

April 2022

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### E-learning Day

Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Students will learn  
virtually all day.  
More info to follow.

No students will be in the  
building on this day.

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)

# The John Wood Parent Newsletter



## From the Desk of Principal Igras

Dear Wood Families,

I hope every one of you had a chance to spend time with friends and family over the break. Let's continue to work together to make the best of the rest of the school year. One way we can work together is to continue to support your child with the Wood Rocks Reading weekly challenge.

As the sun begins to shine a lot more, we are asking that students not wear flip flops for recess. It is important that we keep the kids safe as they are playing on the playground.

In-person iLEARN testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade is getting ready to take place. Please make sure that your child is getting plenty of sleep during this time. Also, it is important that they come to school every day with a fully charged chrome book and headphones. We really appreciate your support with this. Below you will find an outline for the testing schedule. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be testing from 4/25 – 5/5 and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be testing from 4/18 – 5/1. Please note that days may need to be changed if a situation arises.

**READ**

Encourage important  
reading skills!

Have your child:

- ♥ Look at books/Read to self
- ♥ Share a book/Read to someone else
- ♥ Listen to someone read aloud
- ♥ Talk about books and words
- ♥ Tell stories
- ♥ Write and/or draw

Every day!

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# Dean's Discussion

Mrs. Swift, Dean of Students

## Hello our wonderful John Wood families!

I hope everyone had a chance to slow down and enjoy the week off for spring break, whether that be traveling, staying at home with the family, going outside and enjoying the days that had nice weather, or even just sleeping in! It was so nice to see all of the smiling faces coming back Monday and I am looking forward to the next two months here at John Wood.

As we enter April we, once again, find ourselves rushing straight into state testing time. iLEARN window opens April 17, 2022 for our 3rd and 4th graders. Those students will be participating in various assessments during the testing time, so it is imperative we all work together to ensure our students have the best chances at success possible. Below you will find some test taking strategies that you can help with at home:

1. **Prioritize attendance and homework** - setting aside dedicated homework time each day becomes routine for the students and helps to keep consistency throughout the school year. Regular attendance and arriving at school on time is key to helping your child find success in school. This is especially important during testing.
2. **Communicate with teachers** - regular communication is good to help you gain insight to your child's progress in school and help you to know areas where he or she may need additional practice at home. Teachers are also a wonderful resource for test prep materials and strategies to help your child prepare for the test.
3. **Talk to your child about test taking** - the purpose of a test is not always obvious, especially for those who are new to these tests. Explain the benefits of testing, focusing on how it helps them, their teacher, their school, and other educators understand what strengths and weaknesses students have and figure out the most effective ways to teach.
4. **Offer positive reinforcement** - verbal praise does amazing

things. Praise your child for the hard work he or she has put into preparing for the test and then praise them for doing their best on the test (whatever that may be).

5. **Support healthy habits** - make sure your child is getting enough uninterrupted sleep every night, as lack of sleep is one of the number one causes of inability to focus at school and retain information. In order to help your child succeed, it is important to make sure they are eating well-rounded meals, including breakfast daily. Encouraging your child to drink plenty of water throughout the day and at home will help them to stay hydrated as well as help with focus and retention of information.
6. **Give your child a study space** - make sure when your child comes home from school they have a space that is consistent and will allow for productivity. This could be a desk in their room, a spot at the kitchen table, or even a spot at the counter near you so you are available to help if needed. Having the designated space and knowing that is part of the routine helps students to be set up for success.
7. **Keep testing in perspective** - avoid putting too much emphasis on the test scores, they will already be nervous about the test. Some students just don't test well, and that is okay too.
8. **Debrief after the test** - be available to talk to your child after a day of testing. They will be instructed they can't speak about what was on the test, but you can ask them how they felt while taking the test, or did they find a part easier than others, or even questions that could help them to prepare next time around. Just remember, no matter what they need your positive praise and encouragement!

# IgraSPY

Mrs. Igras, Principal

Every month, one John Wood student who is seen by me going above and beyond in the school setting, receives the IgraSPY trophy and certificate.

