

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



November 2021

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REMINDER No School

Monday, Nov. 15th
Teacher Work Day

Thursday, Nov. 18th
Parent-Teacher
Conferences

Wed-Fri, Nov. 24-26th
Thanksgiving Break

John Wood Elementary School
6100 E. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305
<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/8/home>

Principal Petralia's Page

by Mrs. Petralia

Dear John Wood Families,

The end of the first trimester is Friday, November 12th! Please make sure you regularly check your child's grades in Skyward so you are up to date on his/her progress. If you need help accessing Skyward, please contact our main office at 219-650-5305. Communication between home and school provides consistency and stability for your child. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher whenever you have a question, concern, or something great to share!

Please remember that the winter months are upon us and we continue to have outdoor recess whenever we can. It is so important for our hard working students to get out their energy by playing outside (or inside during indoor recess). Warm coats, gloves, and hats are very important during these cold days to keep everyone covered up while having fun.

Thank you again for your partnership with us and stay warm!

Mrs. Rassbach's Reflections

by Mrs. Rassbach, Dean of Students

Healthy Discipline Strategies That Work (Part 1)

Here are some positive discipline strategies that effectively teach children to manage their behavior and keep them from harm while promoting healthy development. These include:

1. **Show and tell.** Teach children right from wrong with calm words and actions. Model behaviors you would like to see in your children.
2. **Set limits.** Have clear and consistent rules your children can follow. Be sure to explain these rules in age-appropriate terms they can understand.
3. **Give consequences.** Calmly and firmly explain the consequences if they don't behave. For example, tell her that if she does not pick up her toys, you will put them away for the rest of the day. Be prepared to follow through right away. Don't give in by giving them back after a few minutes. But remember, never take away something your child truly needs, such as a meal.
4. **Hear them out.** Listening is important. Let your child finish the story before helping solve the problem. Watch for times when misbehavior has a pattern, like if your child is feeling jealous. Talk with your child about this rather than just giving consequences.
5. **Give them your attention.** The most powerful tool for effective discipline is attention—to reinforce good behaviors and discourage others. Remember, all children want their parent's attention.

**Watch in the December Newsletter for tips 6-10.
These tips were taken from Healthychildren.org.**

Good Citizens October 2021

ECD

Lorenzo Sanchez –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Multi-Grade

Zakia Bullock – Ms. Hannigan
Brayden Buckner – Mrs. Spoolstra
Kesler Cox – Mrs. Gates
Bryan Zamora – Mrs. Mansfield

Kindergarten

Elia Escobar – Mrs. Anderson
Van Malocha – Mrs. Scott
Dylan Knight – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Ashton Scott – Mrs. Pace
Gabiella Gaboyan – Miss Welsh
Allison Shooltz – Miss Wiley

2nd Grade

Louis Robb – Mrs. Carney
Jacob Ling – Ms. Foster
Brooke Baisden – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Jayden Corria – Mrs. Busch
Jayden Baker – Mrs. Cseke
Emily Cruz – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Makayla Denson – Miss Jongsma
Kaylee Shooltz – Miss Vlassopoulos

Book Rental

All book rental was due on the first day of school and is now past due. All balances remaining on your account after the end of the first trimester (Nov. 12th) have been turned over for collection.

ECD Fees - \$75
Kindergarten - \$66.13
1st Grade - \$57.81
2nd Grade - \$57.51
3rd Grade - \$59.11
4th Grade - \$64.75

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

PTO News

Our next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. We will once again be recognizing the previous month's Good Citizens. We welcome all parents/guardians to come to the meeting. This is a good way to meet other parents and also to find out about upcoming events. While we'd love to do more events, we can't without parent volunteers.

Box Tops/Coca-Cola Codes

Finding an actual box top on a product has become like finding a unicorn. Almost all box top participants have gone digital. If you do find a rare, unexpired box top, please send it in! If we receive enough to make it worthwhile (more than the cost of the stamp) we'll send them in. Otherwise, we have to depend on you.

- YOU need to download the free Box Top for Education app.
- YOU need let them know that you want John Wood School to get your credit.
- YOU need to scan your receipts within 14 days of the purchase. Without YOU, this program will end and we will lose this "free money" for our school.

Please continue to send in Coca-Cola codes. Codes can be found under the cap of most Coca-Cola products (not just Coca-Cola) and inside the tear-off flap on cases. You can also find the code on the shrink wrap on Desani water cases. These codes are a little trickier to find. If you look on the bottom, next to the UPC, you'll see a black square. The code is on the other side of that black square (on the inside of the shrink wrap).

