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Early Dismissal

NOTE: Early dismissal is changed from **Thursday**, December 17th to **Friday**, December 18st.

No School
December 21, 2020–
January 1, 2021

Classes Resume
January 4, 2021

In-Person Classes
TENTATIVLY Resume
January 19, 2021

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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. 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. These collections could not have taken place without the help of our PTO (led by Mrs. Street and Mrs. Mahy), and our Student Council Sponsors (Ms. Jongsma and Miss Vlassopoulos). Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for helping community members who are in need.

This fall has been strange and different, that's for sure. While we prepare for school to open, hopefully on January 19th, it is very important for our students to have a routine. We need to make sure they go to bed at the same time each night and wake up at the same time each morning, allowing time for them to use the bathroom, eat breakfast, and get dressed for school. This should be the routine if school is virtual or in person. Routines allow children to recognize patterns and know what to expect. It makes them feel safe.

Attendance is something to take very seriously. I have often referred to a child's time in elementary school as "building a house." Kindergarten is the foundation of the house, first and second grade are the main floor and walls, third and fourth begin the individual rooms and the roof. When students are absent, they miss part of the construction of the house. To put things in perspective, a school year is 180 days. If a student misses 18 days of school, excused or unexcused, they have missed 10% of the school year. Picture that as a pie graph. It's too much.

I wish you and your family quality time during the upcoming holidays. Thank you for making 2020 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 - \$80.78
1st Grade - \$73.63
2nd Grade - \$73.94
3rd Grade - \$75.24
4th Grade - \$83.02

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

Good Citizens November 2020

ECD

Aletta Reyes –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)
Emily Richards –
Mrs. Straley (Miss Kim)

Kindergarten

Adamari Lopez – Mrs. Anderson
Ayden Chhutani – Mrs. Scott
Gabriella Gaboyan – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Oliver Ashcraft – Mrs. Matthews
Alicia Byers – Mrs. Pace
Jennalyn Roop – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Jaxon Mick – Mrs. Carney
Rylan Dworak – Ms. Foster
Mariah Williams – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Aylin Gomez – Mrs. Busch
Anna Shelton – Mrs. Cseke
Aerionna Byers – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Brock Baldazo – Miss Jongsma
Joseph Kane – Miss Vlassopoulos

Multi-grade

Roxanna Monita – Mrs. Gates

Attendance “Beary” Award – November

Each month we have a fun reward for the class with the best attendance for the month. The class with the highest percentage of attendance receives the “Beary” Attendance Trophy at our monthly Pirate Power meeting.

November “Beary” Winner
Miss Welsh’s 1st Grade Class
95.49%

Miss Welsh’s class will have the honor of having “Beary” as a special guest in their classroom for the next month.

Remember, attendance is critical to learning, now more than ever. Make sure to be on time and ready to work for ALL classes!

Student of the Week

Every Monday we recognize one of our students. The teachers choose a student who has been a shining star that week. It can be for a variety of reasons, effort, behavior, mental attitude, participation, being kind, etc. Maybe they did something special this week or overcame a specific difficulty. Whatever the reason, we are proud of these students and want everyone to know how great these children are.

Each “Student of the Week” will be highlighted in the weekly announcements, on Mrs. Petralia’s Twitter, and on the MCSC and PTO Facebook pages.

November 16, 2020

Abigail Velasco
4th grade, Miss Jongsma

November 23, 2020

Kaylee Shooltz
3rd grade, Mrs. Mahy

December 7, 2020

Jaxon Mick
2nd grade, Mrs. Carney

December 14, 2020

Arianna Torres
1st grade, Mrs. Matthews

December Community Service: Toys for Tots and Food Drive

We had two community service projects during the month of December! Due to the school being closed, these projects looked a little different this year. Collection containers were placed just outside the front doors each morning for parents to drop off donations. Collection containers were also inside the building for staff to fill.

The first project was our annual Toys for Tots collection. Each year we are an official donation location for this program that is run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. This group distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

We were off to a slow start, but as we got into the Christmas season, more donations started coming in. In the end, we were able to donate a record total of 172 toys to Toys for Tots this year!

Student Council also sponsored a community service project during December. They put out the word that they were collecting not only food, but also a variety of other personal hygiene and cold weather items. All items donated were packed up and picked up by the Ross Township Food Bank. Ross Township was thrilled to be able to assist local families with our donations.

We would like to thank all who donated to one or both of these projects. We know that everyone is struggling a bit more than usual. This just makes it even harder than normal to be able to donate, so we are especially grateful for all donations!

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. Feel free to drop them into the same bag as the box tops/Coke caps! No need to sort!

