

April 2022

### Inside this Issue

<b>1</b>	Principal Petralia's Page Reminder
<b>2</b>	Mrs. Rassbach's Reflections A Word from the Social Worker FACES The Coaches' Corner
<b>3</b>	PTO News Bus Drivers Needed Good Citizens – March 2022 Lost and Found Kindergarten Pre-registration Girls on the Run
<b>4</b>	March Attendance Curt Hoffman Scholarship Reminder Proper Footwear for Spring Tardies Upcoming Events
<b>5</b>	Small Card, BIG Results Pop Tab Collection Social Media Upcoming Events – continued

No School

Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

Good Friday

E-learning Day

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

# The John Wood Parent Newsletter



## Principal Petralia's Page by Mrs. Petralia

Dear Families,

March and April are exciting months in an elementary school. After weeks (sometimes months) of indoor recess, the weather warms up and our students are able to get back outside to play. Please keep this in mind when preparing your child for school each morning. We ask that students not wear sandals or flip flops to school. Also, shorts, skirts, and dresses must be below finger length. Shirts that are sheer and expose the midriff are not permitted.

In person ILEARN testing will begin Monday, April 19 and will go through May 14. Please be sure that your child is getting adequate sleep and has breakfast each morning. We want to be sure that we are doing our best on the test.

Happy Spring!!

John Wood Elementary School  
6100 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
(219) 650-5305  
[www.mvsc.k12.in.us/wood](http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/wood)

# Mrs. Rassbach's Reflections

Mrs. Rassbach, Dean of Students

## April showers bring May flowers- but it's also State Testing time!!

Students in grades 3 and 4 will be taking the ILEARN assessments starting the week of April 18, 2022. A good night's rest is one great way to start off the day for taking the test. A list below is some test taking strategies for students when they take the test. Good luck to the students on the ILEARN assessment. We know you will do your best because John Wood is the best of schools!

### Top Test-Taking Strategies to Teach Your Students

- #1 – Underline key words in the question.
- #2 – Eliminate incorrect answers.
- #3 – Read the questions before the passage.
- #4 – Practice scoring open-ended responses.
- #5 – Make practicing fun.
- Prepare Your Students for State Testing.

## A Word from the Social Worker

Mrs. Robbins, LSSW, LCSW

Hello John Wood Families! Hard to believe we are already in April. This month is Child Abuse Awareness month and your children will be given a presentation about Child Abuse Awareness.

The presentations are completed through the Child Safety Matters program for grades 1st-4th. Each presentation is geared to reach the students, age appropriately. The kindergartners will be given a presentation on Good Touch Bad Touch by a registered nurse.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

## FACES

Mrs. Ooms, Family and Community Engagement Specialist

### Adopt-a-cop

This month we welcome our Merrillville Police Officer, Terrance Bronowski, as part of the Adopt-a-Cop Program. Officer Terry will visit classrooms to read with students, participate in some special area classes like P.E., and join each grade level for lunch or recess at least once.

I have heard from many students that they are looking forward to seeing Officer Terry around the school. It might be beneficial to talk to your child(ren) about their thoughts and feelings towards police officers. They may have questions about law enforcement, based on what they have seen online or in the media.

We are very excited to be hosting the Adopt-a-Cop Program, and hope that it can benefit our students and community, now and in the future.

## The Coaches' Corner

### 7 Quick Ways to Help Your Child With Reading

1. **TURN ON THE SUBTITLES** - Research shows that this can help boost teaching, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary.
2. **FIND A COZY SPOT TO READ** - Set up a cozy spot in your home to read.
3. **BE READY TO READ**- Have books around the house or car to read when there is a few extra minutes.
4. **START COOKING TOGETHER** - Reading the recipes and following directions is a great way to build the skills.

5. **X MARKS THE SPOT** - Make a treasure map with clues that your child has to read to find the treasure.
6. **EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY**- Find enjoyable eBooks, magazines, and comics your child enjoys to read.
7. **TAKE A TRIP INTO TOWN** - Shop at a local bookshop or visit the library for new books.

