



WALTHAM TERRITORY NEWS

Waltham School

January 2010

“ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT”... from our SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to 2010! Best wishes for a successful and prosperous New Year!

With Spring right around the corner, it can be hard to keep kids focused on learning. This is the time of year that students need to really dig in and make a push to the end of the school year. Make school a priority! Here are some tips for all of us on finding more time...

Use time in the car with your child, or other pockets of time to squeeze in a little more learning.

Set priorities. Decide what's most important to you – odds are it's your kids – then consciously decide how to spend your time – i.e. a choice between cooking a fancy dinner or reading with your child? Order a pizza and read the book! Spend one-on-one time. Kids need both quality and quantity time with you. There's nothing like spending time alone with a parent to make a child feel special. Every week make an appointment to spend some time alone with each of your children. Treat that appointment as you would a regular business meeting appointment.

Find your child's "prime time" for studying. This may be a key to his/her success in school. Some children are early birds and really do well with study time in the mornings. Others need to go through homework and studying for tests right after they arrive home. Find what works best and stick to a schedule.

Students: Here are some tips from the Home and School Connection on tackling test questions:

(Especially in preparation for ISATs)

Multiple choice: Read all the answers before making your choice. Remember, your first instinct is usually best, so don't change your answers unless you are sure.

True/False: Look for words such as never, always, all, or none. They're usually in false answers. Words like may or often are generally found in true answers.

Essay: Read essay questions at least twice. Then, make a list of important thoughts, or key points, about each question before writing your essay. Read through the finished essay to be sure you've included all your key points. Check spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

ISAT TESTING IS MARCH 1-12 FOR GRADES 3,4,5,6,7, AND 8.

Waltham Mission: At Waltham, it is our purpose to provide the opportunity and the positive environment for all students to acquire skills, knowledge, and self-confidence in order to maximize their potential to become productive, responsible, and respectful citizens.

“WHEN YOU COME TO A ROADBLOCK, TAKE A DETOUR.” ~Mary Kay Ash





A WORD FROM MR. HAMANN

Bus Reminder

As you are aware, we have made some changes in our busing procedures and requirements for the school year.

- There will be only one pick up stop in the a.m. and one drop off stop in the p.m. on the bus route. All days must be the same.
- The a.m. stop and p.m. stop can be two different places—but must stay the same every day of the week and all year.
- This means that students are not allowed to ride the bus to another student's stop after school.
- Students should not arrive at school before 8:20 a.m. at the North building and not before 8:40 a.m. at South.

Census

February and March 2010 the Census Bureau will be sending out surveys to each household. It is very important that we fill out and return these forms. This data determines:

- The amount of Federal funds received by state and communities
- Funding decisions for community facilities such as schools, hospitals, child care centers and more
- Per Capita grant proposals for communities, school libraries and other institutions and organizations.
- Your voice in Congress as well as the redistricting of state legislatures
- County, city councils, and voting districts



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Kindergarten Round-Up for the 2010-2011 school year has been set for **Thursday, February 11, 2010** at the South building from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. **Please call Mrs. Susan Hewitt at (815) 667-4790 to schedule an appointment for that day as there will be a brief skills assessment.** Also, please bring your child's **Birth Certificate** for us to copy and their **Social Security Number** and have available other information such as telephone numbers of family physician, emergency contacts, and parent's employer. Children entering Kindergarten next year must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2010. **Please note that a dental examination and eye examination are now mandatory for entrance into Kindergarten** along with a physical exam. The exam forms will be part of your Kindergarten packet.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE 2010

The Geography Bee was held on Friday, January 8, 2010. Two contestants from 4th through 8th grade were chosen in classroom competitions.

The 10 finalists were:

4th grade: Hannah Turigliatti, ZomNyet Webster

5th grade: Levi Bottomley, Chase Ludford

6th grade: Adam Schwartz, Kyle Small, Melanie Wilson

7th Grade: Samantha Whalen, Jane Leonatti

8th grade: Trevor Finnan, Anna Harmon

The School winner was Trevor Finnan— 8th grade

The School runner-up was Samantha Whalen, 7th grade

Trevor will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition in Washington D.C.



5TH GRADE D.A.R.E. GRADUATION

For most of first semester, the fifth grade has been working through the D.A.R.E program with Deputy Yacko of the LaSalle County police department. Every Monday or Friday, Deputy Yacko comes to our school for one hour to teach our kids how to make good choices. D.A.R.E is a program to teach kids how to resist drugs, alcohol, and violence.

D.A.R.E. is an acronym to help the kids remember the steps to take when making tough choice.

Define the problem, **A**ssess your choices, **R**espond with a good decision, and **E**valuate what made your choice the right choice! D.A.R.E. is also known as Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Some of the things the children have learned are: how to say no to peer pressure, ways to deal with stress, different ways to say no, how to raise self-esteem, and the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

The D.A.R.E. program concludes with a graduation ceremony for all the students who participated. In order to graduate the students must complete a D.A.R.E. packet and write a one-page report using the information they learned in D.A.R.E. They also need to set a goal for their lives, and a personal pledge to stay on the right track.

