUSES ONLY**.

Thank you for your cooperation.

November Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs. Marshall's 2nd grade class for once again having the best attendance for the month. Their November attendance was 99.38%! "Beary", the attendance trophy, will remain in their classroom for a second consecutive month!

Conference Basket Raffle Winners

Morning Wake-Up – Brandon Powell
Tacos Esta Noche – Mr. Battista
Mary Kay – Mrs. Kramer
Sensory Basket – Erica Cotts
Cookies and Cocoa – Mrs. Street
All Dressed Up - Adanivia
Bath & Body Works – Felicia Maclin
Comfy and Cozy #1 – Kristy Manning
Lego My Legos – Miguel Blancarte
What's Baking? – Kim Proman
Pre-K – 1 Books – Jessica Anton
Comfy and Cozy #2 – Kim Proman
Grades 1 – 2 Books – Rich B
Mamma Mia! – Kristen Koszyk
Grades 3 – 4 Books – Jessica Anton
Shopkins/PikMi - Melissa
Ready for the Holidays – Mrs. Street
Play Time - Tanzymore
Yankee Candle – Nurse Julie
Home & Family – Miss Cieslak

Each basket winner also received either a SimpleQpon book or a Major Saver card.

Conference Raffle Sponsors

The following individuals and businesses made donations to our raffle:

John Wood PTO
John Wood Staff Members
Ciao Bella – Schererville
Major Saver – Lee's Summit, MO
SimpleQpons – Hobart, IN

Recess Reminders

During the winter months, our students go outside for recess every day that the temperature or wind chill temperature is 15° or above (as long as the playground is in an acceptable condition for playing). Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather with a winter coat, boots, hat, gloves or mittens, and a scarf.

Also, the colder weather brings more requests for students to stay indoors for recess. The Merrillville Community School Elementary Handbook states that if a student needs to stay inside for more than three days, a doctor's note is necessary.

Parent Teacher Conference Update

We were delighted to be able to meet with so many of our parents during our recent Parent-Teacher Conference. Attending the conference is an important way of staying in communication with your child's teacher. We are pleased that 92% of our K-4 parents were able to attend the conferences.

During the conferences a raffle was offered in the front foyer. All money raised by this raffle is being donated to the Curt Hoffman Scholarship Fund. The Curt Hoffman Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship that is awarded each year to a graduating MHS senior who attended John Wood School. We were pleased that we were able to raise \$550 through this raffle. Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets. Also, thank you to all who generously donated to our raffle. We could not offer the outstanding raffle baskets without your donations.

Coach's Corner – Real World Problem-Solving

by Mrs. Laird

When students are in math class, we want the concepts to relate to the real world as much as possible. We try to avoid teaching "key words" for solving story problems because we want the students to think about the context of the problem. Am I getting more toys? (addition). Am I getting boxes of toys? (multiplication). Having the ability to understand the context of the problem will greatly help students to determine a strategy for solving.

At home, help your students see math every day. Are you using fractions while baking? Do you see the decimals at the gas tank? Point out to your child the places that numbers and math are regular part of life.

I show I care by
being there.

PTO News

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 9th at 2:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! We will be discussing the activities we are planning for the rest of the year.

Five Below

Thank you to all the families who participated in our recent Five Below Week. A portion of your purchases will be donated back to our PTO. We have not yet heard how much we made, but we'll let you know as soon as we find out.

BINGO/Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Friday, December 7th. Everyone had a great time playing BINGO and enjoying food from the concession stand. Children who did not want to play BINGO were able to watch "Incredibles 2" in the gym. Thank you to Mrs. Theodorakos and Mrs. Mahy for organizing this event and the volunteers who helped.

Box Tops/Coca-Cola

Our November contest has concluded. Mrs. Mahy's 3rd grade class brought in 187 box tops and/or Coke codes! Everyone in the class received a fruit snack!

We recently received a check from Coca-Cola for \$94. That brings our total this school year from Coke to \$226! Keep sending in those codes from Coca-Cola products!

