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Early Dismissal

NOTE: Early dismissal is changed from Thursday, December 19th to Friday, December 20st.

No School

December 23, 2019–
January 3, 2020

School Resumes

January 6, 2020

John Wood Elementary School
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Merrillville, Indiana 46410
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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 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. 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 2019 great!

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
Kindergarten - \$134.32
1st Grade - \$125.31
2nd Grade - \$118.38
3rd Grade - \$121.68
4th Grade - \$128.73

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

Good Citizens November 2019

ECD

Haley Housman –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Kindergarten

Jacob Ling – Mrs. Anderson
Alondra Gonzalez – Mrs. Scott
Sydney Wigley-Sims – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Sebastian Ortiz – Mrs. Matthews
Stella Finnearty – Mrs. Pace
Sarah McCumber – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Atlas Theodorakos – Mrs. Carney
Isabella Lagunas – Ms. Foster
Marwa Abdulhasan – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Elizabeth Baeza – Mrs. Busch
Carter James – Mrs. Cseke
Lexiana Roop – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Landon Trama – Miss Jongsma
Gabriela Cabrera – Miss Vlassopoulos

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

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.

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 www.mvsc.k12.in.us.
- 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.

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 114 toys to Toys for Tots this year. Thank you to all who were able to donate a toy!

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

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.

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 13th-February 24th. 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 a portion of the total monies raised by our students. Students are encouraged but not required to participate.

Important Reminder Regarding Parent Drop-off/Pickup Procedures

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

Arrival

- K-4 students must be dropped off at **Entrance A** at the front of the building. Do not attempt to drop off on the side of the building at the bus drop-off area. It is dangerous for the students to run between the buses.
- Please pull all the way up to the yellow painted line 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 between 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 park in the lot to the east of the drop-off area 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.

Dismissal

- If you have an assigned pickup number, you will pick up your child at Entrance F at the northeast corner of the building.

- Please pull all the way up to the yellow line.
- Display your pickup number where it can be seen from the building.
- DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE. Your child will be brought out to you.
- If you do not have a pickup number or if you are late picking up your child, you will need to wait until after the buses have left the front of the building, then come inside and show your ID to pick up your child.

Thank you for your cooperation.

November Attendance

Congratulations to Miss Welsh's 1st grade class for having the best attendance for the month. Their November attendance was 97.22%! "Beary", the attendance trophy, will remain in their classroom during the month of December!

Parent Teacher Conference Update

We were delighted to be able to meet with so many 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 90% 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 \$255 through this raffle. Thank you to all our parents and staff 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.

Conference Basket Raffle Winners

\$50 Target Gift Card
Mrs. Gates

\$25 WalMart Gift Card
Josephine Jackson

Concert Tickets & Gift Card
Ms. Hannigan

Assorted Board Games
Chris Ling

AMC/Popcorn/Candy
Mrs. Street

Assorted Bath/Beauty
Mrs. Matthews

Cooper's Hawk
Kim Anoman

Conference Raffle Sponsors

The following individuals and businesses made donations to our raffle:

Adventure Crew/Boy Scout Troop 150

Beverly Arts Center – Chicago, IL

Cooper's Hawk – Merrillville, IN

Escapeville Escape Room & Gourmet
Popcorn – Merrillville, IN

Dr. Michael McGee – Merrillville, IN

St. Timothy Community Church
Missionary Group – Gary, IN

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!

PTO News

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 8th 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.

Box Tops/Coca-Cola

Our November contest has concluded. Miss Welsh's 1st grade class brought in 179 box tops and/or Coke codes! Everyone in the class received a fruit snack!

When we return from the holiday break we will begin our most popular contest, the "Snowball Challenge." Posters will be 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 6th, there will be over 200 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 6th with more details.

SimpleQpons

SimpleQpon books are back! Students will receive a sample book in an order envelope next week. These make great stocking stuffers or gifts to have on hand for unexpected gift giving. Orders placed no later than 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 20th will be filled and returned with your child in time for Christmas gift giving.

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 (not just restaurants) across Northwest Indiana and there are even a handful in Illinois. Just use a few of the coupons in this book and you will have paid for the book!

If your child sells at least one book, they will receive a small prize. If he/she sells 5 books, you'll receive a free book. 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.**

Chick-fil-A Nugget Sale

Looking for something easy to serve at your Super Bowl party? Beginning January 13th, we will be selling trays of Chick-fil-A nuggets. A tray of 64 nuggets will cost \$35 and our PTO will earn 20%. Orders will be due Friday, January 17th and will need to be picked up on Friday, January 31st between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. **This will be the ONLY day for pickup.** All money from this fundraiser will go to the Curt Hoffman Scholarship Fund.

Watch for an order form to come home after the holiday break.

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. Watch for a note to come home asking students to submit designs for this year's t-shirt. The deadline for submitting a design is Friday, December 20th.

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.

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 Smile program has been servicing schools, and creating healthy smiles, since 1997. 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.** The dentist and his/her crew will be in our building one day in late February.

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.