### 7 Quick Ways to Help Your Child With Math

1. **FAMILY GAME NIGHT** - Find board games and build development skills. Games such as Yahtzee, Connect Four, puzzles, card games, Candyland, and so many more..
2. **CALENDAR PLANNING** - Talk about the calendar and upcoming events such as birthdays, fun events, games, or specific holidays.
3. **COIN COUNTING** - Practice using coins by playing store and allowing your child to be the cashier.
4. **TIME KEEPER** - Allow your child to be the one who keeps track of the time on the analog clock. Then when the time comes around they can inform you and your family to help keep everyone on track.
5. **SHAPES** - While driving in the car, go on a shape scavenger hunt. Have your child locate different shapes and tell you the attributes of those shapes.
6. **FRACTIONS FUN** - Buy a candy bar to share or a pizza for dinner and divide it into pieces. Then have different discussions about the pieces or parts.
7. **MEASURING PARTS** - Need to know the length of something, have your child practice their skills with a ruler. Allow them to use a ruler to measure using inches and centimeters.

## PTO News

Our next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will recognize the April Good Citizens and discuss plans for the conclusion of the school year.

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

This program has ended and receipts have been mailed in. This year we collected a total of almost \$45,000 in receipts. Once we have an official total from the company, we will be able to go "shopping" for items for the school.

Thanks to all who participated in this year-long program!

### Coca-Cola Codes

Continue sending in Coca-Cola codes. Codes are a 14-digit code found under the cap of most Coca-Cola products. They can also be found inside the tear-off corner of cases and inside the bottom of the shrink wrap on Dasani Water cases.

### Box Tops for Education

Please download the free Box Tops for Education app. Once you create an account and name our PTO as the organization you want the credit to go to, all you have to do is scan your receipts (within 14 days) and our school will immediately receive credit for any Box Top items on your receipt.

### Upcoming Events

Watch for more information to come home about these upcoming events.

### Movie Night

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.

### End-of-Year Cookout

Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

## Bus Drivers Needed

The Merrillville Community School Corporation is looking for bus drivers! Will pay to train! Interested? Contact the Transportation Department at 219-650-5311.

## Good Citizens March 2022

### ECD

Cashmere Jones –  
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

### Multi-Grade

Adam Babel – Mrs. Gates  
Stella Finnearty – Mrs. Mansfield

### Kindergarten

Aiden Davis – Mrs. Anderson  
Maribelle Flores – Mrs. Scott  
Damian Johnson – Mrs. Shalla

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

Stephen Dunn – Mrs. Pace  
O'lana Patterson – Miss Welsh  
Twyla Rearick – Miss Wiley

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

Thaya Nunn – Mrs. Carney  
Jennalyn Roop – Ms. Foster  
Cailin Stewart – Mrs. Marshall

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

Lilliana Arellano – Mrs. Busch  
Kamarion Flakes – Mrs. Cseke  
Tanyah Penman – Mrs. Mahy

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

Montego Jackson – Miss Jongsma  
Mannix Gannaban –  
Miss Vlassopoulos

### Winner of Chick-fil-A Family Meal

Tanyah Penman

## Lost & Found

Is your child missing a scarf, mitten, or maybe a favorite sweatshirt?? Remind them to stop by the lost & found table in the cafeteria to look for anything that looks familiar. Remember that labeling items that might be taken off during the day is the best way to make sure it comes home. All unclaimed clothing items will be donated to charity at the end of the school year.

## 2022-2023 Kindergarten Pre-registration

Pre-registration is now open for 2022-2023 kindergarten students! Children who will be five on or before August 1, 2022 (birthdate of August 1, 2017 or earlier) are eligible for the 2022-23 school year. Below is the MCSC link with more information:

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

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might qualify.

## Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run have started their spring training. GOTR inspires girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one-of-a-kind. Coaches lead small teams through a research-based curriculum which includes dynamic discussions, activities and running games. Over the course of the ten-week program, the girls develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness.

The program culminates with girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event.

Part of the girls' lessons includes them doing a community service project. Watch for a flyer to come home soon with more information about this.

## March Attendance

As we continue to encourage good attendance, we would like to recognize the class with the best attendance for the month of March.

### March

Miss Vlassopoulos – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade –  
97.58%

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

## Curt Hoffman Scholarship

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

All applications now need to be submitted in Google Forms. Letters of recommendation must also be submitted digitally. The link for the Curt Hoffman Scholarship is:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Ztq2bJATt0LT4CkKTx\\_YLRvs3Xxm2kN7v5zU10dpfQWlpA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Ztq2bJATt0LT4CkKTx_YLRvs3Xxm2kN7v5zU10dpfQWlpA/viewform). The deadline to submit both the completed form and the letters of recommendation is April 29, 2022.