PTO on Facebook

*Make sure to “Like” us
so you can see
reminders and updates.*

You can find us at:

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

PTO News

Even though we are still not having any meetings or family events, there are still things that you can do to help support our PTO during this time.

Box Tops

This program has gotten so easy, and yet we still only have a handful of parents who participate! All you need to do is download the free Box Tops for Education app. Make sure you let them know that you want your box tops to be credited to John Wood PTO. Then, whenever you go shopping, remember to scan your receipt! The app will automatically find the box top items and instantly give our PTO the credit.

Did you know that more than just grocery items are box top items? There are several items that fall under the "School/office supplies" category and even a few household cleaners. That means that if you pick up some Lysol wipes at Menards (if you can FIND Lysol wipes) or if you stop at Office Depot for some mechanical pencils, you may have bought a box top item! Why not just scan all your receipts just in case? Is your problem that you just forget to do it? Make it your kid's job to remind you when you get home. You can even let them scan the receipt!

Coke Codes

We continue to collect Coca-Cola codes from Coke product lids and cartons. Just save the codes and drop them into the collection box located outside the front of the school building during school hours.

Strack & Van Til / Apples for the Students SimpleQpons

This is another simple way to help our school! You don't even have to purchase anything "special" for this! Just shop like you normally do at any Strack & Van Til store and save the receipt. Drop the receipt into the collection box in front of the school and we'll take care of the rest. As we submit the receipts, we will earn points that can be redeemed for a variety of supplies for our school.

Rada Cutlery Fundraiser

Unfortunately, we had very poor participation in this fundraiser. Only 12 people ordered, but from those orders our PTO received just over \$200 and we've heard rave reviews from the people who ordered.

At some point after the students return, we will try this fundraiser again with a catalog that will come home.

Honor Roll 1st Trimester 2019-2020

3rd Grade

A Honor Roll

Lorenzo Alvarez
Kaylee Shooltz

A/B Honor Roll

Amy Avila
Antoni Babel
Tyler Eich
Aylin Gomez
Jaylon King
Bailey Larson
Tori Muiser
Atlas Theodorakos
Bryan Zamora

4th Grade

A Honor Roll

Isabella Balbosa
Jian Peng Zheng

A/B Honor Roll

Layla Bermudez
Mea Blancarte
Landon Connors
Adrian Hernandez
Artemio Lara
Dreamm Mable
Alina Magana
Alexander Moreland
Lexiana Roop
Imani Royal
Sophia Scalzitti
Gabriel Tucker
Abigail Velasco

Upcoming Events

Every Monday and Thursday
Virtual Learning Meal Distribution
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday and Thursday
Curbside Library
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEDNESDAY
CURBSIDE LIBRARY HAS BEEN
CHANGED TO THURSDAY.**

Every Thursday
Buddy Blue Day

Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

Every Thursday (except Dec. 17th- see below)

Early Dismissal
1:15 p.m.

Students will be dismissed early on
this day so teachers can attend
Professional Development.

Every Friday
Pirate Pride Day

Wear purple or spirit wear to show your support.

December 18

Early Dismissal – 1:15 p.m.

NOTE: THIS IS A FRIDAY!

Students will be dismissed early on
Friday instead of Thursday this week.

December 21-January 1

Winter Holiday Break

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

January 4, 2021

Classes Resumes

Virtual classes resume.

January 15

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 18

No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 19

In-Person Learning Resumes

We are tentatively scheduled to begin in-person learning on this day for parents who choose this option. Please watch your emails in case there is a change.



INDIANA IMMUNIZATION COALITION



ON-SITE VACCINATIONS

MERRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 16, 2020 9 AM - 2 PM

If you would like to have your student participate in the immunization clinic, please complete the consent and questionnaire online at

<https://patients.vaxcare.com/registration> with code **IN65942**

There is no cost for the vaccines, regardless if insured or uninsured. All forms must be completed and received no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the clinic in order to participate.

If your student is facing exclusion from instruction due to missing immunizations, this is a great opportunity for them to become current with all required immunizations. We can also provide flu shots to both students and adults.

Students who participate in the clinic will be vaccinated with all recommended vaccinations that are due at the time of the clinic. Vaccines that may be administered include DTaP, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, HiB, Polio, Influenza, MMR, Human Papilloma Virus, Meningitis, PCV13 and Varicella. Please note that The Indiana Immunization Coalition will vaccinate with all ACIP recommended vaccines unless we are contacted for specific vaccine refusal 48 hours prior to the clinic **via email to clinic@vaccinateindiana.org or phone 317-628-7116.**

Questions? Call or Text (317) 628-7116