

May 2022

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## 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.

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

# The John Wood Parent Newsletter



## Principal Petralia's Page

Mrs. Petralia

(Principal Petralia's Page has been relinquished to the MCSC administration this month in order to pass along this important information.)

Merrillville Community School Corporation (MCSC) administration strives to maintain emotionally healthy learning environments, so children can feel safe and achieve their highest potential.

We have established and continue to practice a multi-layered approach to support these efforts and prevent adverse behaviors such as bullying in our schools. We want to take this opportunity to remind parents of some of the ways our staff and teachers work tirelessly to prevent bullying:

- Students, parents, and community members have 24-hour access to a website form and phone hotline, 219-650-5499, to report bullying and other safety incidents that could include physical or verbal abuse; and social, electronic or written harassment.
- All staff and students receive anti-bullying education annually.
- We employ social workers at each building to work with students, staff and families to support healthy living and decision making.
- This school year MCSC added additional school social workers to buildings, and created a new position for each building titled Family and Community Engagement Specialists (F.A.C.E.S.). These are positions in every school to interact with students and families in supporting success at school.
- MCSC has also added Deans at some schools to help identify and address behaviors that are problematic, including actions that would be considered bullying.
- All schools participate in Anti-Bullying Week in November, with projects and activities.
- Additional programs are ingrained into the fabric of our learning environments to encourage healthy and productive decision-making and social engagement, a deterrent to bullying. These programs include:
  - Restorative Practices (Restorative Circles) to build, strengthen, and restore relationships through equal opportunity sharing and listening.
  - PBIS (Positive Behaviors, Interventions and Supports), a system that recognizes and rewards students for meeting behavior expectations.
  - Trauma and the Brain Education (self-regulation techniques) to help students learn to self-manage their emotions.
  - Virtues (Character Education) to develop confident and compassionate students.
  - PATHS SEL Curriculum, evidence-based social and emotional learning programs that support students' mental health and wellness, and cultivate safer and more positive learning environments.

If you would like to learn more about any of these programs and how they work, please contact your school's principal.

# Mrs. Rassbach's Reflections

Mrs. Rassbach, Dean of Students

It's pretty scary to know how quickly time flies. It doesn't seem to be real that May is already here and the end of the school year is quickly approaching. I felt as though I was the new Dean standing in the hallways greeting the students and not knowing anyone's names. Where now I receive daily hugs and high fives!

Well, as an educator it is important to me for students to continue to learn over the summer. They have worked so hard this year to learn so many new things. Let's keep that going.

Have you heard of the "summer slide"? Unfortunately, it's not the fun kind of slide you'll find at a water park or playground. This slide is different. It's a slide that no mom wants her child to ride. The summer slide is a decline in reading ability and other academic skills that can occur over the summer months when school isn't in session.

I found this great resource for you to download for your students to help with continuing to learn over the summer.

<https://info.allaboutlearningpress.com/Summer-Slide>

I hope all of you have a great summer and take time out to read and do activities to support your learning.

## 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.

# PTO News

We are going to have one last PTO meeting to end the 2021-2022 school year!!! All parents are invited to attend Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will be honoring our Good Citizens for the month of May and discussing plans for next year. If you are thinking about getting involved with the PTO next year, this will be a great opportunity to get more information.

## Box Tops/Coke Codes

All box top products are now digital. The only way for us to get credit is for you to download the free app and scan your receipts.

Check the website at [www.boxtop4education.com](http://www.boxtop4education.com) to see a complete list of participating products. You might be surprised to see some new brands!

We've done a great job of collecting Coke codes this year. One recent donation alone netted us over \$50!! Keep saving those codes during the summer so you can send them in when school resumes in August.

A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Fiste, who took over the task this year of submitting each of those codes!

