

John Wood Elementary Newsletter

May 2026

Greatness Grows Here

Mission Statement: John Wood School

Together with parents and community, the John Wood team shall provide a safe learning environment and prepare students to be productive, tolerant, and respectful citizens by fostering individual development and striving for highest academic achievement.



A Message from the Captain's Quarters

Dear John Wood Families,

It is hard to believe how quickly this school year has flown by! We are so grateful for the opportunity to have partnered with you in your child's education. This year was filled with so many wonderful memories, including a variety of great after-school events that brought our community together, and we look forward to offering even more of these opportunities next year.

As the year winds down, we want to wish our 4th graders the very best as they move on to MIS, and to the families moving out of the district, we will miss you all dearly.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars: **Planet Kindergarten** will be held on **Wednesday, August 5th**, and **Back to School Night** will take place on **Thursday, August 6th**. We will be sending out more detailed information as we get closer to the start of the new school year, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Have a wonderful summer!

Principal Igras

NO SCHOOL – MONDAY, MAY 25TH

MEMORIAL DAY

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



Dean V

Miss Vlassopoulos, Dean of Students

Each month, our school celebrates students who go above and beyond – whether it’s through hard work, kindness, or setting a positive example for others. Our One in a Melon winners and Good Citizens of the Month are invited, along with their parents, to a special morning recognition with the principal, dean, and teachers before the beginning of the school day. Congratulations to our April honorees for showing that greatness truly grows here!

April One in a Melon

Londyn Berry Head, Ian Castillo, Serai Clark, Bri’Yella Dent, Caylah Gross, Silvio Hatfield, Dymoni Hawkins, Cori Isbell, Prince Jenkins, Van Malocha, Jackson Poss, Emma Serna, Julian Smith, Legend Soliman

April Good Citizens of the Month

Xavier Boone, Tamara Buckley, Everett Cabrera, Dean Fiste, Bryson Horne, Dani Humphries, Ryan Lard, Andrew Martinez, Hannah Mican, Juan Shaw, Rondo Steward, Roan Thompson, Jenni Wilderness

“Beary” Good Attendance

April Winner

Miss Robles (3rd grade) 99.26%



Every Friday
Pirate Pride Day

Show your Pirate Pride! Wear purple!

May 21
All Pro Dads
6:00-7:00 p.m.

More information is on page 7.

May 25
Memorial Day

No School

May 27
John Wood Field Day

Students will participate in a day of fun activities.

May 29
End of 6th grading period, 3rd trimester

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

August 1
Back to School Carnival

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., MHS (Door P)

Come celebrate the beginning of a new school year!

See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

August 5
Planet Kindergarten
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Give your child a head start on kindergarten by helping them feel familiar and comfortable before the first day of school. A flyer is attached to the end of this newsletter.

August 6
Back to School Night
4:30-6:00 p.m.

All parent/guardians and students are invited to visit the school and find their classrooms. You are welcome to drop off supplies in the classroom during the visit.

August 12
First Day of School



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 check the lost found table in the cafeteria for anything that looks familiar. More valuable items are kept in the office.

Remember that labeling items that might be taken off during the day is the best way to ensure they make it back home. All unclaimed clothing will be donated to charity at the end of the school year.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE

If your child currently has medication in the school nurse's office, arrangements need to be made by the parent/guardian to pick up medication from the nurse's office by May 29, 2026, the last day of school.

MCSC policy states medications can NOT be sent home with your child. Medication cannot be kept at school during Summer Break and any medication that is not picked up by the last day of school will be discarded. If you have any questions, please let me know!

Yours in Health,

Jennifer Bartos
John Wood School Nurse
219-650-5305
jennifer.bartos@mvs.k12.in.us



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.

Last Days of School

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of the school year! Our students have learned so much this year—far beyond just reading, math, and spelling.

As we approach the final weeks, it's important to remember that learning continues every day. Regular attendance remains essential, as students are still completing important work and assessments that help guide placement for next year.

With warmer weather and summer excitement in the air, students can sometimes lose focus. This is a great time to encourage your child to stay engaged, complete their work, and continue following school expectations.

At our school, we've been seeing "greatness growing" all year long—and these last days are just as important. By working together, we can help students finish strong and continue growing through the very last day.



Gold Note Reminder

To help ensure that every student gets home safely and according to plan, please remember to send a gold note whenever there's a change in your child's dismissal routine.

You need to send a gold note if:

- you chose "every day" when registering for a car rider number, but your child will NOT be picked up by car that day.
- you chose "occasional" when registering for a car rider number, and your child WILL be picked up by car that day.
- your child will be leaving school earlier than the regular dismissal time for any reason.

Please don't rely on your child remembering verbal changes or emails to the teacher. The teachers are busy during the day and may not see the email in time. The gold notes are the most reliable way to communicate daily dismissal changes.

