

Inside this Issue

1	Principal Petralia's Page End-of-Year Envelope
2	PTO News Spirit Wear Update Good Citizens – April April Attendance Memo from the Nurse Reminder from the Social Worker
3	2021-2022 Supply Packs Important Reminder Penny War Update Dress Code Reminder Upcoming Events
4	Last Days of School Reminder Upcoming Events – Cont. Read-a-Thon Update Social Media June Newsletter
5	Coaches' Corner
6	Summer Food Service Program

End-of-Year Envelope

On the last day of school your child will bring home a large manila envelope. Please take a minute to look through the contents. Included will be info about a variety of things happening this summer such as Book Bus, Summer Feeding Program, and summer programs at the Lake County Library. There will also be important info about next school year like the corporation calendar, supply list and info about purchasing a supply pack, and more.

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The John Wood Parent Newsletter



Principal Petralia's Page

by Mrs. Petralia

Dear John Wood Families,

The 2020-2021 school year has almost flown by! I have to make sure to acknowledge some very special people who have helped to make our school year the amazing one it was:

- Thank you to the John Wood PTO for supporting our students, teachers, and staff!
- Thank you to our teachers and staff for always doing what is best for our students and for your unconditional love for them!
- Thank you to our John Wood students who come each morning with smiles on their faces, ready to learn!
- Thank you to our John Wood parents for adapting to all of the unexpected changes that were thrown at them throughout this school year and always being there to support our school corporation!

****Please look for information about device collection before the school year ends. You will need to turn in your child's iPad or Chromebook and the charger.****

With the end of the school year upon us, everyone is getting really excited, especially the students! Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school (no tank tops, short shorts or flip flops). Additionally, we need to remind our students that the rules are still applicable even though it is the end of the year. We have many fun activities planned for the end of the year, and making bad choices can lead to these being taken away. Thank you for your help with these things at home!

Mrs. Petralia

PTO News

We are going to have a virtual PTO meeting!!! All parents are invited to attend (virtually) next Wednesday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. Watch your email for the link/invitation. We will be discussing plans for next year, so if you think you might be interested in helping, this will be a great opportunity to get more information.

Remember that our PTO is in desperate need of new leadership. Please consider the possibility of taking an active role when school resumes in August.

Box Tops/Coke Codes

Almost all box top products are now digital. You may still find an occasional physical clip, but for us to get credit on 99% of the products, we have to depend on YOU. Download the free Box Tops for Education app (available in both Apple and android). When you set up the app, just specify that you want your box tops to go to John Wood PTO. Once the app is set up, just scan your receipt with the qualifying purchase within 14 days of the date of purchase. Get family in other parts of the country to download the app too! This is a great way for relatives to help our school when they don't live nearby.

We've done a great job of collecting Coke codes this year. We received over \$100 just in the January-March quarter! Keep saving those codes during the summer so you can send them in when school resumes in August.

Spirit Wear Update

Unfortunately, we ran out of time to have a Spirit Wear sale before the end of the school year. Our plan is to have an online sale in August. We are making arrangements with the same company we are using for the back-to-school supply packs. An email will be sent in August with details.

Good Citizens April 2021

Multi-Grade

Cain Martinez – Mrs. Gates

Kindergarten

Dahlia Wardlow – Mrs. Anderson
Violet Wardlow – Mrs. Scott
Oren Mihal – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Joshua Lara – Mrs. Matthews
Ahmir Finnell – Mrs. Pace
Trinity Thompson – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Emily Cruz – Mrs. Carney
Zane Theodorakos – Ms. Foster
Samantha Gonzalez – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Idris Kerney – Mrs. Busch
Jamyla Jackson – Mrs. Cseke
Eileen Gomez – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Izaiha Frost – Miss Jongsma
Lucas Mahy – Miss Vlassopoulos

April Attendance

As we approach the end of the school year, we must stress that attendance is just as important, if not more, than the rest of the school year. All students are being tested in one way or another as the staff is assessing what the students have learned this year.

We continue to recognize the class with the best attendance for the month. This month the "Beary" trophy will be visiting the following classroom:

April

Mrs. Marshall – 2nd Grade – 98.33%

Mrs. Marshall's class was recognized in a recent Pirate Power Meeting video.