## March

Isaiah Watson – Miss Vlassopoulos

# 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 8:25 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.

## PTO News

Our next PTO meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS A DIFFERENT DAY THAN NORMAL. We will recognize the April Good Citizens and discuss plans for the conclusion of the school year.

### Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in this recent fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$3,000 to be used to support students and staff.

### 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 \$76,000 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

It appears as though Coca-Cola will be discontinuing this program! Please make sure to send in ASAP any codes you may have been collecting at home. 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.

### End-of-Year Celebration Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (5-8 p.m.)

Our PTO has big plans for a fun-filled evening, but we cannot do it without a multitude of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to help this evening, please contact Mrs. Hehr at [rhehr@mvs.k12.in.us](mailto:rhehr@mvs.k12.in.us). Remember, the more volunteers we have, the shorter your time slot will be!

## Lost & Found

Is your child missing a scarf, mitten, or maybe a favorite sweatshirt?? Remind them to stop by the lost & found table near 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.

## 2023-2024 Kindergarten Pre-registration

Pre-registration is now open for 2023-2024 kindergarten students! Children who will be five on or before August 1, 2023 (birthdate of August 1, 2018 or earlier) are eligible for the 2023-24 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 the information here and on page 6 with anyone you know who might qualify.

## Dress Code Reminder

The following is copied verbatim from the Elementary Handbook:

The learning environment must focus on the education of each student. In order to prevent distractions that may prevent an optimal setting for learning, we have implemented the following dress code:

1. Clothes must be of a length and size that is safe for movement in all settings. Pants that drag on the floor may not be worn. Skirts and shorts above the finger length may not be worn. Skirts may not have slits that extend beyond finger length.
2. Clothes may not be worn that are sheer, see-through, expose the midriff or expose underwear.
3. Pants must fit at the waist or a belt must be worn to avoid them from falling.
4. Any clothing with words or pictures that promotes violence, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vulgarities or is destructive to other students in the classroom is prohibited.
5. All students are required to wear or bring tied or Velcro gym shoes (full shoes - not backless or open-toed) and slacks, shorts or sweats on those school days which include physical education.
6. Any clothing or accessories such as makeup, nails, colored hair or hats, etc., that causes distraction or interferes with the educational process are inappropriate for school.
7. Sleeveless tops must have at least a 2 inch wide strap at the shoulder. Spaghetti straps are not appropriate.
8. For the safety of students, flip-flops or other similar footwear are not allowed on the playground equipment.

Violations of the dress code will result in being required to change clothing. Repeated offenses for dress code violations may result in a parent conference, detention or suspension. Additionally, any attire may be considered inappropriate at an administrator's discretion.

# Good Citizens March 2023

## ECD

Kaliah Green –  
Ms. Headd (Miss Thea)  
Lorenzo Sanchez –  
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

## Multi-Grade

Aristin Losey – Ms. Halliburton  
Deron Gill – Ms. Polacek  
Jurnee Porter – Ms. Wiley  
Royal Edmonds – Mrs. Nikolov

## Kindergarten

Hannah Mican – Mrs. Anderson  
Allara Aldridge – Mrs. Scott  
Elijah Brown – Mrs. Shalla

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

Josiah Correa-Garcia – Mrs. Pace  
Adaline Jones – Miss Talian  
Van Malocha – Miss Welsh

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

Ioanna Petsalis – Mrs. Carney  
Jon Kellogg – Ms. Foster  
Stephen Dunn – Mrs. Marshall

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

Alondra Gonzalez – Mrs. Cseke  
Maya Castro – Miss Hull  
Tatyana Nevarez-Martin – Mrs. Mahy

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

Arturo Briano-Dominguez –  
Miss Jongsma  
Isaiah Harper – Miss Vlassopoulos

# 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 Hull – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 99.12%

The “Beary” attendance award will spend the next month in Miss Hull’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 Honors Program are eligible provided they lived in the John Wood School district during those years.

Interested students can apply online at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Ztq2bJATt0LT4CkKTx\\_YLRvs3Xxm2kN7v5zU10dpfQWlpA/vi/wform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Ztq2bJATt0LT4CkKTx_YLRvs3Xxm2kN7v5zU10dpfQWlpA/vi/wform). The link can also be found on the MHS Guidance Department page. The deadline to submit applications is April 28, 2023.