If an emergency arises and a last-minute change must be made, please contact the school office directly. They will make sure both the teacher and the student are informed.

2026-2027 RE-ENROLLMENT

Watch for information to be emailed during the summer regarding re-enrolling your child for the 2026-2027 school year. The corporation will send instructions directly to parents/guardians.

Please take a moment to log into Skyward and verify that the email address on file is correct so you don't miss important summer communications.

Important Reminder




As we wrap up another school year, please remember to take care of any outstanding balances owed to the school. This may include cafeteria charges and any library fees.

Online payments can be made through your Skyward account.

Countdown to Summer

The students (and staff) have had fun the past few weeks using the alphabet to count down to summer. So far, we've had a paper Airplane flying contest, we've Danced and Exercised, and we even had an Indoor picnic!

We still have some fun days ahead of us before the end of the school year! Check the calendar below to see what is still coming!

	5/18 P - Pajamas Day Wear pajamas	5/19 Q - Quiet Day We will do everything quietly today - whispering all day	5/20 R - Rock, Paper, Scissors: Remix Fun "course" activity	5/21 S - Sunglasses & Simon Says Wear sunglasses and play Simon Says	5/22 T - Tie Dye & Talent Show Wear Tie Dye and show off your talents at lunch	5/23 Play Outside ☺
	5/25 Memorial Day No School	5/26 U - Unscramble a Puzzle Do puzzles with friends today	5/27 V - Victory Day John Wood Field Day - Wear Day of Champ. shirt	5/28 W - Wave Day Learn the wave and do it with the whole school!	5/29 X, Y, Z X-tra recess, year end clean up, zoom into summer!	

June Newsletter

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

Curt Hoffman Scholarship Winner
Good Citizens – May
One in a Melon – May
Super Citizens
3rd and 4th Grade Honor Roll
Perfect Attendance
....and more!

Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate



To promote pride in our school community, students are encouraged to wear purple on Fridays.

Students can wear John Wood spirit wear, Merrillville athletics, or Pop Warner shirts, or simply plain purple...anything that shows their school spirit.

Students wearing purple on Fridays will have their name entered into a drawing. One winner from each grade level will get the chance to choose a small prize from our treasure chest!



School Social Worker Corner: May 2026

Hello John Wood families!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Supporting children's mental health is something we can all be part of. Together, through everyday moments and connections, we can make a positive impact!

Ideas to Support Your Child's Mental Health:

- Create daily connection time.
- Encourage open conversations about feelings.
- Keep routines consistent to build a sense of security.
- Model healthy coping skills.
- Prioritize sleep, movement, and nutrition.

Signs to Watch For

- Changes in mood or behavior
- Trouble sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Avoiding school or school situations
- Increased worry, irritability, or sadness

Let's Stay Connected

If you have concerns about your child's emotions, behaviors, or school success, please reach out. We are here to provide resources and support to our families.



Email: jody.kristoff@mvs.k12.in.us



Phone: 219-650-5305 x6545

Looking for More Ideas?

Explore the Parent Resource section under the [Kids Mental Health Foundation](https://www.kidsmentalhealth.org/) website for additional activities and connection-building ideas.



Family & Mental Health Resources

- [Geminus Community Partners](#) - Counseling, family services, and support programs.
- [Regional Health Systems](#) - Mental health services for children and families.
- [24/7 Crisis Helpline](#) - Dial 988 or text 741741

Greatness Sighted in the Halls of John Wood School

Snapshots of creativity, fun, and learning around our school!



PTO Glow Dance



Day of Champions



Miss V and 2nd grade teachers catch up with former John Wood students who are volunteering.

The "Big Race"



Sport Physicals



MONDAY MAY 18TH

3:00 - 5:00pm

Merrillville High School - Door S

Cost - \$30.00(Cash Only)

NEW FOR 2026 PHYSICALS:

Pick up your physical form in the Athletic Office PRIOR to Monday, May 18th fill out all sections other than Doctor's Portion with your Parent/Guardian. You will not be able to pay or get a physical without a completed form with parent signature. K-6 students must be accompanied with their parent or guardian.

ALL STUDENTS-ALL GRADES WELCOME

ALL PRO DAD CHAPTERS

WHAT WE DO...

All Pro Dad Chapters provide an opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their children that will strengthen their relationship. For one hour each month you'll get to join other dads and kids at school for a fun, memory-making event.

DID YOU KNOW...

when a dad is actively involved in his child's life, the child will have...

- BETTER GRADES
- ENHANCED CREATIVITY
- FEWER BEHAVIORAL ISSUES
- STRONGER FATHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Join Us

for our next meeting!

John Wood Elementary

Thursday May 21st

6 - 7 PM

We will meet outside *weather permitting. Please plan to bring hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, sides etc. for our end of year celebration!