Memo from the Nurse

Any medication in the nurse's office must be picked up by an adult by June 4, 2021. Medication remaining in the office on June 7th will be safely discarded. Also, medical updates will go home soon for the 2021-2022 school year. Please be sure to fill out the update even if no medication is needed at school. In addition, any students who require medication or inhalers for the 2021-2022 school year will need to have new physician orders on file with the nurse.

Having current medical information helps us immensely in the event that your child becomes ill or injured during school hours. If you did not get a medical update (student does not currently have medical considerations) but your child has a new diagnosis, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Brack, or visit our John Wood Website to print forms.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Brack at 756-5745. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a great summer!

Reminder from the Social Worker

Mrs. Robbins, LCSW, LSSW

Dear John Wood Families,

As this school year comes to an end, I understand that life and needs do not. I want to remind you always to check the Merrillville Community School District website. There are many links and resources available to students and families to address a vast majority of needs that may arise over the summer.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you are unable to find what you are looking for. I am available until June 7th.

I hope you and your families have a safe, fun and healthy summer.

2021-2022 Supply Packs

Do you dread back-to-school supply shopping? Do you always end up spending more than you planned and buying things not even on the list...like that dinosaur pencil sharpener or the unicorn pencil pouch? Do you spend more time and money than you planned going from store to store because the things you need are out of stock?

We have the solution! Just sit at home and order your supply pack online! We've made arrangements with Educational Products, Inc. (EPI) and they have copies of our school's specific supply list. When you place your order, the supply pack will be delivered to your child's classroom in August with the exact items the teacher requested.

A very small portion of the purchase will go to our PTO, but I'll bet the total will still be less than you would have spent searching the stores for the best deals!

Sale is NOW! Don't delay! Deadline is May 31st! Go online to: www.educationalproducts.com/shop/packs. Our school's ID is WOO175 (3 letters/3 numbers). Remember to order supplies for NEXT YEAR'S grade level!

Important Reminder

As we wrap up this school year, please remember to settle all debts to the school. This includes book rental and any library fees that are still owed.

Checks must be made out to "John Wood School" and must have your driver's license number on the check. Online payments can be made through your Skyward account.

Penny War Update

Our student council recently completed a community service project for one of our neighbors in need. EEU (Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited, Inc) is located just west of our school on 73rd Ave. This past February, they sustained significant damage to their stables when the roof collapsed under the weight of a heavy snowfall. Because of this, they have had to temporarily relocate the horses and suspend their riding classes. EEU provides educational and therapeutic riding instruction for people with special needs of all ages.

Students were encouraged to bring in donations and the student council collected and counted the donations. Due to the generosity of our John Wood parents and students, we were able to help our neighbors with a donation of \$1,351! Ms. Foster's 2nd grade class brought in the most donations and was rewarded with an extra recess.

Thank you to all who generously donated!

Dress Code Reminder

As the weather outside gets warmer, we are all excited to shed our coats and start wearing summer clothing. However, please remember that we have a dress code at John Wood. The dress code includes no shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length, no sheer or see-through clothing and no bare midriffs or "spaghetti" straps. Also, we ask that the children do not wear flip-flops, sandals, backless, or open-toed shoes. If a child is wearing flip-flops, etc, he/she will go outside for fresh air, but will not be allowed on the playground equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Upcoming Events

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!

May 15

GOTR

Girls on the Run will be running a 5K race today at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point. GO GIRLS!

May 19

Virtual PTO Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Watch your email for a link/invitation to this meeting. We will be discussing plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

May 17-21

Book Giveaway

All students will receive free books (new and gently used) during their library time.

May 21

Last Day for Library Classes

Today is the last day for library classes and the last day to turn in any books that have been checked out.

May 24

"Shiver Me Timbers" Ice Cream Party

All students will receive an ice cream treat after their lunch. Thank you to the PTO for paying for this special treat.

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 country.

June 4

End of Third Trimester

Report cards will be available in Skyward next week.

June 4

Last Day of School

Continued on page 4

Last Days of School

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of the school year. This has been a year like no other! It's been a year of adaptation and flexibility and learning a multitude of new things beyond just Reading, Math, and Spelling.

As the school year nears its end, we need to remember that students are still learning every single day, whether they are in the school building or learning virtually. Attendance on these last days is just as important as every other day. Many students are taking important tests that will help determine placement for next year.

As the weather begins to get warmer, many times students are anxious for summer to start and they begin to quit working at school and become careless about following the school rules. We find that we have many students not doing homework and being written up for misbehavior during May.