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

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

## Reminder

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call and let the school office know why a child is not in school. Make sure you call 650-5305 then press 2 before 9 a.m. if your child will not be in school.

## Proper Footwear for Spring

Flip flops, sandals, open-toed, and backless shoes will not be allowed on the playground equipment. These shoes do not give the students the protection they need to play on the equipment/playground area nor are they safe for running. They can easily cause injury due to tripping, open toes, etc., and many times flip flops and sandals break easily. For the safety of all our students, we are asking that other shoes be worn outside during recess.

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

If your child does wear flip flops/open shoes to school, he/she will go outside for some fresh air but will not participate in playground activities. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Tardies

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.

If your child rides a bus, the student will NOT be marked tardy if the bus is late.

## 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

#### **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.

### April 14

#### **Movie Night**

6:00 p.m.

Join us in watching the movie “Sing 2”.

The movie is free. Snacks will be available for purchase.

### April 15

#### **Good Friday**

No school for all students

### April 18-May 13

#### **ILEARN Testing Window**

Students in grades three and four will be taking the ILEARN tests. Please assist your child by making sure they get a good night’s sleep and have a nourishing breakfast.

### April 19

#### **Major Saver Ends**

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

### April 20

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Program**

6:00 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room

2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will perform for family and friends.

### April 21

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program**

6:00 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will perform for family and friends.

### April 22

#### **Earth Day**

What can YOU do to make a difference?

### April 22

#### **End of 5<sup>th</sup> Grading Period**

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

Continued on page 5

# Small Card, BIG Results

## 2022 Merrillville Education Foundation Major Saver Campaign

The Merrillville Education Foundation is excited to be offering Major Saver cards for sale through the Merrillville schools. These \$10 cards are "Buy One, Get One" offers for many local restaurants. Students will receive the sales packets starting **Tuesday, April 5, 2022**. The sale will last approximately two weeks. Proceeds from the sale of Major Saver cards directly support all the schools and the activities of the Merrillville Education Foundation. **All the money generated from this fundraiser goes back to the children.** In this way John Wood School can fund innovative and creative projects in the classroom and school and allow students to have broad educational experiences.

**From 2002-2021 since the Merrillville Education Foundation started, John Wood School has been awarded \$44,951.07 in teacher grants and Major Saver fundraising.**

Major Saver cards can be purchased via cash, check or online at [www.majorsaver.com](http://www.majorsaver.com) for \$10 each. The online sale can be credited back to a particular student and school. All cards purchased online will be **mailed** directly to the customer.

Administrators, Teachers, and MCSC Employees can also purchase cards to support this initiative.

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

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

Major Saver stresses safe selling and discourages door to door campaigning. The company encourages students to sell to family members, church patrons, neighbors, or other adults the family may know; and to always make sure their parents are involved.

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

Thank you for your continued support! Be ready for the Major Saver 2022 card coming soon!

## Pop Tab Collection

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

All money generated by this collection goes to the operating expenses of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana and can cover the cost of operating three rooms in the House for an entire year.

Simply remove the pop tab from aluminum cans and put them in your favorite collection container. When you are ready to send them to school, just put them in a Ziploc-type bag and send them with your child.

## Upcoming Events

Continued from page 4

**May 2-6**

### **Teacher Appreciation Week**

This is the week that we show our teachers how much they are appreciated for the important job that they do.

**May 3**

### **E-learning Day**

No students will be in the building. This is a built in e-learning day that was on the calendar that was sent home at the beginning of the school year.

**May 14**

### **GOTR 5K Run**

Our Girls on the Run team will be participating with other area schools in a 5K run. Let's cheer these girls on!

**May 16-27**

### **IReady Testing Window**

All students in grades K-4 will participate in this testing.

**May 20**

### **End of year Cookout**

Watch for more info to come home about this new event as we get closer to this date.

**May 30**

### **Memorial Day**

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

**June 3**

### **End of 6<sup>th</sup> grading period, 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester**

This is also the last day of school for all students.

## Social Media

Did you know that our John Wood PTO has a Facebook page? They try to keep this page updated with reminders of things that are happening at John Wood School.

[www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto](http://www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto)

You can also follow our principal, Mrs. Petralia, and our MCSC superintendent, Mr. Brown, on Twitter!

Mrs. Petralia's Twitter  
@PrinPetralia

Mr. Brown's Twitter  
@MerrillvilleSu3