Strack & Van Til's/ Apples for the Students

We are continuing to collect all receipts from any Strack & Van Til store. Receipts must be dated between September 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. Receipts will be turned in and we will receive points that we can use to purchase items for our school. Ask your friends

and relatives to collect them too! My kids are always on the lookout for discarded receipts on the ground in the parking lot as we are walking in and out of Strack's. We've found some pretty good receipts this way!!

Rada Cutlery

This was a popular fundraiser last year and we are bringing it back. This time, all money from this fundraiser will be earmarked for the Curt Hoffman Scholarship Fund. This is an annual \$500 scholarship awarded each spring to a graduating MHS senior who attended John Wood School. The scholarship is named after a John Wood principal who lost his battle with cancer while he was principal of our school. Unfortunately, because everything was disrupted with Covid and virtual learning, our scholarship fund is now at \$0. Our goal is to raise at least \$1000 for this fund so we have enough in the account for the next two scholarships.

Watch for a catalog to come home before Thanksgiving. Parents, friends and relatives will be able to order two different ways. You can order online and use your credit card or you can send your order to school with the payment (cash, check, or money order). You can also choose to have the order delivered to your home (for a very small fee), or your order will be delivered to the school and you will need to pick it up. **NO orders, no matter how small, will be sent home on the bus.**

Toys for Tots

We are an official Toys for Tots drop-off location. If you put a post-it or just tape a note to the toy, a "Toys for Tots Train" will be filled out with your child's name and taped in the front window (like you see them do sometimes at the grocery store). Let's fill the front window with train cars this year! Remember, they only accept **NEW**, unwrapped toys. Toys will be accepted until Thursday, December 9th.

Pop Tab Collection

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

Funds received by the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana from the recycling of tabs usually add up to between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually. All this money goes to the operating expenses 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. There's no competition, no goal, no prizes...just the gift of compassion.

Informative Notes

When writing notes to either the teacher or the office, please make sure you include the following information:

- ✓ Date note is written
- ✓ Teacher's name
- ✓ Student's name (first and last)
- ✓ Date/day you are writing about
- ✓ Reason
- ✓ Signature

Remember that "Gold Notes" are needed if a child is going anywhere other than their regular after-school destination.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Lost Clothing

As the temperatures begin to drop we would like to remind you that the students go out for recess each day, as long as conditions are favorable and the temperature and/or wind chill is at least 15°F.

Sometimes it is chilly in the morning as the children come to school, but warms up during the day. On these days it is common for the children to take off items and forget about them while they are on the playground.

We have a lost and found in the cafeteria, however we are asking you to PLEASE write your child's name inside any article of clothing that might be taken off during the day. Even if you only have a first name written on the label or tag inside the item, our aides can many times do "detective work" and find the owner.

We know that jackets and other outerwear can be expensive to replace and with a little assistance from you, we would like to make sure that these items go home with their original owner.

October Attendance

Congratulations once again to Mrs. Anderson's Kindergarten class for having the best attendance. This is the second month in a row that Mrs. Anderson's class has won! They had an attendance percentage of 96.35%. They will have the honor of keeping the "Beary" trophy as a special guest in their classroom for the next month. They also received a small treat and were recognized at a recent Pirate Power meeting.

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday

Buddy Blue Day

Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

Every Thursday

Early Dismissal

1:15 PM

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

Every Friday

Pirate Pride Day

Wear John Wood spirit wear, Merrillville spirit wear, or even just purple to show support for our school community! Everyone who wears purple will have their name in a weekly drawing. One winner will be pulled from each grade level to win a small prize.

November 13

Coats for Kids (and families)

MIS, 9 a.m. - noon

This is the second of three coat giveaways.

November 15

No School – Teacher Work Day

No school for all students. Teachers will use this day to prepare for conferences.

November 17

Picture Retakes

Photographers will be at the school to take photos of students who were absent or enrolled after Picture Day. If you need retakes, you must return the entire original package at the time of the retakes.

November 18

No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences 12:30-7:30 p.m.

No school for all students. Teachers have contacted you with a scheduled time. If you cannot come at the scheduled time, please make sure to contact the teacher ASAP. Conferences are on a tight schedule in order to get them all in on only one day. If you are late, it will not be the teacher's responsibility to fit you in. You may need to reschedule.

November 20

Final Coats for Kids (and families)

Impact Church, 9 a.m. – noon

Today is the last of three coat giveaways by this organization. If you are in need of a winter coat for any age, stop by for a donated gently used coat.