We need to work together as a team during these last days of school. Please talk to your child about the importance of always giving their best effort, doing their assigned work and remembering to follow school rules. Together we can stay on course during these last days.

Lost & Found

Do you feel like there are items that belong to your child that have sprouted legs and walked away? 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.

Upcoming Events – Cont.

Continued from page 3

August 17 TENTATIVE DATE Meet the Teacher Night

The Meet the Teacher Night is tentatively set depending on COVID restrictions in August. Watch your emails in August to see if this event will occur.

August 18 First Day of School

Today begins a new school year for all students. This is a full day of school.

Lake County Public Library Read-a-Thon Update

Several of our students recently participated in the Lake County Public Library Read-A-Thon. This fundraiser brings in funds for our Lake County Public Library, but also, our school will receive a portion of the money raised for our own school library.

Thanks to all the students who participated in this year's Read-a-Thon and helped to make it a success. All who participated received a trophy.

1st Grade

Karter Josway, Zoey Moreland,
Jakob Triplett

2nd Grade

Jaxx Anoman, Michael Scalzitti

3rd Grade

Amy Avila

4th Grade

Alex Moreland, Sophia Scalzitti

Social Media

Just a reminder that there are several ways that you can keep updated about what is going on in our school and in the corporation.

In addition to Skyward and the MCSC and John Wood websites, there are a few social media sites you can follow. Sometimes you can find info on the social media sites even before it is on the websites!

Twitter

MCSC Superintendent

Mr. Nick Brown

@MerrillvilleSu3

(If you check out who Mr. Brown is following, you'll also find several other MCSC groups like technology, athletics, and media services.)

John Wood Principal

Mrs. Alison Petralia

@PrinPetralia

Facebook

Merrillville Community

School Corporation

www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/

John Wood PTO

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

June Newsletter

Watch for one more newsletter to arrive in your email next month. It will include:

- Curt Hoffman Scholarship winner
- Good Citizens – May
- Super Citizens
- 3rd and 4th Grade Honor Roll

Coachs' Corner

Ms. Fish, Mrs. Rassbach, Miss Zorich

Ways Parents Can Help Their Children Read

Here are practical recommendations for helping preschoolers and school-age students learn to read.

- ✓ Talk to your kids (a lot).
- ✓ Have them tell you a "story".
- ✓ Teach phonemic awareness.

What is that?

Young children don't hear the sounds within words. Thus, they hear "dog," but not the "duh"- "aw"- "guh." To become readers, they have to learn to hear these sounds (or phonemes). Play language games with your child. For instance, say a word, perhaps her name, and then change it by one phoneme: Jen-Pen, Jen-Hen, Jen-Men. Or, just break a word apart: chair... ch-ch-ch-air. Follow this link to learn more about [language development milestones in children](#).

- ✓ Teach phonics (letter names and their sounds). - HOW?

You can't sound out words or write them without knowing the letter sounds. Most kindergartens teach the letters, and parents can teach them, too. I just checked a toy store website and found 282 products based on letter names and another 88 on letter sounds, including ABC books, charts, cards, blocks, magnet letters, floor mats, puzzles, lampshades, bed sheets, and programs for tablets and computers. You don't need all of that (a pencil and paper are sufficient), but there is lots of support out there for parents to help kids learn these skills. Keep the lessons brief and fun, no more than 5–10 minutes for young'uns. Understanding the [different developmental stages of reading and writing skills](#) will help to guide your lessons and expectations.

- ✓ Listen to your child read.
- ✓ Promote writing.
- ✓ Ask questions.
- ✓ Make reading a regular activity in your home.

10 ways to work math into your summer routine

1. **Note numbers.** Increase your child's awareness of numbers by looking around the house to find examples: the kitchen clock, the calendar, a cereal box, a TV dial, a stamp or inside her shoe. Have her

write down the numbers she sees, or give her a number and ask her to look around the house for examples of the number. Boost your older child's awareness of how numbers are used by pointing out the movie times, weather forecasts and sports statistics in your daily newspaper.