Honor Roll 1st Trimester 2019-2020

3rd Grade

A Honor Roll

Aiden Losekamp
Jian Peng Zheng

A/B Honor Roll

Isabella Balbosa
Lilianna Batista
Mea Blancarte
Caden Brodzinski
Antonio Byers
Alaina Conn
Sofia Foster
Shanyla Hughes
Artemio Lara
Dreamm Mable
Vittoria Madrigal
Alina Magana
Lexiana Roop
Sophia Scalzitti
Jamare Smith
Gabriel Tucker

4th Grade

A/B Honor Roll

Daisy Huizar
Katie Hurst
Fiona Mick
Peyton Powell
Marissa Ronning
Jori Terpstra

Lunch/Birthday 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.

Perfect Attendance 1st Trimester 2019-2020

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

Kindergarten

Adam Alsamawi
Oliver Ashcraft
Aliyah Brown
Blake Healy
Kellen King
Isabel Langstraat
Peter Moore
Zoey Moreland
Evelyn Otero
Hyde Smith
Jakob Triplett

1st Grade

Amber Brown
Arianna Fontes
Nehemiah Hegwood
Dushica Janakievskia
Jordan Lott
Keiridon Mays
Mason Russell
Zane Theodorakos
Damian Zamora

2nd Grade

Amy Avila
Maite Gomez
Tanya Johnson-Vazquez
Jaylon King
Daryl Lott
Karsen Martin
Macy Purcell
Gabriella Rusk
D'Adansi Smith
Atlas Theodorakos
Brian Zamora

3rd Grade

Derrick Ferguson
Lashanda Hubbard
Roxanna Monita
Earsh Peden
Jaxson Pupek
Imani Royal
Anthony Salinas
Joseph Vanek
Jian Peng Zheng

Upcoming Events

December 16

Holiday Spirit Day

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

December 17-January 10

SimpleQpon Fundraiser

Coupon book sales begin today! Great for stocking stuffers! See the PTO article on page 4 for more information.

December 17

Holiday Spirit Day

Wear crazy or holiday socks today!

December 18

Holiday Spirit Day

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

December 19

Holiday Spirit Day

Wear red and/or green

December 19

NO EARLY DISMISSAL

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

December 20

Holiday Spirit Day

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

December 20

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 23-January 3

Winter Holiday Break

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

January 6, 2020

School Resumes

January 8

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 9

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

January 10

SimpleQpon ends

Today is the last day to turn in orders and payment for the SimpleQpon books.

January 10

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.

Continued on page six

The Coaches' Corner

Ms. Copeland, Mrs. Pozdzal,
Mrs. Rassbach, Miss Zorich

As we prepare for the holiday break, here are some activities to consider while your students are home:

Math Activities:

Everyone is ready for a break from school when the winter holidays roll around, especially teachers!! It's such a special time of year for families and friends, but it can also be a time of setbacks for some students. All the hard work towards building routines and establishing communities in the classroom can fall apart with a long break from school.

A great way parents can help students not "forget" everything they have learned and create a seamless return in the New Year is to keep the routines going without feeling the pressure to get homework done and to be on a schedule. Below are some helpful hints for keeping the math alive over the holiday season in fun and easy ways.

Create Surveys: Children can create holiday surveys to collect data from family members at dinners and parties. Questions can range from holiday traditions to favorite gifts! Once kids have collected the data, they can create graphs (bar graph, pictograph, line plot) either on paper or online to display the results.

Travel: Many families travel over the holidays. Invite your children to become a part of the travel plans by using MapQuest or other resources to map out the best route to grandma's. They can estimate the time it would take and develop a schedule for the family according to holiday activities.

Holiday Toys: Children can research top holiday gifts from the years their parents or other relatives were kids. For example, find out the number one toy from 1975, how

much it cost, and find the difference or price increase over the decades. This is a great way to incorporate many different curricula into one activity. Kids can make a report or poster to show their findings!

Weather: Everyone loves a White Christmas! How many times in the past 10, 20, or 50 years has it snowed on Christmas morning? Children can collect weather data on temperature, precipitation, and/or snowfall levels over the years.

Math Facts: We definitely want to keep children's math facts fluent even over holiday breaks. So play mental math-counting games in the car, math war at restaurants, or have a math family game night so the efficiency and accuracy doesn't slow down.

Compliments of:

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/5-ways-to-keep-kids-learning-math-through-holidays.html>

Holiday Break Reading Challenge!

- Read a book and watch the movie.
- Read five picture books to a younger cousin, sibling, or friend. (Furry friends DO count!)
- Find out three cool facts about your favorite author.
- Read a book from a new author, a new genre, or new series.
- Talk about reading three different times with three different people.

Sign here when challenge is complete:

The person above is officially a Holiday Break Reading Challenge WINNER!

Upcoming Events

Continued from page five

January 13-17

Chick-fil-A Nugget Sale

Forms will come home with more information. Also, see the PTO article on page 4 for more info.

January 13-February 24

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 16

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

January 20

Dr. King's Birthday

No School

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

January 23

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

January 30

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

January 31

Chick-fil-A Nugget Fundraiser Pickup

Pickup will be at the school ONLY from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on this day.

February 5-12

Book Fair

More information will come home as we near this date.

February 6

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

February 13

Early Dismissal – 1:25 p.m.

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

February 14- 17

Winter Break/President's Day

No School

February 20

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 21

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 6th.

February 27

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.