Let us know if you're coming.
RSVP using our QR code!



FOLLOW US:
@AllProDad



ERIC A. BLACKMON SR.

Movie in the Park

a Swank Movie Production

May 22, 2026 at dusk
Hidden Lake Park, Ross Township

FREE EVENT



Movie starts promptly at 7 PM.
Entry starts at 6PM.



Featuring
The Mitchells vs the Machines

Bring your chairs and be prepared to have some family fun as we kick off this year's movie in the park

JOHN WOOD FIELD DAY

Wednesday May 27,
2026



Be ready to play and have fun!!!
Bring your tennis shoes and plastic
water bottles!!

ANY PARENT INTERESTED IN
HELPING?? CONTACT MRS. MILLS:
DIANA.MILLS@MVSC.K12.IN.US

2026-2027

PTO OFFICERS NEEDED



Send a message if you're interested in becoming a PTO officer or Member.

Our PTO relies on volunteers to lead events and programs for our school. If you're able to help out, we'd love to have you as part of the team that "makes the magic happen" at school! Every little bit of time you can give helps—there are even volunteer roles that can be done from the comfort of your own home! Help us make an impact on students and staff this year by volunteering!

PRESIDENT



Serves as the primary leader and spokesperson for the PTO
Presides over all meetings and sets meeting agendas
Coordinates overall activities and ensures goals are met
Works closely with school administration (principal, staff)
Oversees other officers and committees.

VICE PRESIDENT



Assists the President with duties and leadership tasks
Steps in when the President is absent
Often oversees committees or special projects
Helps coordinate events and volunteers

SECRETARY



Records and maintains meeting minutes
Handles official correspondence (emails, notices, etc.)
Keeps organizational records and documents
Shares meeting notes with members
Maintains attendance records if needed

TREASURER



Manages all PTO finances
Tracks income, expenses, and budgets
Prepares financial reports for meetings
Handles bank accounts, deposits, and payments
Ensures compliance with financial policies

VOLUNTEER/MEMBER



Attend meetings when possible
Stay informed about PTO activities and school needs
Volunteer time or skills for events, programs, or committees
Support fundraising efforts and school initiatives
Share ideas, feedback, and suggestions
Help promote a positive school community



Join the PTO Facebook Page Today!



**MERRILLVILLE YOUTH
GIRLS' BASKETBALL**
Summer Camp




COST : \$30 CASH ONLY
LOCATION: MERRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE: Q
REGISTRATION: JUNE 16TH AT 4:15 PM
DATES: JUNE 16, 17, & 18TH
TIME: 5:00-6:30PM
GRADES: K-4TH

Cochs Straughter
darian.straughter@mvs.c.k12.in.us EXT 7105
(219) 804-5692



K-4th Merrillville Youth Girls' Summer Camp

Merrillville High School

Drop Off and Pick Up Entrance "Q"

Registration : June 16th at 4:15 pm

Bring camp form and \$30 cash on the first day of camp!!

Cost: \$30 (Cash)

Entering Grades K-4th

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Registration : June 16th @ 4:15 pm

Skills camp is instructed by MHS Coaches and Player

Participant Full Name: _____

Grade:____ School:_____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Cell #: _____

We do hereby give permission to our child to participate in the Merrillville Girls' Basketball Camp. We as the guardians will assume responsibility for our child's fitness for the camp. We hereby waive, release, discharge the camp staff, the athletic department and the school corporation from any liability for injuries and illness incurred while at the camp or arising from travel to and from the camp.

Guardian's Signature: _____

Date:_____

Please email Coach Straughter at darian.straughter@mvs.c.k12.in.us for any questions.

★
**FREE
ENTRY**

**FREE
EVENT**
★



★
AUGUST 1, 2026
★

★
11AM - 2PM
★

**MERRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE
& HALL OF FLAGS (DOOR P)**

★
**FOR MERRILLVILLE STUDENTS ONLY
PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE**

★ **FOOD** ★ **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** ★
★ **FREE RESOURCES** ★ **FUN FOR ALL** ★

www.mvsc.k12.in.us

Every Child. Every Day. Whatever it Takes.





JOHN WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sharon P. Igras,, Principal

6100 E. 73RD AVE, MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410



2026-2027

Wood Elementary

PLANET WOOD KINDERGARTEN

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2039



WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5, 2026

4:30PM - 6:00PM

- ✓ OUR CLASSROOMS ARE VIBRANT, FUN, & JOYFUL
- ✓ WE USE PROVEN, EFFECTIVE CURRICULA THAT BOOSTS DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ WE PROVIDE EMOTIONAL LEARNING THAT LASTS A LIFETIME
- ✓ CHILDREN RECEIVE NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ CHILDREN LEARN SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS & BUILD A GREAT FOUNDATION

219-650-5305

WWW.MVSC.K12.IN.US