## Movie Night

We were so excited to recently host our first post-COVID event! The movie, *Sing 2* was shown in the gym and popcorn, chips, water, and juice was sold. We had so much fun that our concession ran out of snacks! Special thanks to Mr. C who ran out for more bottled water and to Mrs. Martinez, who popped popcorn throughout almost the entire movie! We were able to bring in about \$500 from the sale of our snacks!

## Cookout

A couple of weeks ago, you should have received a colorful flyer about the upcoming PTO Cookout on May 20<sup>th</sup>. "Old-timers" will remember the annual Fun Fair we used to have before COVID. This will be similar

with games, prizes, an inflatable slide, and concessions.

We are in desperate need of volunteers for this event. If we do not have volunteers, some activities may need to be eliminated! Don't let that happen! If you are interested in helping out, you can send a note to your child's teacher or you can contact Mrs. Ooms at [nooms@mvsx.k12.in.us](mailto:nooms@mvsx.k12.in.us).

## Plans for Next Year

Our PTO is already starting to make plans for the 2022-2023 school year. Some of these include a back-to-school event and open gym nights, and bringing back old favorites like the VIP event (Grandparents' Day), a dance party, and BINGO! Fundraisers we are planning include the Fall Catalog sale, Restaurant Nights, and maybe a Fall Mum Sale!

Want to find out more and be a part of the decision-making process? Come to our next PTO meeting on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>!

## 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.

## 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. Foster – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 96.83%

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

## Memo from the Nurse

Any medication in the nurse's office must be picked up by an adult by June 6, 2022. Medication remaining in the office at the end of the day will be safely discarded. Also, medical updates will go home soon for the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 219-756-5745. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a great summer!

## Good Citizens April 2022

### Multi-Grade

Ayden Thomas – Mrs. Gates  
Alaysia Parker – Mrs. Mansfield  
Jayden Washington – Ms. Hannigan  
Destany Kelley – Mrs. Spoolstra

### ECD

Grayson Dumas – Miss Kati

### Kindergarten

Lucila Lagunas – Mrs. Anderson  
Xavier Boone – Mrs. Scott  
Jazelle Blevins – Mrs. Shalla

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

Cynthia Cruz – Mrs. Pace  
A'Kerah Powell – Miss Welsh  
Koralynn Gerstner – Miss Wiley

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

Arianna Hughes – Mrs. Carney  
Emma Fitzgerald – Ms. Foster  
Ava Jackson – Mrs. Marshall

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

Dani Hart – Mrs. Busch  
Mariah Williams – Mrs. Cseke  
Keiridon Mays – Mrs. Mahy

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

Tori Muiser – Miss Jongsma  
Savannah Cabrera –  
Miss Vlassopoulos

## 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

### 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 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 14

#### ***GOTR***

Girls on the Run will be participating in a 5K event at Highland High School today. GO GIRLS!

### May 16-27

#### ***i-Ready Testing Window***

All students will be taking i-Ready testing this week. Please make sure students get a good night's sleep and arrive at school on time!

### May 20

#### ***PTO Cookout, 5:00-8:00 p.m.***

See the article on page two for more information. Remember, we are still in need of volunteers to make this event successful!

### May 24

#### ***Field Day and "Shiver Me Timbers" Ice Cream Party***

Students will participate in a variety of activities today, then will receive an ice cream treat after their lunch. Thank you to the PTO for paying for this special treat.

### May 27

#### ***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 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 country.

### June 2

#### ***PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m.***

Join us for this last PTO meeting of the school year as we honor the final Good Citizens and discuss plans for the 2022-2023 school year.

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## Last Days of School

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of the school year. This has been the first year that our kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> graders, and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have had a full year in the physical classroom. For all students, but especially these students, it's been a year of learning new things well 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. 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.

## 2022-2023 Reenrollment

Watch for information in the June Parent Newsletter about reenrolling your child for the 2022-2023 school year.

There will also be an email from the corporation in July with instructions. Please go into Skyward and make sure that the email address we have on record is correct so that you will be sure to receive important information during the summer.