When we return from our holiday break we will begin our most popular contest, the "Snowball Challenge." Posters will be available outside every staff member's door. Students will have the opportunity to "throw" a paper snowball at anyone they choose. The only rule is that you can't throw it at your own classroom. How do you get a snowball? Students will receive one snowball for every 10 box tops or Coke codes they turn in. On January 7th, there will be almost 300 snowballs being thrown. That represents ALL box tops and Coke codes that have been turned in from last May until the holiday break! Watch for a flyer to come home on January 7th with more details.

SimpleQpons

SimpleQpon books are back! Students will receive either a sample book or an order form on January 7th. If you receive only an order form, a sample book is available in our main office for you to view.

These books cost \$20 each. Our PTO will receive 50% of the sale of each book! The books contain thousands of dollars in savings at many local merchants.

If your child sells at least one book, they will receive a small prize. If your child sells a minimum of 6 books, he/she will be invited to 15 minutes of play in the Game Truck. The Game Truck will be visiting our school in February.

If you choose not to purchase or sell a coupon book, please make sure to return the sample book in its original condition. You will be responsible for paying for any unreturned books or returned books that are missing coupons or damaged.

Valentine Dance

Mark your calendar now for February 8th! The PTO is still in the planning stages for this event. Watch for information to come home sometime after the holiday break.

*I like helping and caring,
giving and sharing.*

Pop Tab Collection

John Wood School is still collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House of Indiana. Simply remove the pop tab from the aluminum can 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. Feel free to drop them into the same bag as the box tops/Coke caps! No need to sort!

The Dentist is Coming to John Wood School!

We have invited the "Smile Programs...the mobile dentists" to coordinate on-site dental care at our school because we know how important taking care of your children's teeth is to keeping them healthy. Best of all, **your child can receive dental care at NO COST TO YOU**, as Medicaid, CHIP and most other insurances cover 100% of treatment.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic and infectious disease among children. In addition, kids with oral disease can suffer with pain and difficulty eating.

The dental team will set up a mini-dental office in our building and provide dental services for all children who return completed forms.

Dental services can be provided to families who need financial assistance, and there are subsidized fees for those who choose to pay for preventive care.

The Indiana Dental Outreach program has been servicing schools, and creating healthy smiles, for over 15 years. All dentists are state licensed and will conduct a complete dental exam.

Signing up your children to see the mobile dental team is an easy way for them to get necessary dental care. **If you want your child to see the dentist just fill out the permission slip your child will bring home after the holiday break and return it to the school.**

You can learn more about "Smile Programs...the mobile dentists" by going to www.mobiledentists.com and watching the short video about the dental care program.

I make it a rule to care about school.

Lunch/Birthday Treat Reminder

Parents, we love to have you join your child for lunch, but please remember that if you are bringing a lunch for your child, due to USDA and Wellness regulations, no restaurant foods may be brought in for your child's breakfast or lunch. Also, please do not bring food to share with other children. We have several children with food allergies at our school and need to keep all of our children safe and healthy.

In that same regard, when celebrating your child's birthday, we would prefer non-food items to be sent in to be shared with the classmates. These items could include pencils, stickers, or fun erasers. You might also think about donating your child's favorite book to our school library in honor of your child's birthday.

If you choose to send a food treat, the following restrictions will need to be followed: items must be healthy, pre-packaged, store bought, individually wrapped and include a list of ingredients on the package. Examples of acceptable items were sent home in the purple folder on the first day of school. If you would like another copy of the list, one is available in the school office.

Store bought cupcakes, cakes, cookies and homemade food items are NOT ALLOWED. Treats that do not follow our guidelines will not be passed out and will be sent back home.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue to reflect on how to provide all students with a safe learning environment. Thank you for your cooperation.

Spell Bowl

The John Wood Spell Bowl team competed in the state competition on November 15th. They placed 3rd in the competition earlier in the month against the other Merrillville elementary schools and placed 45th in the state competition. Our own Tony Woods had a perfect round! Great job, team!

