

April 2021

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# No School

## Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

### Unused built-in snow day

John Wood Elementary School  
6100 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> 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.

In person ILEARN testing will begin Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and will go through May 14<sup>th</sup>. 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. Our virtual third and fourth graders are scheduled to come in on these dates and times:

Third Grade Only		
Date	Test	Time
April 19	ELA Practice Test & Adaptive Assessment	8:00-10:30
April 20	ELA Adaptive Assessment	8:00-10:30
April 21	ELA Performance Assessment	8:00-10:30
April 22	ELA Performance Assessment	8:00-10:30
April 26	Math Practice Test & Math Adaptive Assessment	8:00-10:30
April 27	Math Adaptive Assessment	8:00-10:30
April 28	Math Performance Assessment	8:00-10:30

Fourth Grade Only		
Date	Test	Time
April 12	ELA and Math Practice Tests	12:30-2:15
April 27	ELA Adaptive Assessment	9:00-11:30
April 28	ELA Adaptive Assessment	9:00-11:30
April 29	ELA Performance Assessment	8:00-11:00
April 30	ELA Performance Assessment	8:00-11:00
May 6	Math Adaptive Assessment	8:00-9:45
May 10	Math Adaptive Assessment	8:00-9:45
May 11	Math Performance Assessment	8:00-9:45
May 13	Science Adaptive & Performance Assessment	8:00-11:00

*Happy Spring!*  
*Mrs. Petralia*

# PTO News

We have temporarily suspended all social activities and meetings during this time.

## Apples for the Students (Strack & Van Til receipts)

This program has ended. Only receipts dated September 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup> were eligible for this program, and all had to be mailed in no later than March 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to everyone who sent in receipts, we were able to accumulate a total of 75,577 points! This was an astonishing feat, considering most of the time allotment was while students were all virtual!

It was decided by a committee that our PE department has been neglected for a while and much of the equipment in the gym is either old and worn out or non-existent. Therefore, the points were used to “purchase” equipment for the gym. We were able to order basketballs, footballs, and more...all at no cost, thanks to Strack & Van Til!

We anticipate participating in this program again next year...but don't start saving receipts yet! Based on previous years, we predict that only receipts dated September 1, 2021 – March 1, 2022 will be eligible for next year's program!

## Box Tops/Coke

Please continue sending in Coca-Cola codes and any physical box top clips you may find. Almost all box top products are now “No Clipping” box tops. That means that you will need to download the free Box Tops for Education app and scan your store receipt for us to get credit.

## We Need You!

Our PTO is currently being run by two staff members. We anticipate that we may be able to resume monthly PTO meetings and some social events next year. However, we are desperate to find 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!

Here are some of the things we have done in past years and might bring back next year, provided we have someone to take over. We are also open to new ideas.

- **BINGO, Game Night, VIP Event, Valentine Dance, Fun Fair, and other Family Fun Events** – promoting, running, and finding prizes (if necessary).
- **Fundraising** – researching, presenting, and promoting your picks.
- **Spirit Wear** – researching, presenting, and promoting your picks.
- **Raffle** (in the past we had one during Parent/Teacher Conferences with the money going to the Curt Hoffman Scholarship and one during the fun fair at the end of the school year) – finding businesses and individuals throughout the year to make donations.
- **Volunteers** – call/email volunteers as needed, set up and manage Sign-Up Genius if you choose to use it.
- **Restaurant “Spirit Nights”** – contact local restaurants to reserve a night, promote
- **Treasurer** – This position is responsible for maintaining the financial accounts, collecting and depositing money from fundraisers/events, and writing checks. This position must be filled with a John Wood parent. The only way our current treasurer was able to do it was because she is a staff member, but also a John Wood parent. However, her child is now in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, so she will no longer be able to hold this position.

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

- All family events like the BINGO, Game Night, VIP Event (formerly Grandparents' Day), Valentine Dance and Fun Fair...
- Additions to the classroom libraries, Scholastic News, Young Hoosier books...
- Student gifts and prizes for contests...
- Various items, teaching tools, and supplemental technology for classrooms including Art, Music, PE, Library...
- 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”.

## Pop Tab Collection

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

All money generated by this collection 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.

# Good Citizens March 2021

## ECD

Jaylen Retic –  
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)  
Tyara Maynor –  
Mrs. Straley (Miss Kim)

## Multi-Grade

Deron Gill – Ms. Hannigan  
Jai'Lon Wheatley – Mrs. Spoolstra  
Anna Shelton – Mrs. Gates

## Kindergarten

Stephen Dunn – Mrs. Anderson  
Jazzmari Warren – Mrs. Scott  
Nicholas Vanek – Mrs. Shalla

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Thaya Nunn – Mrs. Matthews  
Ariana Hughes – Mrs. Pace  
Dominic Stanley – Miss Welsh

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Londyn Jackson – Mrs. Carney  
Latrice Hubbard – Ms. Foster  
Treyalan Smith – Mrs. Marshall

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Idris Kerney – Mrs. Busch  
Kaylee Shooltz – Mrs. Cseke  
Yuleimi Barajas Licea – Mrs. Mahy

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sofia Whittinghill – Miss Jongsma  
Anthony Salinas–Miss Vlassopoulos

## Lost & Found

Is your child missing a scarf, mitten, or maybe a favorite sweatshirt?? Remind them 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.