## Reminder from the Social Worker

Mrs. Robbins, LCSW, LSSW

Happy May, John Wood families!

The end of the school year is approaching rapidly. I am reaching out to ensure that if there are families with needs that I can assist with, I would be more than happy to do what I can to meet these needs. I can begin looking into whatever resources are available.

There are many resources available in the Merrillville community and many are posted on the Merrillville Community School District website. If there is something that you feel may be a concern or a need over the summer, please reach out to me and let me know so I can begin assisting. You can always reach out to me via email at [drobbins@mvschools.org](mailto:drobbins@mvschools.org) or via phone 219-650-5303 x 6545.

## 2022-2023 Kindergarten Preregistration

Online kindergarten preregistration continues through May 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents with children who will be 5 years old on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> can preregister by visiting the corporation website at [www.mvschools.org](http://www.mvschools.org) and entering the requested information. Once you preregister online, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment to come in and complete the registration process.

In order to attend a Merrillville school, families must live within the boundaries of Ross Township, which includes portions of Hobart and Crown Point.

Feel free to pass this information on to friends and/or neighbors who need this.

## 2022-2023 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 29<sup>th</sup>! Go online to: [www.educationalproducts.com/shop/packs](http://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!

## Social Media

### Twitter

**MCSC Superintendent**  
**Mr. Nick Brown**  
@MerrillvilleSu3

**John Wood Principal**  
**Mrs. Alison Petralia**  
@PrinPetralia

### Facebook

**Merrillville Community  
School Corporation**  
[www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/](http://www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/)

**John Wood PTO**  
[www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto](http://www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto)

# 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.

Dean Fiste  
Mia Harper-Wiley  
Kaelyn Kitchens  
Myah Luskey  
Ruben Martinez  
Zoey Moreland

## Summer Feeding Program

As the world moves further away from the pandemic, many things are shifting back to pre-COVID procedures. One of these changes is that summer meals will no longer be "grab and go". Meals will once again be limited to only children 18 and under and **must be eaten on the premises.**

### Dates

June 8 – August 10 (no meals served on June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Times

Breakfast – 9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Lunch – noon-1:00 p.m.

### Locations

Merrillville High School, 276 E. 68<sup>th</sup> PL (Door I)  
Pierce Middle School, 199 E 70<sup>th</sup> ST (west of Door 3)  
Fieler Elementary School, 407 W 61<sup>st</sup> AV (Door C)  
Salk Elementary School, 3001 W 77<sup>th</sup> AV (Door B)  
Miller Elementary School, 5901 Waite ST  
Stefek Park, 70<sup>th</sup> & Harrison ST  
Collins Park, 9500 Merrillville RD

### Mobile Bus Stops – Lunch Only

11:00-11:20 a.m. – Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 5375 Harrison ST (parking lot)  
11:40-11:50 a.m. – 73<sup>rd</sup> & Bigger ST (along curb)  
noon-12:20 p.m. – ReThink Church, 2920 W 73<sup>rd</sup> AV (parking lot)

## Upcoming Events – Cont.

Continued from page 3

### **June 6**

#### ***End of Third Trimester***

Report cards will be available in Skyward next week.

### **June 6**

#### ***Last Day of School***

Please remember that this day has been added due to the recent power outage.

### **August 16 TENTATIVE DATE**

#### ***Meet the Teacher Night***

The Meet the Teacher Night is tentatively set in August. Watch your emails in August to confirm this event.

### **August 17**

#### ***First Day of School***

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

## MIS PTO

Fourth grade parents who will have a child attending MIS next year are invited to attend the MIS PTO meeting on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the MIS cafeteria. A flyer with more information will be coming home with your student as we get closer to this date.

## 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  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance  
...and more!



