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**No
Popcorn
Friday
on
Dec. 17th**

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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, toys for Toys for Tots, and money for Penny Wars to help make Christmas happen for a Merrillville family.. These collections could not have taken place without the help of our PTO (including Mrs. Ford, our Family and Community Engagement Specialist and several parents), 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.

When Winter Break is over, we make sure to review routines, expectations and remind ourselves of our daily jobs at John Wood. Please consider doing the same at home. Make sure your children 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. 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. Being on time to school is also important. Those minutes add up. Imagine a student being late to school every day for 10 minutes. After five days of that, they have missed almost one hour of instruction. That's almost an entire reading or math lesson. Let's make sure we get our kids to school on time so they feel set up for success.

I wish you and your family quality time during the upcoming holidays. Thank you for making 2021 great!

Mrs. Petralia

Early Dismissal

NOTE: Early dismissal is changed from:

Thursday,
December 16th to
Friday,
December 17th.

No School

December 20, 2021–
December 31, 2021

School Resumes

January 3, 2022

Mrs. Rassbach's Reflections

by Mrs. Rassbach, Dean of Students

Healthy Discipline Strategies That Work (Part 2)

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:

6. Catch them being good.

Children need to know when they do something bad--and when they do something good. Notice good behavior and point it out, praising success and good tries. Be specific (for example, "*Wow, you did a good job putting that toy away!*").

7. Know when not to respond.

As long as your child isn't doing something dangerous and gets plenty of attention for good behavior, ignoring bad behavior can be an effective way of stopping it. Ignoring bad behavior can also teach children natural consequences of their actions. For example, if your child keeps dropping her cookies on purpose, she will soon have no more cookies left to eat. If she throws and breaks her toy, she will not be able to play with it. It will not be long before she learns not to drop her cookies and to play carefully with her toys.

8. Be prepared for trouble. Plan ahead for situations when your child might have trouble behaving. Prepare them for upcoming activities and how you want them to behave.

9. Redirect bad behavior.

Sometimes children misbehave because they are bored or don't know any better. Find something else for your child to do.

10. Call a time-out. A time-out can be especially useful when a specific rule is broken. This discipline tool works best by warning children they will get a time out if they don't stop, reminding them what they did wrong in as few words—and with as little emotion—as possible, and

removing them from the situation for a pre-set length of time (1 minute per year of age is a good rule of thumb). With children who are at least 3 years old, you can try letting their children lead their own time-out instead of setting a timer. You can just say, "*Go to time out and come back when you feel ready and in control.*" This strategy, which can help the child learn and practice self-management skills, also works well for older children and teens.

These tips were taken from Healthychildren.org.

Important Info Required

It is vital that we have your current home phone number on file in our office. When we have a delay or cancellation of school due to poor weather conditions, we have an automated system that is used. This system is also used when we need to notify everyone quickly with important information. If we have an incorrect or disconnected number, you may not receive the information. You can update your phone number, along with emergency contact numbers by accessing your Skyward account or by giving this information to the office staff. Please do NOT change your phone number in Skyward to "unlisted". These numbers are kept confidential and the school needs to have the phone number in that slot to be able to contact you quickly in an emergency situation.

December Community Service: Toys for Tots

December's community service project was collecting new toys for Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots is a program founded in 1947 and run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. This group distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

The mission of the program is to "collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted." Their goal is to "deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, and patriotic citizens."

We were thrilled to be able to donate a total of EXACTLY 200 toys to Toys for Tots this year. This was a new record for us! Thank you to all who were able to donate a toy, especially a few staff members who went above and beyond by donated ten or more toys!

Tardy Drop-offs

If your child is a car-rider, the doors close promptly as the bell rings at 7:55 a.m. If you arrive after the doors are closed, you will need to pull around to Entrance A and come inside with your child to sign him/her in.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Good Citizens November 2021

ECD

Myla Price–Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Kindergarten

Jase Gray – Mrs. Anderson
Kamryn Davis – Mrs. Scott
Dean Fiste – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Mia Harper Wiley – Mrs. Pace
Ashton King – Miss Welsh
Camden Toney – Miss Wiley

2nd Grade

Marleigh Pohl – Mrs. Carney
Leila Grady – Mrs. Foster
Karter Josway – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Londyn Jackson – Mrs. Busch
Brooklynn Phillips – Mrs. Cseke
Mila Norris-Martin – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Xander Theodorakos – Miss Jongsma
Atlas Theodorakos – Miss Vlassopoulos