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.

# Carol Vesa Scholarship

Another scholarship available to a graduating MHS senior is the Carol Vesa Scholarship. This is a \$500 scholarship available to a student who is going into education. While being a former John Wood student is not a requirement, preference will be given to former JW students.

Interested students can apply online at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11jFaJCyxYDoWVcVqVEihSr7xINJq7Kn9/view>. The link can also be found on the MHS Guidance Department page. The deadline to submit applications is April 28, 2023.

This scholarship was created by Miss Vesa’s family. Miss Vesa was a beloved kindergarten teacher at John Wood for 38 years until she passed away rather suddenly from a reoccurrence of cancer in the spring of 2004.

## Upcoming Events

### Every Thursday

#### ***Buddy Blue Day***

Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

### Every Friday

#### ***Wood Rocks Reading due***

### 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 17-May 12

#### ***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 17

#### ***PTO Book Blast***

Watch for a flyer to come home next week with more information.

### April 25

#### ***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 21

#### ***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.

### April 22

#### ***Earth Day***

What can YOU do to make a difference?

### May 2

#### ***Virtual Learning Day***

There will be NO students in the building on this day. All learning on this day will be virtual. More information to follow.

### May 3

#### ***Last PTO Meeting for the 22-23 school year***

6:00, Cafeteria

Please come and help finalize plans for the remainder of the school year.

### May 4

#### ***Parent Resource Fair, 5-7 p.m.***

#### ***Dean & Barbara White Community Center***

See the last page of this newsletter for more information.

### May 8-12

#### ***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 12

#### ***PTO End of Year Celebration***

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

continued on page 5



# Small Card, BIG Results

## 2023 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 11, 2023**. 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 \$47,168.57 in teacher grants and Major Saver fundraising. We hope this will inspire you to promote this year's Major Saver cards for your school.

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 2023 card coming soon!

## Upcoming Events – cont.

continued from page 4

### 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 freedom.

### June 2 End of 6<sup>th</sup> grading period, 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester

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



## Major Saver Coming Soon!

The Merrillville Education Foundation is committed to being the primary philanthropic organization that funds innovative educational grants to enhance student learning and achievement. Since 2011, over \$199,000 has been raised with the Major Saver program.

## 2023 Major Saver Campaign

Merrillville Education Foundation  
Campaign Kickoff:  
**Tuesday, April 11th**  
Campaign Collections:  
**Wednesday, April 19th -  
Tuesday, April 25th**

Get Thousands More REUSABLE Offers On Our App!  
Download the "FREE" Major Saver App on the App Store or Google Play. Redeem your Major Saver Card. Program ID: 201318. Member ID: XXXXXX.

AL HALL'S

jiffylube

Merrillville High School Athletics

CATCH Table & Tap

\$5 OFF A \$25 Food Purchase! 5031 E Lincoln Hwy Merrillville, IN. Offer valid only Monday - Friday. Excludes alcohol and other special events.

\$10 OFF Signature Service Oil Change! 5920 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 5901 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. One time use only. Max. \$10 off oil change. Offer is valid only on regular oil changes.

Buy One Admission To A Home Merrillville High School Athletic Contest, Get One FREE! Excludes All Ticketmaster. One time use only. Max. \$10 off the ticket price.

\$5 OFF A \$25 Food Purchase! 500 E 81st Ave Merrillville, IN 46410. Offer valid only Monday - Friday. Excludes alcohol and other special events.

More Deals in More Places!  
Enjoy nationwide savings with local, regional and national brands!  
Become a member and earn a \$50 Travel Credit Voucher. Visit [majorsaver.epgymobile.com/travel](http://majorsaver.epgymobile.com/travel). Credit Code: MS30.

jiffylube | DELL | HELLO FRESH | TOPGOLF | KOHL'S

APRIL 11-12, 2023

APRIL 13-14, 2023

APRIL 15-16, 2023

APRIL 17-18, 2023

APRIL 19-20, 2023

APRIL 21-22, 2023

APRIL 23-24, 2023

APRIL 25-26, 2023

APRIL 27-28, 2023

APRIL 29-30, 2023

APRIL 31, 2023

SEE RELEASE OF LOCAL OFFERS IN THE APP OR ON OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.