# 2021-2022 Kindergarten Pre-registration

Pre-registration is now open for 2021-2022 kindergarten students! Children who will be five on or before August 1, 2021 (birthdate of August 1, 2016 or earlier) are eligible for the 2021-22 school year. Below is the MCSC link with more information:

<https://sites.google.com/mvsc.k12.in.us/kregistration/home>

## 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 11 girls from third and fourth grade who are participating.

### Coaches

Mrs. Pace, Mrs. Robbins  
Officer Ellis

### Participants

Amy Avila, Aerionna Byers,  
Kimora Flakes, Mai Goodman,  
Tanya Johnson, Evianni Ramos,  
Lexiana Roop, Saiyah Scott,  
Kaylee Shooltz, Sofia Whittinghill,  
Leah Womac

## Upcoming Events

**Every Tuesday and Thursday**  
**Curbside Library for Virtual Students**  
2:00-3:15 p.m.

**Every Thursday**  
**Buddy Blue Day**  
Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

**Every Thursday**  
**Early Dismissal**  
1:15 p.m.  
Students will be dismissed early on this day so teachers can attend Professional Development. Please plan for your in-person child to be home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

**Every Friday**  
**Pirate Pride Day**  
Wear purple or spirit wear to show your Pirate Pride!

**April 18-May 14**  
**ILEARN Testing Window**  
Students in grades three and four will be taking the ILEARN tests. This test replaces the test previously known as the ISTEP+ test. Please assist your child by making sure they get a good night's sleep and have a nourishing breakfast.

**April 20**  
**Major Saver Ends**  
Today is the last day to turn in Major Saver orders. Remember, orders cannot be filled if payment is not included!

**April 22**  
**Earth Day**  
What can YOU do to make a difference?

**April 23**  
**End of 5<sup>th</sup> Grading Period**  
Today is the last day of the 5<sup>th</sup> grading period of the school year. Progress reports will be available on Skyward the following week.

**May 3-7**  
**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 7**  
**No School**  
This is an unused built-in snow day. Enjoy your day off!

**May 31**  
**Memorial Day**  
There will be no school on this day. Please take a few minutes on this day to remember and honor the men and women who have lost their lives in the performance of their military duties for our freedom.

# Student Council Penny War for EEU

A penny war is happening in John Wood School! Our student council heard about a neighbor in need and decided that they wanted to raise money to help them. EEU (Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited, Inc.) is located just west of our school on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. This past February when we had a heavy snowfall, a portion of their stable roof collapsed. Because of this, they have had to temporarily relocate the horses and are currently unable to offer their riding classes.

The student council wants to see them rebuild and be able to continue serving children and adults with special needs in the community. All money raised from the penny war will be donated to EEU to help defray the cost of rebuilding.

Money can be brought in through Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Student council is collecting the money from the students during lunchtime. The class that donates the most money will win an extra recess, so send in those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters! (I'll bet they will even accept the money that folds!)

If your child is virtual and would like to donate, there is a bucket outside of Door A from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You can learn more about EEU by going to their website at: <http://eeunwi.org/>

## 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 Jongsma – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 98.44%

The “Beary” attendance award will spend the next month in Miss Jongsma’s classroom.

## Coaches’ Corner

Ms. Fish, Mrs. Rassbach,  
Miss Zorich

### Reading Strategies:

#### Comprehension

- Being able to read DOES NOT mean you understand what you read.
- Your child might sound like a good reader but may not necessarily understand what the text means.

**THE BEST** way to develop **UNDERSTANDING** is to talk about text.

#### **Here are some ideas:**

- Discuss how to find information ON the page.
- Being able to find information that is NOT on the page.
- Looking for clues
- THINKING about situations and PREDICTING what might happen.
- Putting yourself in a CHARACTER’S SHOES and understanding what is going on from their viewpoint.
- Talk about new WORDS and their MEANINGS.

#### Math ideas:

Beyond 1, 2, 3, 4... Encourage creative problem-solving. Problem-solving is the basis of good mathematical thinking, and the problems don’t have to involve numbers.

- “How many different ways are there to walk to school?”
- “What’s another way to arrange the furniture in this room?” “How many different ways can I measure flour to get half a cup?”
- Try to come up with more than one solution for everyday problems.

