

May 2023

Inside this Issue

1	Principal Petralia's Page End-of-Year Envelope
2	Dean's Discussion PTO News F.A.C.E.S.
3	Dress Code Reminder April Attendance Important Reminder Memo from the Nurse Lost and Found Upcoming Events
4	Good Citizens – April Social Media Last Days of School 2023-2024 Reenrollment Reminder from the Social Worker 2023-2024 Kdg. Preregistration
5	2022-2023 Supply Pack June Newsletter Read-a-Thon Update Upcoming Events – continued
6	What is the PTO?

NO SCHOOL

MONDAY, MAY 29TH

MEMORIAL DAY

**LAST DAY OF
SCHOOL**

FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND

John Wood Elementary School
6100 E. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305

<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/8/home>

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



From the Desk of Principal Igras

Dear John Wood Families,

Wow! This year came and went so fast! I want to thank you all for supporting the school and partnering with us to make sure that your child had a successful year. We are going to miss our 4th grade students who are moving on to MIS and wish all of them the best. To those of you moving away, we will miss you as well and wish you the best of luck. Parents, please make sure to withdraw your child no later than June 12th as that is when the office closes for the summer.

I have truly enjoyed meeting and working with your child throughout the school year. This is a remarkable community that supports the corporation's vision, "Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes."

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 Food Service 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.

Dean's Discussion

Mrs. Swift, Dean of Students

Join me in welcoming the month of May and all of the excitement this month brings, like the end of the year activities, celebrations, picnics, field day, and so much more! With that being said, we want to encourage each and every student to continue coming to school on time and making sure they are doing their best every day. ILEARN testing window closes at the end of this week and students who take the NWEA test will do that before the end of May. Those students who did not pass the IREAD earlier in the spring will have the opportunity to retake the test at the end of May. Please help us to keep your child excited for school and prepared by getting enough rest at night and a good breakfast to start their day.

As we prepare for summer break, it is important to discuss the "Summer Slide". This is a slide where students decline in reading ability and other academic skills during the summer months because of the lack of exposure to books and other materials. I am including a website where you can download a free resource packet to help to avoid this slide for your child. Also consider visiting your local public library or Barnes & Noble for summer reading fun! Stay tuned for more information regarding the Book Bus.

I look forward to the fun and laughter these last few weeks of school and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing your child with us every day!

<https://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our-stores-communities/summer-reading-program/>

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

<https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>

<https://www.scholastic.com/site/summer-reading.html>

PTO News

What an exciting year we've had! We seem like we are finally past the pandemic slump and back to having fun family events. We would like to thank the parents who have been helping to organize events, sit at the computer for hours putting in Coca-Cola codes, or coming into the school early on cold Friday mornings to pop popcorn. We could not have had the fun activities we had this year without your help.

Box Tops/Coke Codes

Remember that the only way for us to now get anything from Box Tops for Education is for you to download the free app and scan your receipts.

Check the website at www.boxtop4education.com to see a complete list of participating products. You might be surprised to see some new brands!

We've been told that there will be changes to the Coca-Cola program this summer. We are not sure what the changes will be, but they have warned us to redeem all codes ASAP. Please send in any codes you have. We'll let you know if the new program will still include a way to donate to schools.

Strack's Receipts/Apples for the Students Program

This year we were able to earn almost 81,000 points! Our CIC committee was able to go through the catalog and find several STEM activities that will be added to our new Science Lab next year. Thank you to all who collected and sent in receipts this past year. We'll let you know when it is time to start collecting again!

End-of-Year Celebration

After several last-minute changes, we were able to have our end-of-year celebration! Unfortunately, the weather did NOT cooperate and everything had to be moved indoors. We also needed to change our pizza supplier at the last-minute due to some miscommunications.

Thank you to everyone who came out for an evening of fun. We hope everyone who attended had a good time. Also, thank you to all the volunteers who gave up a part of their evening to help at one of the stations. And a huge thank you to Mrs. Mustain, Mrs. Fiste, and Mrs. Hehr who did an enormous amount of work to organize this event.

Plans for Next Year

Our PTO is already starting to make plans for the 2023-2024 school year. Our first meeting is already planned for Thursday, September 7, 2023. We'll be welcoming new families to our school and beginning to organize family-fun events for the new school year.

F.A.C.E.S.