Team members

Layla Evans, John Groff, Michael Hill,
Latekia Hubbard, Travis Jones,
Reese Luedtke, Austin Nugent,
Aubrey Salinas, Lilianna Salinas,
Jayden Smith, Tony Woods

Sponsor

Mrs. Marshall

Math Fact Goals

Students in all grades will begin participating in math fact assessments with the following as their goals:

Kindergarten - 40 problems in two minutes with addition facts from 0-5.

First grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with addition and subtraction facts from 0-10.

Second grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with addition and subtraction facts from 0-20.

Third grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with multiplication facts from 0-12.

Fourth grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with division facts from 0-12.

Once students master the goal at 98% or greater they will receive a Math Facts T-shirt. A note went home earlier this month asking students to submit designs for this year's t-shirt. The deadline for submitting a design is Friday, December 21st.

You can greatly help your child by taking time each night to practice math facts. During commercials when watching television and while driving in the car are great times to get in some extra math fact practice.

Lake County Public Library 2019 Read-A-Thon

John Wood School is once again participating in the Lake County Public Library Read-A-Thon. This year the read-a-thon will be from January 14th-February 25th. A flyer with more information will come home after the break. Students find sponsors, and then read as many books as possible within the six week time period. All participating students earn a prize. These range from a ribbon to trophies and gift cards. Our school will receive one-third of the total monies raised by our students. Students are encouraged but not required to participate.

Upcoming Events

December 17

Holiday Spirit Day

Wear a holiday sweater, t-shirt, or sweatshirt on this day or any crazy/fun shirt!

December 18

Holiday Spirit Day

Wear crazy or holiday socks today!

December 19

Holiday Spirit Day

Wear a Santa hat or elf ears (or any hat or ears)!

December 20

Holiday Spirit Day

Wear red and/or green

December 20

NO EARLY DISMISSAL

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

December 21

Holiday Spirit Day

Ready for a "long winter's nap?" Wear your pajamas to school today!

December 21

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

NOTE: THIS IS A FRIDAY!

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

December 24-January 4

Winter Holiday Break

No School. We hope everyone has a joyous holiday. We'll see you after the new year begins.

January 7, 2019

School Resumes

January 7-16

SimpleQpon Fundraiser

Sample books and order forms will come home on this day. See the PTO article on page 4 for more information.

January 9

PTO Meeting

2:30 p.m., Cafeteria

Join us as we work on plans for our winter activities. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

January 10

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

January 11

End of 3rd Grading Period

Today is the last day of the third grading period. Progress reports will be available on Skyward the following week.

January 14-February 25

Lake County Library Read-a-Thon

Information will come home with your child from the librarian after the holiday break. See the article on this page for more details.

January 17

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

Continued on page six

Honor Roll 1st Trimester 2018-2019

3rd Grade

A Honor Roll

Daisy Huizar

A/B Honor Roll

Katie Hurst
Ayden Jones
Ava Moreno
Peyton Powell
Olivia Tanzymore
Jori Terpstra
Landon Trama
Haleigh Tucker

4th Grade

A/B Honor Roll

Anthony Hankel
Brenden Johnson
Aubrey Salinas
Tony Woods

Perfect Attendance 1st Trimester 2018-2019

The following students were present at school every day of the first trimester and had zero tardies!

ECD

Emily Ault
Akira Bowen
Tyra Buford
Alex Dossiema
Jameis Johnson
Isaac Miller
Jordan Selmon
Natalia Shaw
Aiden Smith
Ethan Smith
Olivia Smith

Kindergarten

McKayla Edwards
Stella Finnearty
Nehemiah Hegwood
Oluwadarasimi Jimoh
William Johnson
Christopher McGee
Alexander Nawrocki
Sebastian Ortiz
Kaylee Vanek
Mariah Williams
Damian Zamora

1st Grade

Jade Barnett
Addison Freeman
Latrice Hubbard
Ka'Mari Oliver
Ravyn Rankin
Kaylee Shooltz
Evan Windsor
Bryan Zamora

2nd Grade

Isabella Balbosa
Tamryn Brandon
Izaiha Frost
Lashanda Hubbard
Adam Koszyk
Vittoria Madrigal
Emilia Marquez
Kemiyah Pulliam
Jaxson Pupek
Anthony Salinas
Fatoumata Turay
Joseph Vanek
Jian Zheng

