

### Inside this Issue

<b>1</b>	Principal Petralia's Page Farewell from Mrs. Fairbairn Curt Hoffman Scholarship Winner FYI
<b>2</b>	PTO News Facebook/Twitter Good Citizens - May Super Citizens Important Reminder
<b>3</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Watch for VOI Letter Upcoming Events Farewell to Staff
<b>4</b>	Free/Reduced Lunch/Textbook May Attendance Summer Activities Debts Paid! Virtual Device Return at MHS

## FYI

*On the last day of school your child brought home a large manila envelope. Please take a minute to look through it. Included is info about things happening this summer such as Book Bus, Summer Food Service, and summer programs at the Lake County Public Library. There is also important info about next school year like the corporation calendar, supply list, Young Hoosier lists, and more. Some teachers may have added testing data, awards/certificates, or other important information. Check Skyward for grades on or after June 11<sup>th</sup>.*

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

Dear Families,

As this school year comes to a close, I want to wish you and your family a wonderful break together. To our fourth graders moving on to MIS, please keep in touch! To those not returning due to moves, we will miss you as well. Parents, if you are not returning to John Wood next year, please remember to withdraw your students in the office before it closes on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Many times I get asked what I do all summer at John Wood. The answer is: I tie up loose ends from the previous school year and begin planning for the upcoming year. I take time off to spend with family and friends. I reflect and then prepare for the year ahead. This is something I feel is important for all teachers and students as well. Taking a break is really important but staying in the groove, even a little bit, keeps us fresh and ready.

My son just finished up first grade and made it to the end-of-year benchmarks (even with this crazy COVID year). My daughter just graduated from preschool and will be moving on to Pre-K. I want to be sure that they are on track to start in the fall. So, we will continue reading each night, writing about what we've done or letters to friends, practicing cutting, drawing shapes, writing our names, and working on addition and subtraction. Maybe we won't do it all each day but keeping it a priority will only help in the long run.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and I can't wait to SEE YOU IN THE HALLS next fall!

Love,  
Mrs. Petralia

## Farewell from Mrs. Fairbairn

Hello John Wood Families,

This school year marks my last year as a Pirate. I want to say thank you to all of the John Wood students and families that made my time in Merrillville so memorable. I will miss you all!

I also want to wish our 4<sup>th</sup> graders good luck next year at MIS. I hope everyone has a safe and restful summer!

## Curt Hoffman Scholarship Winner – Madeline Langer!

This year's Curt Hoffman Scholarship winner was announced at the virtual MHS Awards Night on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Madeline visited our building and spoke to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders on the last day of school.

Congratulations, Madeline! We are so proud of your achievements!

# PTO News

We have come to the end of a strange and unusual school year. Our hope is that next year will be able to look a little more normal. In anticipation, we recently had our first PTO meeting (virtually) in over a year. We had some good suggestions from some of our parents. If you would like to have a part in planning future activities, watch for an email with the link for our next virtual PTO meeting. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### Collection Reminder

Remember during the summer months to continue redeeming receipts for Box Tops for Education and collecting Coca-Cola codes, and pop-top rings.

This past year we received over \$55 from Box Tops for Education and almost \$250 from Coca-Cola! Thanks to all who also sent in metal pop top rings this year. We will be donating them to the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana!

## Facebook & Twitter

Remember to “friend” the John Wood PTO Facebook page! Our Facebook administrator will post reminders throughout the summer to help keep you informed.

# Good Citizens May 2021

### Multi-Grade

Aubree Fontes – Mrs. Gates  
Jaylon King –  
Ms. C. Anderson/Mrs. Mansfield

### ECD

Shantal Brown –  
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)  
Daniel Garfias –  
Mrs. Straley (Miss Kim)

### Kindergarten

Jersey Finnearty – Mrs. Anderson  
Jurnee Williams – Mrs. Scott  
Aria Yakovetz – Mrs. Shalla

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

Brooke Baisden – Mrs. Matthews  
Mateo Blancarte – Mrs. Pace  
Adam Alsamawi – Miss Welsh

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

Alonzo Garduno – Mrs. Carney  
Isaiah Colbert – Ms. Foster  
Arturo Briano-Dominguez –  
Mrs. Marshall

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

Xander Theodorakos – Mrs. Busch  
Atlas Theodorakos – Mrs. Cseke  
Liam Parker – Mrs. Mahy

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

Roxanna Monita – Miss Jongsma  
Maurice Ford – Mrs. Thanos  
Mia Blancarte – Miss Vlassopoulos

# Super Citizens

These students have been chosen for being Super Citizens throughout the entire school year.