# PTO wants YOU!!

## What is the PTO Parent-Teacher Organization?

*Our schools' PTOs are parents, teachers and staff coming together to play an active role in our children's educational experiences.*

There are opportunities to participate at every level of our schools' PTOs:

- Take a primary role as an officer such as president, vice president, recording secretary, communications secretary and treasurer;
- Lead or participate in a standing committee.
- Find an engagement level that best suits your talents and time.

The advantages of being a part of PTO include:

- Know what's happening in your schools
- A path to suggest change
- Meet other parents
- Get to know teachers and school staff
- Grow as a volunteer, using your skills and talents to support building improvements through fundraising, programs, social and family events
- And most of all, be a role model for your child.



**PTOs enhance the school environments and learning experiences for children, helping to provide that foundation for students to grow and thrive.**

**The PTO is a team effort in which we cannot succeed without you!**

**If you haven't been involved in the PTO, it's never too late to start. Simply contact the school that your child attends to get more information.**

**Pledge to make the 2022-23 school year YOUR year to be more involved and make a difference in your child's life as well as hundreds of others attending Merrillville schools.**



QUANTILE

# SUMMER MATH CHALLENGE

“ The Summer Math Challenge enriches and improves my child’s math skills in a way that is fun and exciting for him. ”

— Summer Math Challenge parent

## Help your child practice grade-level math skills with this free program!

Join the thousands who have used the *Quantile*® Summer Math Challenge to keep math skills sharp. The six-week online math program for students in grades 1-8 can help prevent summer learning loss, which research estimates can be about a third<sup>1</sup> of what was learned in the previous school year.

### Here are just a few of the benefits:

With the Summer Math Challenge, your child can:

- Engage in mathematics at their ability level and stay motivated with weekly badges.
- Strengthen their understanding of math topics that are aligned with state math standards.
- Access a variety of learning activities such as math games, videos and worksheets.
- Receive real-time feedback on weekly, online quizzes.

### Sign up for the Summer Math Challenge

The Summer Math Challenge is available in the *Lexile*® & *Quantile*® Hub, an online platform with free reading and math tools.

Sign up today at:

[hub.lexile.com/smc](https://hub.lexile.com/smc)

<sup>1</sup> Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., & Greathouse, S. (1996). The effects of summer vacation on achievement test scores: A narrative and meta-analytic review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66(3), 227-268.



# Summer Math Challenge: Here's how it works!

- 1 Register your child at: [hub.lexile.com/smc](https://hub.lexile.com/smc).
- 2 Practice math with fun learning activities and resources that are aligned to your child's grade and ability level. Resources are from the most trusted content developers like Khan Academy, ABCya, IXL Learning and more.

LEXILE & QUANTILE TOOLS My Account

QUANTILE SUMMER MATH CHALLENGE Select a Student  
Evelyn Add/Edit Student

Welcome to the Summer Math Challenge! Help your student practice grade-level math skills and concepts with this free six-week program. You'll get access to daily fun activities and resources designed for your student's grade and ability level.

The 2022 Summer Math Challenge will begin on Monday, June 20th.

Click the **Add/Edit Student** button to enroll your student. You will receive a reminder before the challenge begins.

### SUMMER OVERVIEW

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
WEEK 1 NUMBERS TO 100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WEEK 2 NAMING NUMBERS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WEEK 3 ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION	✓	✓	⚡	⚡	⚡
WEEK 4 ADDING AND SUBTRACTING WITHOUT REGROUPING	⚡	⚡	⚡	⚡	⚡
WEEK 5 GRAPHING	⚡	⚡	⚡	⚡	⚡
WEEK 6 LET'S MEASURE	⚡	⚡	⚡	⚡	⚡

3 Track your child's progress online.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Download Certificate

4 Celebrate with weekly badges.

5 Share a certificate of completion with your child's teacher so they can see what your child practiced.



## For More Information

To learn more about the *Quantile*® Framework for Mathematics, visit us online.

GO TO:

[Quantiles.com](https://www.quantiles.com)