November 24-26

No School, Thanksgiving Break

Enjoy time with family and friends and remember all the things you have to be thankful for this year. School will resume on Monday, November 29th.

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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 various Northwest Indiana and Chicago television and radio stations.

Delays and closings will also be posted on the Merrillville Community School Corporation website at www.mvsc.k12.in.us.

You should also receive an automated call to your primary phone number. **Please do not go into Skyward and change your number to "unlisted" or you will not receive these important calls.**

Many factors go into the decision to have a 2-hour delay or school closing. To read an explanation about how the decision is made, go to the Merrillville Schools website listed above. Click on the "Parents" tab on the right, then "Emergency School Closing Information".

You may also choose to receive an email notification from an outside service. This site offers the opportunity to sign up for web alerts. The alerts can be provided to any email you provide.

<http://www.cancellations.com/>

Request from Playground Aides

We feel that it is important for students to have time to be able to go outside and get fresh air and have some fun each day. However, when students are not dressed appropriately for the weather, many times they end up sitting in study hall while their friends are outside playing.

Remember that students go outside for recess whenever the actual temperature and the Real Feel is at least 15°F or higher and the playground is in suitable condition.

Students need to have a warm coat, gloves/mittens, scarf, and hat/hood. If you have difficulty obtaining any of these items, feel free to contact Mrs. Robbins, our Social Worker, or Mrs. Ford, our Family and Community Engagement Specialist and one of them can assist you.

Follow our MCSC superintendent and our John Wood principal on Twitter!

Both Mr. Brown, our MCSC superintendent, and Mrs. Petralia, our John Wood principal are on Twitter!

Follow Mr. Brown at @MerrillvilleSu3.

Follow Mrs. Petralia at @PrinPetralia.

Our PTO has a Facebook page! Friend us at:

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

We try to use this page to pass along important reminders from the school and also to inform you of upcoming PTO activities.

Email Notices and Robocalls

In an effort to reduce paper usage, many reminders and notifications are emailed rather than sending home a paper copy. These may include reminders for PTO meetings, upcoming No School days, and this monthly newsletter. Please make sure that a current and correct email address is listed in Skyward so you will receive these notifications.

Occasionally we will send robocalls to the parents. We try not to overuse this tool and reserve the robocall for vital information that we feel you need to know. Please don't block the school's number or you may miss out on important information.

Coats for Kids Update

Thanks to all who were able to donate a coat during our recent coat drive. Our school was able to contribute an astounding 165 coats and retain the trophy for gathering the most coats among the Merrillville schools!

There has already been one coat distribution, but there are still two more giveaways if you are in need.

Saturday, November 13th
MIS, 1400 W 61st Ave
9 a.m. – noon

Saturday, November 20th
Impact Church, 7071 Broadway
(across from Pierce School)
9 a.m. - noon

Request from Coach Butler

As the days get colder, and snow begins to fall, many times students will wear snow boots to school or the girls may wear fashion boots. Just remember that on gym days they need to bring their gym shoes to change into. Wearing improper footwear during gym can lead to serious injuries. For that reason, if students are not wearing gym shoes, it becomes necessary for them to sit out.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Updates from the Staff

You already get regular updates in the form of notes and newsletters from your child's classroom teacher, but what about other staff members your child may see? In this section, you will get updates each trimester from various staff members in an effort to keep you informed about what is happening throughout the school.

The Art Loft

Mrs. Lattimer

For this trimester, we will keep being creative and explore other art materials. We will keep learning about other artists- from an artist who's in elementary school to Amy Sherald, who painted Michelle Obama's portrait for the Smithsonian.

It's been such a joy to have all the John Wood 1st - 4th graders in art! They always bring a kind smile along with lots of fun to the class! Let's keep thriving with our creative minds!

The Fitness Forecast

Coach Butler

Now that we are better acquainted with procedures and are well adjusted at this point of the school year, we will begin to move past our soccer unit. We will move into more of throwing and catching for K-3rd grades as well as some jump rope activities for 1st-3rd grades. We will also continue working on cooperation, sharing, and social behavior for Kindergarten. In 4th grade, we will begin practicing the basic skills of volleyball and basketball.

Through each and every grade level we will continue to work on showing respect to others and their differences and being mindful of how our words and actions affect others positively and negatively.