### Multi-Grade

Louis Robb – Mrs. Gates  
Brayden Buckner – Mrs. Spoolstra

### ECD

Valentin Rivas –  
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)  
Tyara Maynor –  
Mrs. Straley (Miss Kim)

### Kindergarten

Kingston Richardson–Mrs. Anderson  
Ayden Chhutani – Mrs. Scott  
Camden Toney – Mrs. Shalla

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

Sydney Wigley-Sims– Mrs. Matthews  
Tristen Dennie – Mrs. Pace  
Hyde Smith – Miss Welsh

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

Arianna Fontes – Mrs. Carney  
Ava Gonzales – Ms. Foster  
Jaxon Mick – Mrs. Marshall

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

Antoni Babel – Mrs. Busch  
Atlas Theodorakos – Mrs. Cseke  
Kaylee Shooltz – Mrs. Mahy

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

Jian Peng Zheng – Miss Jongsma  
Isabella Balbosa– Miss Vlassopoulos

## Important Reminder

As this school year ends, 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. Payments can also be made online through your child’s Skyward account.

If you need to pay in person, our school office will only be open through June 11, 2021. Our office will be open from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Honor Roll 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester 2020-2021

### A Honor Roll

Brettan Heath  
Bailey Larson  
Tori Muiser  
\*Kaylee Shooltz

### A/B Honor Roll

\*Amy Avila  
\*Antoni Babel  
Ailyn Gomez  
\*Jaylon King  
Liam Parker  
Gabriella Rusk  
\*Atlas Theodorakos

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester 2020-2021

### A Honor Roll

\*Isabella Balbosa  
\*Adrian Hernandez  
\*Alexander Moreland  
\*Jian Peng Zheng

### A/B Honor Roll

Mea Blancarte  
Antonio Byers  
Miranda Cabrera  
Landon Connors  
Adam Koszyk  
Aliyah Lagunas  
\*Lexiana Roop  
Imani Royal  
\*Sophia Scalzitti  
Tordyn Triplett  
\*Abigail Velasco

\* - indicates Honor Roll for  
all three trimesters.

## Watch for a VOI Letter

If you have children returning to a Merrillville school next school year, you will receive a letter in July requesting you to verify your information online as a form of enrollment for the 21-22 school year.

After receiving the letter, all parents are requested to log into their Skyward account to complete the verification of information process. This information is used to update school records and confirm enrollment, so it is important that it is current.

The best way to complete this process is on a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. If you only have access to the Internet on a cell phone, or if you just need access to a computer to fill out this form, please feel free to stop in at the MCSC Central Office on Delaware (just north of the high school building) during business hours. You will be allowed to use one of their available computers to fill out your VOI.

If your address has changed but you are still in the Merrillville district or if the address on your Skyward is incorrect, you must visit the school with verification of address. Families who have children attending multiple Merrillville schools need only to visit the oldest child's school. Address verification items can take the form of driver's license, utility bill, mortgage statement, or lease. For additional information regarding acceptable proofs of residency, call the school office or visit the corporation website.

For more information, call the MCSC Central Office at 219-650-5300.

## Upcoming Events

**June 11**

### **Report Cards**

Report cards will NOT be mailed. Grades will be posted on Skyward on this day.

**August 17 TENTATIVE DATE**

### **Meet the Teacher Night**

The Meet the Teacher Night is tentatively set depending on COVID restrictions in August. Watch your email 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.

## Farewell to Staff

Many of our staff will be leaving us at the end of this school year. We wish them all well in their future endeavors.