D.A.R.E. graduation will be on Monday, January 25, 2010 from 1-3pm in the Waltham North gym. We will conclude with a small gathering/ party with Officer Yacko in the gym having cake and ice-cream! I encourage all those who are able to attend. Each D.A.R.E. student has worked very hard to accomplish their goals and our support of their decision to stay drug and alcohol free makes all the difference in the world!!! Thank you for being such great parents and thank you to Deputy Yacko for all the time he has spent with our fifth grade class!

See you then!

Ms Dinkel, Mrs. Hellman & Deputy Yacko

A WORD FROM MRS. WASILEWSKI

I would like to thank all of the junior high school parents who sent eggs, flour, margarine, sprinkles, potholders, utensils, mixers, and many other items to use for the math baking classes. The students applied their measurement skills to make sugar cookies, seven-layer bars, and pizzelles. Students enjoyed making and eating the cookies. I have a 1/3 cup and a 1 cup stainless steel measuring cup marked "America Cooks" that no one has claimed. Check your cupboards to see if these belong to you. Thanks again for your generosity.

FROM THE ART ROOM

Please ask your student if they have the necessary supplies for Art class. It seems that a large number of children do not have their supplies. The supply list can be found on our web page. Thank you!

Also, when the students work with clay, I usually cover the tables with roll plastic. Like everything else, the cost has gone bonkers! Is there anyone out there who has a connection with someone who could get heavy weight canvas cut in approximately 18" x 18" squares? This would allow the students to roll out their clay on the canvas and it does not stick to the course fabric. I could also use more battens (wooden pieces used for guides when rolling clay). These are simply pieces of wood cut 18"long. The wood is one-quarter of an inch thick. Any questions? Feel free to contact me at school or e-mail me at kschultz@wesd185.org. Thanks!

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

One of our fifth grade students, Adam Claggett, has recently showed outstanding character by collecting over 1,000 pounds of food. WOW!

In February, the Character Counts Committee will sponsor a Food Drive. Stayed tuned for more details, If Adam can do this, IMAGINE what our school community can do !!

**WALTHAM TRIVIA NIGHT**

Waltham PTCC Trivia Night is on Friday, January 22, 2010 at Celebrations 150 in LaSalle. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and Trivia begins at 7 p.m. Six - ten people per team with a \$10 entry fee per person. Cash prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams! Call Wendy Olivero at 815-667-4625 to register your team!

Light supper items for a fee and a cash bar is available. Raffle items include Wii System, guitar, many themed baskets such as Movie Night, Golf, Super Bowl, Car Care, Pamper Me, Family Game Night and Kitchen Gadgets plus a 50/50 raffle. Beat the winter blues and enjoy a night of fun and friendly competition. Proceeds will benefit several programs funded by Waltham PTCC such as educational school assemblies, enrichment classes and technology support.

WALTHAM PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2010 from 8:00-12:30 p.m. in the Waltham North gym. The cost will be \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 4-13, and free for children 3 and under. Hope to see you there!!!!

**WINTER EMERGENCIES /SNOW DAYS/
EARLY DISMISSAL**

In preparation for the Winter season, please listen to your radio regarding snow days and early dismissal procedures. The following stations will keep you posted to any closings:

1220 AM WLPO 95.3 FM WRKX

1430AM WCMY 99.3 FM WAJK

You can also check our school website at www.wesd185.org for any cancellations.

You will be notified through our new AlertNow emergency call system of any school closings or early dismissals.

**WALTHAM'S CHARACTER REACHED
FAR AND WIDE**

Below are segments of recent thank you notes that Waltham Elementary received:

- "On behalf of the board of The Servant's Heart Ministry, I thank all of you for the warm coats and mittens you collected." –C. Loughran
- "Thank you so much for your wonderful donations to Project Santa and continued support." –H. Milner
- Additional facts from Project Santa: 6,404 stockings were sent
- Additional boxes of supplies to units in need were shipped
- 100 stockings to children of deployed soldiers were also sent
- Together we make good things happen!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**JANUARY**

15 Report Cards Distributed

18 **NO SCHOOL** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

19 Early Dismissal, 2:05 N, 2:20 S

19 Vision & Hearing Screening, K—2nd, 9:00 am

20 Vision & Hearing Screening, 3rd—8th, 9:00 am

22 Spelling Bee—2:15 pm North gym 6-8 grade

26 Early Dismissal, 2:05 N, 2:20 S

FEBRUARY

2 Vision & Hearing Rescreening, All grades 9:00 am

2 Early Dismissal, 2:05 N, 2:20 S

8 Market Day, North, 4:30-5:30 pm

8 PTCC Meeting, 6:30 pm

9 Early Dismissal, 2:05 N, 2:20 S

11 Kindergarten Round-Up 9:00-3:00 (South)

12 Valentine Class Parties, 4th-5th, 2:30 pm

12 Valentine Class Parties, K-3rd, 2:45 pm

12 Progress Reports Distributed

15 No School, President's Day

16 Early Dismissal, 2:05 N, 2:20 S

23 Early Dismissal, 2:05 N, 2:20 S