Multi-grade

ED

Jacob Jenkins – Mrs. Spoolstra

Title One

Mila Norris-Martin – Mrs. Gates

LRE

Karter Josway – Mrs. Mansfield

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. MVSC uses a variety of additional ways to notify parents:

- Delays and closings will be posted on the Merrillville Community School Corporation website at www.mvsc.k12.in.us.
- You will receive an automated call to the phone number you gave us as your primary number. Do not list your phone number as “unlisted” or you may not receive notices.
- You may choose to receive an email notification by registering with 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/>
- MVSC and John Wood PTO may also post this information on their Twitter and/or Facebook pages.

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 MVSC website. Click on “Parents”, then “Emergency School Closing Information.”

Recess Reminders

During the winter months, our students go outside for recess every day that the temperature or wind chill temperature is 15° or above (as long as the playground is in an acceptable condition for playing). Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather with a winter coat, boots, hat, gloves or mittens, and a scarf.

Also, the colder weather brings more requests for students to stay indoors for recess. The Merrillville Community School Elementary Handbook states that if a student needs to stay inside for more than three days, a doctor’s note is necessary.

Math Fact Goals

Students in grades 1-4 will begin participating in math fact assessments with the following as their goals:

First grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with addition and subtraction facts from 0-10.

Second grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with addition and subtraction facts from 0-20.

Third grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with multiplication facts from 0-12.

Fourth grade - 100 facts in 5 minutes with division facts from 0-12.

Once students master the goal at 98% or greater they will receive a Math Facts T-shirt.

You can greatly help your child by taking time each night to practice math facts. During commercials when watching television and while driving in the car are great times to get in some extra math fact practice.

November Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs. Carney’s 2nd grade class for having the best attendance for the month. Their November attendance was 96%! “Beary”, the attendance trophy, will move to their classroom for the month of December!

PTO News

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! We will be discussing the activities we are planning for the rest of the year.

Box Tops/Coca-Cola

Continue sending in Coca-Cola codes found under Coke product caps and inside the tear off flap on cases. We can redeem these codes for CASH!

Box tops are now digital. You will very rarely find a product that still has physical clips to turn in. For us to get credit for your box top purchases, you now need to download the Box Tops for Education app. Then, when you get home from shopping, just scan the receipt and it will automatically find the qualifying purchases and give us the credit instantly!

Strack & Van Til/ Apples for the Students

We hope you are saving every receipt you get from your grocery shopping at Strack & Van Til. Just send all your receipts in to the school. We get points for every dollar spent and will be able to use the points to purchase items for our school.

Receipts can be from ANY Strack & Van Til store. Does grandma live in East Chicago? Have her save her receipts. Cousins who live in Lowell? We'll take their receipts too! Receipts must be dated no earlier than September 1, 2021 and no later than March 31, 2022.

Rada Fundraiser

We recently concluded this fundraiser to raise money for the Curt Hoffman Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the parents and staff who ordered. Orders that were placed online will be delivered to your home. Orders that were sent in to the school will be delivered to the school after the holiday break.

Popcorn Fridays

As you know, we have begun a fun treat for the students every Friday. Every Thursday you should receive a purple ½ page note reminding you that Popcorn Friday is coming. If you would like your child to receive a bag of popcorn at lunch, you will need to return the form with .50¢ attached. No

change will be made. Anything over .50¢ will be considered a donation to the PTO. Students will only receive one bag of popcorn. All students will receive their popcorn during lunchtime. K students who do not finish their popcorn will have their bag stapled shut and they will be told that it needs to stay in their backpack until they get home. Students in grades 1-4 who don't finish their popcorn during lunch will be able to take it to recess to finish if recess is outside.

Three volunteers are needed each Friday to pop and bag the popcorn. If we do not have volunteers on Friday morning, the money will be sent back home and there will be no popcorn that day.

This Friday will be early dismissal. On early dismissal days, the students do not have recess. Because of this, and all the other activities going on the last couple of days before break, we decided not to have Popcorn Friday this week. Popcorn Fridays will resume in January.

PTO on Facebook

Make sure to "Like" us so you can see reminders for events.