Please email me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

jbutler@mvs.c.k12.in.us

Notes from the Music Room

Mr. Colakovic

As we head into the second trimester of the 2021-22 school year, we are all getting used to the steady grind that is to be endured in music class: one hour each week in class with Mr. C, checking into Google Classroom weekly, a Nearpod assignment about every two weeks, opportunities to record our voice at home on the various activities assigned in Seesaw, and accessing the virtual room to find links to Pear Deck presentations that expose us to the songs we've rehearsed in class.

Some of the roadblocks that we've encountered have to do with technology. First, some of the Chromebooks have proved to carry malfunctioning microphones, therefore recording your voice in Seesaw cannot be mandatory as long as this problem remains. Secondly, for some students this fall, completing certain Nearpod assignments late may have been impossible due to a limitation of students allowed to access a particular assignment. They cap off at seventy-five. Going forward, I will be creating duplicates of the assignments to alleviate the problem, however, all assignments will expire two weeks after the initial due date, so keep an eye on Google Classroom, and try your best to adhere to the due dates when they are assigned. If you plan on being late, try to beat that two week window of opportunity. Assignments do not need to be marked as complete in Google Classroom unless they are turned in late.

I have no information about upcoming student performances, but I will use Class Dojo to make announcements should there be any. On a personal note, right around Thanksgiving, my family and I will be closing on a home that is only fifteen minutes from John Wood Elementary.

A Word from the Social Worker

Mrs. Robbins, LCSW, LSSW

So hard to believe that we are already in November. This month your children will be given a presentation regarding Anti-Bullying. It will take place the week of November 15th – 19th. They will be taught how to recognize and respond to anyone they believe may be bullying them or someone else. This is reinforced throughout the year but especially at this time.

Also, just a friendly reminder that as we enter the holiday season, please feel free to reach out if there is a need for anything such as food, clothing or any other need. I am here for not only your children but the family as a whole as well.

Have a happy and grateful Thanksgiving Holiday!

Coming in next month's newsletter!

- *November Good Citizens*
- *3rd and 4th Grade Honor Roll for the first trimester*
- *Perfect Attendance for the first trimester*

The Coaches' Corner

Ms. Copeland, Mrs. Lavelle,
Mrs. Matthews, Miss Zorich
Instructional Coaches

Literacy Corner

Here are some suggested apps for supporting young readers in the cozy month of November!

- **Comprehension**

- *Reading Comprehension Practice*
 - Blue Level (K-1),
Red Level (1-2),
Green Level (3-4)
- *Learn with Homer* (Kdg)
- *The Opposites* (3-4)

- **Vocabulary**

- *Mad Libs* (K-4)

- **Phonics**

- *The Electric Company: Wordball!* (K-4)
- *Alphabet Aquarium: Early Reading Letters Adventure* (Kdg)
- *Phonics Fun on Farm* (K-1)

- **Sight Words**

- *Photo Touch Sight Words* (K-3)

Math Corner

Grades 1-4

Take this month to work with your child on MATH FACTS. A box of addition and subtraction cards can be purchased at Walmart, Target, Dollar General, and Dollar Tree. It is important for a child to name all the ways to make a certain number. For instance, given the number 12 a child should be able to say that $12+0$, $11+1$, $10+2$, $9+3$, $8+4$, $7+5$, $6+6$ make the number 12.

For kindergarteners, please practice counting and recognizing numbers with your child.

The Book Nook

Mrs. Echols

November is surprisingly off and running extremely fast and the John Wood Library just concluded our first in-house Scholastic Book Fair. Books that were presented at the fair were introduced and read to the students.

We love our veterans. We will acknowledge our loved ones who have served and those who are presently serving to protect our country.

Thanksgiving follows next and we will be discussing "What Thanksgiving means to you". The John Wood library encourages all families to have that discussion with your child.

Veterans, thank you for your service and to everyone, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Upcoming Events

Continued from page 3

December 2

PTO Meeting

Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

Parents are invited to attend. We will be recognizing the November Citizens of the Month.

December 9

Last day for Toys for Tots donations.

December 20-December 31

Winter Holiday Break

No School. We hope everyone has a joyous holiday. We'll see you after the new year begins. School resumes on Monday, January 3, 2022.

January 3, 2022

School Resumes

Anti-Bullying Awareness Week Spirit Week

Monday, November 15th (NO SCHOOL)

Being a Friend is No Sweat!

Wear sweats

Tuesday, November 16th

Put Bullying to Bed!

Wear pajamas

Wednesday, November 17th

Wear Red and Unite Against Bullying!

Wear red

Thursday, November 18th (NO SCHOOL)

Be a Buddy!

Wear blue

Friday, November 19th

We are All on the Same Team!

Wear purple