(Family and Community Engagement Specialist)
Mrs. Hehr

The John Wood PTO has done so much to support our school, staff, and students this 2022-2023 school year. Between multiple successful fundraisers and events, our PTO never took a break this school year. Their care, hard work, and dedication to John Wood Elementary cannot be matched, and our school is deeply grateful.

Here are just a few of the things they were responsible for this school year:

- Purchasing educational items and programs for teachers and students to use in their classroom
- Assisting with the payment of fees for field trips
- VIP (Very Important Person) Event
- Penguin Patch Holiday Shop
- Popcorn Fridays
- Assist with honoring our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- End-of-Year Celebration

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

Miss Jongsma – 4th Grade – 99.17%

Important Reminder

As we wrap up this school year, please remember to settle all debts to the school. This may include lunch charges, 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.

Memo from the Nurse

Any medication in the nurse's office must be picked up by an adult by the end of the school day on Friday, June 2nd. Medication remaining in the office at the end of the day will be safely discarded. Also, medical updates will go home soon for the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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!

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 Friday

Pirate Pride Day

Wear purple or spirit wear to show your Pirate Pride!

Every Friday

Wood Rocks Reading due

Turn in your completed sheet to receive a small prize.

May 16-26

IREADY Testing Window

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

May 18

Title One Spring Family Event

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Learn creative ways to promote summer learning in the home.

May 19

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 22

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 26

Last day for Kdg Pre-registration

See the article on page four for more information.

May 29

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.

Continued on page 5

Good Citizens April 2023

Multi-Grade

Maranda Daniels – Miss Wiley
Liam Stockstill – Mrs. Nikolov
Jayden Washington – Ms. Polacek

ECD

Levon Ransom –
Ms. Headd (Miss Thea)
Owen Arizmendi –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Kindergarten

Catalina Deleon – Mrs. Anderson
Elijah Bromberg – Mrs. Scott
Jackson Daughtry – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Kamryn Davis – Mrs. Pace
Araceli Gutierrez - Miss Talian
Lucy Lagunas – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Micah Watson – Mrs. Carney
Dominic Richard – Ms. Foster
Jazzmarie Warren – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Cailin Stewart – Mrs. Cseke
KJ Akbar – Miss Hull
Isiah Walton – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Stella Finnearty – Miss Jongsma
Brody Finnearty – Miss Vlassopoulos

Social Media

Twitter

MCSC Superintendent

Mr. Nick Brown
@MerrillvilleSu3

John Wood Principal

Mrs. Sharon Igras
@WoodPrin

Facebook

Merrillville Community School Corporation

www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/

John Wood PTO

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

Last Days of School

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of the school year. This has 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.

2023-2024 Reenrollment

Watch for information to be emailed during the summer about reenrolling your child for the 2023-2024 school year. The corporation will be emailing parents/guardians 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

Ms. Albertson, LCSW, LSSW

Happy May, John Wood Families!

As the end of the school year fast approaches and we look forward to summer break, I would like to remind families that the Pirate Pantry will continue to be available for anyone that may need help with food.

If you have any other concerns about potential needs over the summer, please feel free to contact me by email at mealbertson@mvschools.k12.in.us or by phone at 219-650-5305 ext. 6545.

2023-2024 Kindergarten Preregistration

Online kindergarten preregistration continues through May 26th. Parents with children who will be 5 years old on or before August 1st can preregister by visiting the corporation website at www.mvschools.k12.in.us 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.

2023-2024 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 25th! Go online to: 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!

June Newsletter

Watch for one more newsletter to arrive in your email next month. It will include:

Curt Hoffman Scholarship winner
Carol Vesa Scholarship winner
Good Citizens – May
Super Citizens
3rd and 4th Grade Honor Roll
Perfect Attendance
...and more!

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.

Aneesa Cook
Rylan Dworak
Dean Fiste
Gabriella Gaboyan
Mia Harper-Wiley
Zephaniah Lear
Van Malocha
Ruben Martinez
Brantley McKown
Abigail Silva

Upcoming Events – Cont.

Continued from page 3

June 2

End of Third Trimester

Report cards will be available in Skyward next week.

June 2

Last Day of School

Last day of school for all students. This is a full day of school.

August 16

First Day of School

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



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 our F.A.C.E.S. (Mrs. Becca Hehr) at 219-650-5305 x 6551 or email her at rhehr@mvs.k12.in.us to get more information.

Pledge to make the 2023-2024 school year YOUR year to be more involved and make a difference in your child's life as well as hundreds of others attending John Wood School.