3rd Grade

Brooke Bishop
Serenity Bishop
Gabriela Cabrera
Isabella Freeman
Amanda Hubbard
Ayden Jones
Daniel Maldonado
Madalyn Mican
Leilani Rodriguez
Anna Sholar
Jori Terpstra
Landon Trama
Haleigh Tucker

4th Grade

John Groff
Michael Hill
Latekia Hubbard
Brenden Johnson
Ryan Lannom
Savannah Ortiz
Brandon Pulliam
Aubrey Salinas
Lilliana Salinas

PTO on Facebook

Make sure to "Like" us so you can see reminders for events. You can find us at: www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

Upcoming Events

Continued from page five

January 18

PTO Family Fun Game Night

More details will come home after the break about this new family fun event.

January 21

Dr. King's Birthday

No School

There will be no school today in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. birthday.

January 24

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be

home approximately one hour earlier on this day

January 31

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be

home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

February 6-14

Book Fair

More information will come home as we near this date.

February 6

PTO Meeting

2:30 p.m., Cafeteria

Join us as we finalize plans for the Valentine Dance. Find out what we will also begin planning for spring. Hint...it's the biggest and most popular event of the school year!

February 7

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be

home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

February 8

Valentine Dance

Watch for more details when we get closer to this date.

February 14

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be

home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

February 15

Snow Make-up Day

School **WILL** be in session on this day. Our corporation calendar that went home with all students at the beginning of the school year designated this day as a potential snow make-up day. This day will make up for the day missed due to inclement weather on November 26th.

February 18

President's Day

No School

February 21

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be

home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

February 21

End of the 2nd Trimester

February 23

Teacher Work Day

No School

February 27

Visiting Dentist

The mobile dentist program will be visiting our school. See the article on page four for more information. A flyer will be coming home on January 8th.

February 28

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

Please plan for your child to be

home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

Behavioral Expectations Matrix - John Wood School

All Settings	Hallways	Playground	Cafeteria	Special Classes	Bus	Assemblies	Rest Rooms	Office
Be responsible.	Walk in a single line facing forward. Follow the set procedures.	Use equipment properly. Don't litter. Tell an adult when someone is hurt or there is a conflict.	Take all needed belongings to lunch. Clean up after yourself. Keep your food on your tray.	Be prepared. Bring supplies. Stay on task. Follow the directions of the teacher.	Be at the stop on time. Remember your school materials. Stay in your seat.	Listen attentively to the speaker. Stay seated. Follow adult directions.	Flush the toilet. Wash and dry hands. Keep the rest rooms dry and clean.	Introduce yourself. Tell the staff your reason for coming to the office.
Everyone deserves respect.	Respect personal space. Be courteous. Be considerate of the other classes.	Take turns. Include everyone. Listen to the person in charge.	Use table manners. Listen to the person in charge.	Raise your hand to ask questions. No name calling. Listen to the speaker.	Listen to the driver. Respect personal space.	Clap at appropriate times. Respect personal space.	Privacy, please. Observe quiet zone.	Be polite. Wait your turn.
Safety counts.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Walk on the right side, away from the wall.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Use equipment properly. When whistle is blown, stop, look, and listen.	Eat your own food. Raise your hand before leaving your seat. Walk.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Use equipment properly. Dress appropriately.	Stay seated. Get on and off the bus in single line. Follow the bus rules.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Walk on the bleachers.	Use one pump of soap. No school supplies in the rest room. Report unsafe conditions.	Walk on the right side away from the wall when coming to and from the office.
Talk appropriately.	Observe quiet zone.	No put downs or name-calling. Be quiet in line. Use kind words.	Use an inside, restaurant voice—6" voice. Be quiet in the serving line.	Use kind words. Use the right voice for the activity. Speak when called upon.	Talk softly. Use inside, 6" voices.	Be quiet during the presentation. Speak when called upon.	Observe quiet zone.	Quietly wait your turn. Say please and thank you.