2. **Two, four, six, eight, now it's time to estimate.** Estimation is one way to increase a child's number sense. Before you put a stack of folded towels on a shelf or fill a bowl with peaches, ask your child to estimate how many will fit. Then count afterward to compare the actual number to the estimate. Helping your child learn to make appropriate predictions will help her see how numbers are used in everyday life. Learning to ask, "Is my answer reasonable?" will help her as she tackles math problems in the classroom.
3. **What does a hundred look like?** Understanding the concept of 100 is difficult for young children, even if they can count that far. Suggest that your child start making collections of 100 things — rubber bands, watermelon seeds, pebbles or buttons. You can divide the objects in groups of 10 or 2 or 5 to see how these smaller groups add up to 100 in different ways. Glue the objects onto a piece of colored construction paper for a math collage. Seeing 100 will help her conceptualize it.
4. **Unlock the code.** Help your child recognize numbers and think critically by appealing to his love of mystery. Write out all the letters in the alphabet on a sheet of paper, leaving room underneath each letter for a number. Under each letter, write the numbers from 1 to 26. In other words, a=1, b=2, etc. Practice writing coded messages using numbers rather than letters. You can use the code to leave simple messages from one another.
5. **How tall are you?** Many families record the height of their child on a door or wall chart. If you do the same for everyone in the family, your child can join in the measuring and see how the heights compare. Measurement and understanding relationships between numbers are crucial to the development of mathematical thinking.
6. **Play grocery store math.** The supermarket is an ideal place to use math skills, particularly for older children. Point out that yogurt is \$2.59 a six-pack. Ask how much it would cost to buy 3? Your child can round up to \$2.60 or \$3.00 and figure this out. Talk about how he arrived at that number, point out how the estimate differs from the true cost. Or get the latest advertisement announcing sales from the grocery store. Have her look at the specials on fruit and determine how to spend \$10.00. Supply her with paper and pencil, and maybe a calculator, as well, so she can practice using calculators the way adults use them every day.
7. **What's on the menu?** The next time you go to a restaurant, hang on to the menu while you are waiting for your meal and play some math games with your child. Ask him to find the least expensive item on the menu, then all the items that cost between \$5 and \$10 or three items whose total cost is between \$9 and \$20. This will not only fill the time while you're waiting to eat, it will show your child how math is used every day.
8. **Cook up a math game.** The kitchen is a great place to practice math, as long as there's an adult home to supervise. How many tomatoes will you need to double the recipe for sauce? If you put 10 slices of mushroom on the pizza, ask your child to put to twice as many olive slices. How many is that? If there are three people in your family and 15 strawberries to divide equally among them, how many strawberries will each person get?
9. **Measure the distance.** You don't have to leave home for this game, although it's ideal for vacations. Get out a map that indicates the distance in miles between cities. Measure the distance between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and between Phoenix and San Francisco. Which is greater? How does that compare to the distance between New York City and Chicago?
10. **Change up.** Give your child an assortment of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. Put a piece of fruit on the table and tell him it costs 45 cents. Tell him he needs to find five coin combinations that equal 45 cents. Change the item, raise the price and find five more. Keep a tally of all the ways to pay for each item.



Summer Food Service Program 2021

Food that's 'IN' when school is out

Weekdays June 7 - Aug. 13, except July 5

All children ages 18 and under are invited to receive **FREE** breakfasts and lunches. Children must be present to receive their "curbside" meals as only one breakfast and one lunch is permitted per child per day.

Students attending summer school will receive their meals at school. Weekend meal bags will be distributed along with Friday meals.

The following sites will distribute breakfasts from 8:30-9 a.m. and lunches from 12:30-1 p.m. each day or as noted:

- Merrillville High School, 276 E. 68th Pl., Door I
- Pierce Middle School, 199 E. 70th St., west of Door 3
- Fieler Elementary School, 407 W. 61st Ave., Door C
- Iddings Elementary School, 7249 Van Buren St., Door L
- Salk Elementary School, 3001 W. 77th Ave., Door B
- Stefek Park, 7053 Harrison St.
- Rethink Church, 2920 W. 73rd Pl. (*curbside OR eat-in*)
- Impact Church, 7071 Broadway, (*curbside OR eat-in*)
- **LUNCH ONLY:** Collins Park, 9500 Merrillville Rd., noon -1 p.m.

Mobile Bus Stops-Lunch Only

- Regency Park Townhomes, 6078 Delaware St., 11-11:30 a.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 5375 Harrison St., 11:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.
- Miller Elementary School, 5901 Waite St., 12:30-1 p.m.

Merrillville Community School Corporation
www.mvsc.k12.in.us * 219-650-5300



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.