### **Mrs. Valant**

Kitchen Manager  
Retiring after 25.5 years with MCSC!

### **Mrs. J Fairbairn**

Dean of Students and Art Teacher

### **Mrs. Thanos**

Virtual 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

### **Mrs. Oertel**

Substitute PE Teacher

### **Ms. C Anderson**

Substitute LRE Teacher

### **Mrs. Cartee and Ms. Belko**

ECD Speech

*From all the staff of John Wood School,  
Have a safe and restful summer!*

## Free/Reduced Lunch/Textbook Program

If you qualified for the free and reduced lunch and textbook program, the 2020-2021 applications will expire on September 29<sup>th</sup>. You can reapply for the 2021-2022 school year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

All meals for all students will remain free throughout the 2021-2022 school year; however, it is important for parents to apply and take advantage of reduced textbook fees in addition to other benefits that may be offered by state or federal programs, like P-EBT and the Broadband Benefit.

You can reapply using one of the following convenient methods:

- During the VOI process that will begin sometime in July.
- Apply online using Skyward.
- Download an application from the corporation website to complete and mail or bring to Central Office.
- Visit your school office or Central Office during office hours to obtain a form to complete.

If your children qualify for free and/or reduced lunch and textbook assistance, your family also qualifies for the new Emergency Broadband Benefit.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

There are also a number of other qualifications to receive this benefit that you can view here:

<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit> .

Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting

<https://getemergencybroadband.org> .

## May Attendance

It always gets difficult at the end of the year to get up and get to school every day, but we are so proud of all the students who made the effort. It was a month filled with learning, educational projects, and fun!

The class with the best attendance for the month of May was able to have the honor of the “Beary” trophy in their classroom for the few days we were in the building in June.

### May

Mrs. Busch – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 97.37%

Thank you to ALL the students who made the effort to attend daily during this irregular and challenging year!

## Summer Activities

Attached to this newsletter are just a few of the ways you can stay active this summer. Some will keep your body active, and some will keep your mind active. Whatever you do, make sure to read, get exercise, and HAVE FUN! Turn off those devices, get outside, and enjoy the sunshine! Read a library book under a tree or while lying on the grass in the back yard! Ride a bike! Take your dog on a walk! The best part is that there are so many things you can do that are FREE!

## Debts Paid!

Trinity Free Methodist Church under the direction of Reverend Rollie Hatfield raised \$765 to be used to pay off the student lunch debts at our school! These funds will be used to pay off all lunch debt for current active students at John Wood School. If there are any funds left, they will be used toward paying outstanding lunch debt for inactive John Wood students.

This is not the first time Trinity Free Methodist Church has assisted our students and families. The church has a very small congregation, but they have “adopted” our school and have helped when asked. Over the past few years, they have coordinated with our school social worker, Mrs. Robbins, to find out where they can help. Some of the things they have done include:

- donated new, unused underwear and socks to our nurse for when students have “accidents”.
- provided food for some of our John Wood families.
- provided Christmas for one of our larger families.

Thank you to this pastor and his congregation for their generosity! Words cannot express how grateful we are!

## Virtual Device Return at MHS

June 7-11

8:30-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Evening hours = Wednesday ONLY

3-6 p.m.

ALL traffic must enter the campus from the Broadway entrance, drive past Central Office and continue past the Freshman Center. Drop-off is at Entrance F on the back of the building.

All parents and students will stay in their vehicle for this process.

Please bring your MCSC device and charger.

If you received an MCSC Hotspot, please bring that with you also.

**PLEASE CAUTION YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT  
TRAFFIC SAFETY**

**2021 BOOK BUS SCHEDULE  
JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> – JULY 30<sup>th</sup>**

(Book Bus will not run July 5<sup>th</sup>.)

Save the schedule to your device.