#### Choose gifts that develop problem-solving skills

Blocks, building sets, geometric tile sets, puzzles, board games, weather stations, maps, puzzle books, calculators, strategy games, scales, and origami are just a few of the gifts that will give your child pleasure and knowledge at the same time.

## Curt Hoffman Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from MHS who also attended John Wood Elementary School for a minimum of three years. Students who were in the Elementary Honors Program are eligible provided they lived in the John Wood School district during those years.

New this year, all applications will be in Google Forms. Letters of recommendation must also be submitted digitally. All info is available in Google Classroom. The link for the Curt Hoffman Scholarship is:

<https://forms.gle/s4yh2XUFDodzFugU8>

The completed form and letters must be submitted no later than May 3, 2021.

The winner of the scholarship should plan to give a short address to our fourth graders in June, if possible. The winner will not be expected to come if his/her final exams cannot be changed. Mrs. Petralia will make arrangements with the winner for this event.

This scholarship was created in memory of Mr. Curt Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman was principal of John Wood School from 1989-1998, when he lost his battle with cancer.

## Mask Update

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb recently released Executive Order 21-09 which changes the mask mandate to a recommendation. However, the order still requires K-12 schools to continue requiring masks.

Please make sure your child wears a clean, well-fitting mask to school every day. You might even consider sending a spare in your child’s backpack in case something happens to the one they are wearing.

Remember that masks should be washed frequently. The CDC recommends that non-disposable masks are washed daily.

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

by Mrs. Dortha Robbins, LCSW,  
School Social Worker

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. According to the Indiana Department of Education, "Each public school, including a charter school and accredited nonpublic school shall provide age-appropriate and research and evidence-based instruction on child abuse and child sexual abuse to students in kindergarten through Grade 12." ([www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov))

Each class in Grades 1-4 will be given an age-appropriate presentation by me. Kindergarten will receive the presentation from a medical professional that has presented to all Merrillville kindergarten classes for many years. This professional will use teddy bears to talk about "Good Touch Bad Touch".

A parent information sheet will be sent home with your child/ren about what is being taught during the presentations as well as some parent/child activities for Grades 1-4. Please encourage your child/ren to talk to you about what they learned to help solidify the information and keep themselves safe.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are always free to contact me at the school. I can be reached at 219-650-5305 x 6545.

### 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.

## Small Card, BIG Results

**Merrillville Education Foundation  
Major Saver Campaign**

The Merrillville Education Foundation is excited to be offering Major Saver cards for sale through the Merrillville schools. Students received the sales packets on **Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Proceeds from the sale of Major Saver cards directly support all the schools and the activities of the Merrillville Education Foundation. **All the money generated from this fundraiser goes back to the children.** In this way, **Wood School** can fund innovative and creative projects in the classroom and school and allow students to have broad educational experiences.

**From 2002-2020 since the Merrillville Education Foundation started, Wood School has been awarded \$42,527.60 in teacher grants and Major Saver fundraising.**

Major Saver cards can be purchased via cash, check or online at [www.majorsaver.com](http://www.majorsaver.com). The online sale can be credited back to a particular student and school. All cards purchased online will be **mailed** directly to the customer. Administrators, teachers, and MCSC employees can also purchase cards to support this initiative.

The Major Saver App is now LOADED with THOUSANDS of offers valid NATIONWIDE!! Your Major Saver card will come with a code so you can download and access these deals. You're no longer limited to just savings in the Merrillville area. Going to Chicago or Indianapolis for the weekend? Open your app and take advantage of savings there too!!

Major Saver is making online sales easier for friends and family! On our homepage you are able to enter your student's information to create a CUSTOM LINK for your child that can be shared via social media or email. This link will automatically credit the online sale to your student when friends and family use the link to make their purchase!

Major Saver stresses safe selling and discourages door to door campaigning. The company encourages students to sell to family members, church patrons, neighbors,

or other adults the family may know; and to always make sure their parents are involved.

Please consider purchasing one or more Major Saver cards this year to help benefit the Merrillville Education Foundation and the students within the district.

**The last day to turn in orders is Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Remember, orders cannot be filled if the payment is not included.**

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## Proper Footwear for Spring

Flip flops, sandals, open-toed, and backless shoes 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 flip flops and sandals break easily. For the safety of all our students, we are asking that other shoes be worn outside during recess.

Another problem is dressy shoes. These usually have glossy soles and can be slippery when running and playing.

If your child does wear flip flops/open shoes 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.

## Coming Soon: Spirit Wear Sale

Many parents have asked about where to find Merrillville/John Wood Spirit Wear. We are in the process of setting up a Spirit Wear Sale! It will be an online only ordering process. More information will be sent home once everything is finalized.