You can find us at:

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

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 and send them with your child.

The Dentist is Coming to John Wood School!

We have invited the "Smile Programs...the mobile dentists" to coordinate on-site dental care at our school because we know how important taking care of your children's teeth is to keeping them healthy. Best of all, **your child can receive dental care at NO COST TO YOU**, as Medicaid, CHIP and most other insurances cover 100% of treatment.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic and infectious disease among children. In addition, kids with oral disease can suffer with pain and difficulty eating.

The dental team will set up a mini-dental office in our building and provide dental services for all children who return completed forms.

Dental services can be provided to families who need financial assistance, and there are subsidized fees for those who choose to pay for preventive care.

The Smile program has been servicing schools, and creating healthy smiles, since 1997. All dentists are state licensed and will conduct a complete dental exam.

Signing up your children to see the mobile dental team is an easy way for them to get necessary dental care. **If you want your child to see the dentist just fill out the permission slip your child brought home last week and return it to the school ASAP.** The dentist and his/her crew will be in our building on Wednesday, January 5th.

You can learn more about "Smile Programs...the mobile dentists" by going to www.mobiledentists.com and watching the short video about the dental care program.

Honor Roll 1st Trimester 2021-2022

3rd Grade

A Honor Roll

Rylan Dworak
Isaiah Watson

A/B Honor Roll

Jaxx Anoman
Andwele Cook
Brody Finnearty
Stella Finnearty
Dushica Janakievaska
Kaelyn Kitchens
Mason Russell
Isabel Whittinghill
Mariah Williams

4th Grade

A/B Honor Roll

Amy Avila
Antoni Babel
Aylin Gomez
Bailey Larson
Tori Muiser
Kaylee Shooltz
Atlas Theodorakos

Penny War!

The student council, with help from the PTO, recently held a Penny War! Students were encouraged to bring in coins (and bills) to donate.

Students and staff donated a total of \$950. With this money, the student council was able to sponsor three families for the holiday season. The top class(es) who brought in the most money earned a 15 minute recess.

1st Place (tie)

Extra Recess

Mrs. Pace (1st grade)
Mrs. Carney (2nd grade)

2nd Place (tie)

Miss Kati (ECD)
Miss Trisha (ECD)

3rd Place

Miss Wiley (1st grade)

Perfect Attendance 1st Trimester 2021-2022

The following students were present at school every day of the first trimester and had zero tardies!

Kindergarten

Araceli Gutierrez
Xavier Boone
Dean Fiste

1st Grade

Adalaide Colakovic
Gabriella Gaboyan
Londyn Harvey
Twyla Rearick
Dominic Richard
Kenyon Ross
Myla Smoot
Camden Toney
Xavier Wiley

2nd Grade

Tremaine Brandon
Amelia Dulla
Londyn Hill
Arianna Hughes
Cain Martinez

3rd Grade

Kamarion Flakes

4th Grade

Amy Avila
Savannah Cabrera
Kimora Flakes
Travis Smith

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday

Buddy Blue Day

Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

Every Thursday

Early Dismissal

1:15 p.m.

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

Every Friday

Popcorn Friday

Students who bring .50¢ will receive a bag of freshly popped popcorn during lunch.

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.

December 16

NO EARLY DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed at the regular 2:15 dismissal time.

December 17

Early Dismissal – 1:15 p.m.

NOTE: THIS IS A FRIDAY!

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

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.

January 3, 2022

School Resumes

January 5

Visiting Dentist

The mobile dentist program will be visiting our school. See the article on page four for more information. If you are interested, please send in the completed form ASAP.

January 14

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 17

Dr. King's Birthday

No School

There will be no school today in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

February 3

PTO Meeting

6:00 p.m., Cafeteria

Students of the Month for December and January will be recognized.