**MONDAY – SALK AREA**

9:25 – 9:55 Southbrook Park - 75<sup>th</sup> & Wilson/Hendricks  
10:05 – 10:40 73<sup>rd</sup> Ct. and Bigger St.  
10:50 – 11:35 4015 W. 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.\*\*  
12:35 – 1:45 Salk Elementary  
2:00 – 2:45 Wilson St. & 79<sup>th</sup> Ave.\*\*

**TUESDAY – MILLER AREA**

9:25 – 10:00 Merrillville Intermediate School  
10:10 – 10:50 55<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln St.\*\*  
11:45 – 12:15 Emmanuel Lutheran Church – 5375 Harrison St.\*  
12:30 – 1:00 Miller Elementary – Day Care\*  
1:10 – 1:50 Pruzin Center – 57<sup>th</sup> & Harrison\*  
2:00 – 2:45 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Ellsworth Pl.

**WEDNESDAY – WOOD AREA**

9:15 – 10:00 Clifford Pierce Middle School  
10:15 – 10:55 Barrington Ridge – Tanager and Merganser  
11:05 – 11:45 Wood Elementary  
12:45 – 1:20 Green Acres - 76<sup>th</sup> Pl. & Montana St.\*\*  
1:30 – 2:05 Preserves (behind Southlake Mall)  
2:15 – 2:45 Huntington Cove Apts.

**THURSDAY – IDDINGS AREA**

9:25 – 10:00 Collins Park – 9500 Merrillville Rd.  
10:15 – 10:45 91<sup>st</sup> & Lincoln St. \*\*  
10:55 – 11:30 Sedona - 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Buchanan\*  
12:30 – 1:15 Iddings Elementary  
1:30 – 2:10 Stefek Park – 70<sup>th</sup> & Harrison  
2:20 – 2:45 Maple Leaf Apartments – 7106 Broadway\*

**FRIDAY – FIELER AREA**

9:15 – 10:10 Fieler Elementary  
10:20 – 10:50 Greater Grace Church – 269 W. 57<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 – 11:45 Regency Park Townhomes - 6078 Delaware Dr.\*\*  
12:45 – 1:15 Impact Christian Church – 7071 Broadway\*  
1:25 – 2:00 Happy Days South - 70<sup>th</sup> and Catherine\*  
2:10 - 3:00 Dean & Barbara White Community Center -6600  
Broadway\*\*

\* New Time

\*\* New Stop

**"As you plan your visit to the book bus, check to see which locations also provide breakfast/lunch to children!"**

Students will need to tell the librarian their name and ID number to checkout. Please be aware that you and your child are responsible for the books. If the books are not returned by the beginning of the school year, you will be assessed the cost of the book(s). There will be books for levels PK-12. Students may be able to do some coding on computers and listen to a book read aloud if time allows.

**Makerspace Activities**

During the first week of the book bus we will offer some makerspace activities for students to try curbside. Bee-bots, Snap Circuits, and computer coding will be available.

June 14<sup>th</sup> - Salk, 12:35 - 1:45 pm

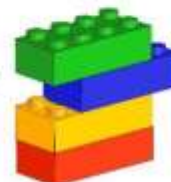
June 15<sup>th</sup> - Miller, 12:30 - 1:00 pm

June 16<sup>th</sup> - Wood, 11:05 - 11:45 am

June 17<sup>th</sup> - Iddings, 12:30 - 1:15 pm

June 18<sup>th</sup>, Fieler, 9:20 - 10:20 am

Interested in more opportunities to do makerspace activities? Stop by the MHS Freshman Center Library during summer school hours for different activities each week.



**MHS Freshman Center Library**

June 14<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:10 – 12:20 pm (Not open July 5<sup>th</sup>)



**For more information please visit  
[www.mvsc.k12.in.us/media](http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/media) or call the  
Library Media Services Office 650-5386.**

# Relax and Read!

Two summer reading programs are available this summer.