### Download Our App!

There are thousands of REUSABLE offers available on our Major Saver App. Simply register your card to access 1,000's of mobile and print deals! Now more deals in more places with local, regional & national brands.

### Purchase Cards Online!

This is an additional feature to the Major Saver program. All cards purchased online will be mailed to the customer. Participating students can earn credit for online sales. Cards may be purchased from other areas. Validation dates vary for each district.

### majorsaver.com

Generate a CUSTOM LINK to send to friends and family by going to [www.majorsaver.com](http://www.majorsaver.com)

### Stay Connected With Major Saver!

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Facebook | Instagram | YouTube

Questions about the campaign? 816.554.7999 OR 1.800.320.1614

# 2023-2024 Kindergarten Preregistration

Merrillville Community School Corporation is now pre-registering 2023-2024 kindergarten students. The pre-registration began on April 10<sup>th</sup> and continues until May 26<sup>th</sup>. Children can be pre-registered at:

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

Children who will be age 5 either on or before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible for the 2023-2024 school year.

The following is the information that will be needed when registering your child.

## **Parents will need to bring the following documents to their appointments:**

- ✓ Certified birth certificate (exceptions will be made for foster children-see below)
- ✓ Up to date Immunization records
- ✓ Parent/guardian current license or state ID
- ✓ Proofs of residency (see below)

If applicable, you will also need the following:

- ✓ DCS foster information
- ✓ Any and all documents that affect your child's educational placement (Example: IEP, 504, or Psychological Evaluation)
- ✓ Special Needs Transportation (SNT)
- ✓ Any legal or custodial papers

## **Required Proofs of Residency**

### **Homeowners**

**Two (2)** of the following:

- Utility bill (either NIPSCO, water, or sewer)
- Deed, Contract, or Mortgage Statement
- Lake County Tax Bill

### **Pending Homeowners**

Pending is defined as 30 days prior to occupancy

- Letter, on realtor letterhead, of pending purchase and projected date of move-in. Must include the name and address of purchasing family.
- Letter, on contractor letterhead, validating pending construction of home and projected move-in date. Must include the name and address of purchasing family.
- Offer to Purchase/Purchase Agreement/Contract

### **Renters/Leases**

**One (1)** of the following is required:

- Lease Agreement – Must include:
  - Parent/Guardian name on the agreement
  - School-age children on the agreement as tenants
  - Name and phone number of the manager/landlord
  - Beginning and ending date of the agreement
- Rent Agreement – Must include:
  - Parent/Guardian name on the agreement
  - School-age children on the agreement as tenants
  - Name and phone number of the manager/landlord
  - Beginning and ending date of the agreement

**In addition, one (1) of the following items is required**

- Utility Bill (either NIPSCO, water, or sewer)
- Vehicle Registration
- TRANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) letter from the State of Indiana

***The school maintains the right to contact the landlord to confirm residency.***

### **ADDENDUM (living in the home of another family or individual)**

- Ross Township resident/owner completes addendum form in person in presence of school resource officer (SRO)
- Ross Township resident provides proof of residency (refer to proof of residency for homeowners, renters/leasers listed above)
- A photocopy of the resident's driver's license is to be taken and placed in the student's file along with the parent/guardian's driver's license.

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

**Feel free to  
share this  
information  
with anyone  
you know who  
may need it.**



Join us! It's gonna be

**E.P.I.C.!**

(Empowering Parents In our Community)

## **FREE Parent Resource Fair**

Thursday, May 4, 5-7 p.m.

**Dean & Barbara White  
Community Center**

6600 Broadway, Merrillville

*Sponsored by the*  
**Merrillville Community School Corporation &  
The Dean and Barbara White Community Center**

Visit with vendors and discover and learn about resources that will support your family and engage your children during the summer months. Vendors and resources will include:

- Health & community resources
- Summer recreation/educational camps
- Summer reading enrichment
- Tutoring resource services
- Youth empowerment resources
- Social services

**Stop in and enjoy food,  
music and raffles!!!**

For more information, visit the school corporation website, [www.mvsc.k12.in.us](http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us).