February 18-21

Winter Break/President's Day

No School



Elementary Behavior Matrix

	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE SAFE
All settings (in and out of school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inside voices • Be courteous to all people in the building • Avoid any unnecessary contact with other people and their belongings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to practice social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid physical contact • Walk to the right side of the halls • Take all emergency situations seriously • Wear face mask/shield is strongly recommended • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Wash/sanitize hand • Wash cloth face mask two to three times per week
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the building turn off and store all electronic devices and phones in your backpack • Keep your hands, feet and objects to self • If it does not belong to you, do not touch it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to designated areas on time • Remain seated in assigned area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing a face mask/shield at all times is strongly recommended • Stay in assigned seat on bus • Wash/sanitize hands
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not share your cubbie/locker spaces with others • Handshakes and hugs may spread the bugs. Use non-contact greetings instead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain recommended distance between you and other students in front and behind you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk on right side of hall • Wear face mask/shield at all times • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Wash/sanitize hands
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait to be acknowledged • Follow directions given by the adult in charge • If it does not belong to you, do not touch it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay on task and participate • Be prepared to learn • Remain in your assigned space and ask for permission before getting out of your seat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions • Sit in assigned areas • Wearing face mask/shield at all designated times is strongly recommended • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Practice good hygiene by washing and sanitizing hands • Do not share school supplies with others
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the restroom for the purpose intended • Honor the privacy of others • Use supplies correctly • Avoid social gatherings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the restroom during the designated times • If restroom is full wait to go in • Only 2 or 3 at a time in the restroom depending on size of restroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands with soap and water • Keep the restroom clean • Use hand sanitizer before and after entering bathroom • Wearing a face mask/shields is strongly recommended • Keep hands, feet and objects to self
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk and move carefully • Clean eating area • Dispose of throw away bowls and trays in garbage • If it does not belong to you, do not touch it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice good table and line manners • Follow cafeteria supervisor's directions • Wait your turn in line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain seated • Ask permissions before leaving the cafeteria • Put face mask/shield in a safe place and put on after eating • Do not share food • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Practice good hygiene by washing and sanitizing your hands
Media Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat media materials with care • If it does not belong to you, do not touch it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return materials promptly or on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use school approved computer programs and websites • Wait your turn • Wearing a face mask/shield is strongly recommended at all times • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Practice good hygiene by washing and sanitizing your hands
Recess/Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain in designated play area • Wait your turn • Be a good sport if you win or lose • Use appropriate language • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Sanitizing your hands going to and from recess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress for the weather • Stop when you hear the whistle and line up right away in a single-file line • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Remain in designated play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play safely by the rules of the game/activity • Wait your turn • Remain in your designated play area • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Sanitize your hands going to and from recess
Car Rider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use quiet /inside voice • Follow all directions • Sit in designated spot • Keep hands, feet and objects to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen for your name or number • Take your things with you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain seated in designated spot • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Walk to your car

If you have COVID symptoms- STAY HOME

Merrillville Approved Healthy Birthday/Snack List 2021/2022



<u>Individually Wrapped Snacks</u>	Yogurt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baked Potato Chips or Baked Tortilla Chips ● Cereal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cheerios ■ Frosted Mini Wheats ■ Grape-Nuts Cereal ■ Raisin Bran ■ Wheaties Cereal ● Cheese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduced Fat Borden or Sargento Light Mozzarella string cheese ■ Frigo Light Cheese Heads ■ Kraft Twist-Ums ■ Laughing Cow ● Crackers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pepperidge Farm Goldfish made with Whole Grain ■ Triscuit Crackers ● Fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dried ■ Fresh ■ Canned ● Granola Bars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature Valley Crunchy Granola Bar ■ Quaker Chewy Granola Bar ● Nature Valley Chewy Trail Mix Bar ● Popcorn ● Pretzels ● Pudding ● Ranch Dip to go with veggies ● Rice Cakes ● Vegetables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fresh ■ Canned ■ With Salad Dressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stonyfield ■ Dannon ■ Horizon ■ Go-Gurt by Yoplait ■ Danimals Drinkable Low-Fat Yogurt <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> </div> <p><u>Birthday Treats available through our Merrillville Community School Food Service Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cookie, individually packaged (.75 each)* ● Cupcake, individually packaged (1.00 each)* ● Brownie, individually packaged (.85 each)* ● Ice cream, individual cups (1.00 each) ● Rice Krispie Treat, individually packaged (.75 each)* ● Milk, cartons (.40 each) <p>To order treats, please complete the order form on the Merrillville Food Service Webpage. Orders must be placed one week in advance and they will be delivered to the classroom by Food Service Personnel. All treats must in paid in full through Skyward Family Access prior to delivery.</p> <p>*based on availability</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;">Resource used to create this list: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/Resources/TN/healthyschoolsnacks.pdf</p>