## 1. Individual Readers

Students, each time you finish a book enter the MCSC Libraries raffle to win prizes throughout the summer. There will be smaller prizes available weekly and larger prizes announced on:

Friday, June 4th

Monday, July 12th

Friday, August 13th

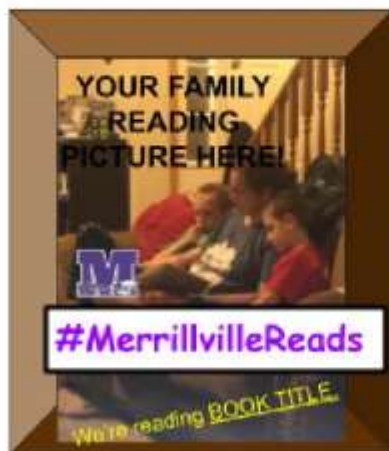


SCAN ME

Scan the QR code each time you finish a book to complete the form or go to [bit.ly/MerrillvilleReads](https://bit.ly/MerrillvilleReads).

Prizes include gift cards, Merrillville swag, Bee-bots, Snap Circuits, MHS student premium parking spots, and MORE!

## 2. Family Reading - #MerrillvilleReads



Families should post pictures reading a book together along with the book title to their social media account (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or Twitter) with the hashtag #MerrillvilleReads. Those using the hashtag in their posts will enter their Merrillville student into a drawing that will be conducted every other week for prizes.

Prizes include gift cards to Albanese, Red Robin, student passes to the climbing wall at the Dean & Barbara White Community Center & more!

# Merrillville Youth Soccer

Presents



## Friday Kick-Arounds

With Next Gen Coaches

Friday, June 4, - Friday, June 11, - Friday, June 18, - Friday, June 25

\$5 per child (plus \$3 for transaction fee) for every Friday you wish to participate



4-12 year olds 4pm-5pm  
7-12 year olds 5pm-6:30pm  
13-16 year olds



[www.nextgensoccer.us](http://www.nextgensoccer.us)

---

## Merrillville Youth Soccer Club Fall Registration

# Sunday May 30-June 19



In-House

U6 (4,5,&6) and U8 (6,7,&8)

\$65

REC+ (Travel)

U10 (8,9,&10), U12 (10,11,&12), U14 (12,13,&14)

\$95+ Uniform

<https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/merrillvilleysc>



# PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

## SUMMER MANUFACTURING



IN-PERSON  
SESSIONS!

IN-PERSON  
SESSIONS!

Summer camp programs encourage motivated students ages 12-17 to pursue an interest in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Campers will participate in fun manufacturing and business entrepreneurship activities including competitions and virtual industry tours that will provide valuable experiences to offer greater insight into STEM disciplines and careers.

### Construction of Structures and Machines

**JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday-Friday | 9a-2p | Ages 12-17**

Campers will construct a bridge while learning about construction materials, 3D design process and project budgeting, culminating in a test of strength competition.

Guest speakers & Virtual tour include Fanning Howey and DA Dodd. Camp participants will see firsthand how virtual reality is helping with installation and maintenance of plumbing, heating & cooling systems

**Camp Location:**  
2200 169<sup>th</sup> Street, Anderson 207, Hammond, IN

### Pneumatic Systems: Air Compressed Rocket

**JUNE 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday-Friday | 9a-2p | Ages 12-17**

Campers will create their own air-powered rocket, while learning about flow, power, speed and pressure. Competition includes a successful launch with the longest flying time, from start until the rocket hits the ground.

Guest speaker & Virtual tour include Bimba Manufacturing.

**Camp Location:**  
2200 169<sup>th</sup> Street, Anderson 207, Hammond, IN

### Robotics Explorer & Adventure: All GIRLS Camp

**JULY 12<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday-Friday | 9a-2p | Ages 12-17**

Female campers will work with the control and coding of industrial robots. They will also create a scenario, build a VR robot, simulate a robot performing pick and place applications, and use a VR headset to see the robot in a virtual environment.

Guest speaker & virtual tour include Southlake Automation.

**Camp Location:**  
Commercialization & Manufacturing Excellence Center, 7150 Indianapolis Blvd, Hammond, IN

**Each camp costs \$75 and includes: virtual industry tour, project materials, t-shirt and daily snack or lunch.**

To register follow the QR code below or go to [www.pnw.edu/camps](http://www.pnw.edu/camps).

Questions? Email: [tech@pnw.edu](mailto:tech@pnw.edu)



Each camp will feature an interactive entrepreneurship session presented by Shark Tank Contestant Mont Handley