



WALTHAM TERRITORY

Waltham School

October 2009

One School of Thought From our Superintendent

Happy Fall and Happy October! We've had a great start to the school year and I want to extend my thanks to you for helping to make that happen. As you know, we have had many changes in our district this year including textbook changes, busing changes, early dismissals, etc. and we have appreciated your support, understanding and flexibility. Our Character Counts program is once again focused on "GIVING BACK" to our community and we have some accomplishments to share with you as follows:

We have had three dress-up Fridays (Hat day, Sports day, and wear RED day) which netted a total of \$452.40 for our local Utica Fire Department to aid in the purchase of updated travelling AED's. Thanks to everyone for participating and helping our local department!

We will begin our "PENNIES for the PARADE" collection on October 5th and end on October 26th, 2009. All proceeds collected will be given to our local Veteran's organization to assist with the cost of the parade. Tammy Duckworth will be a feature in this year's parade! One classroom at each building (one north and one south) will be given a pizza lunch for collecting the most pennies!

Project Santa... More information will be forthcoming from our Character Counts Committee and Mrs. Schultz!

Update on Life Safety Work: The life safety projects that were started this past summer have now been completed. We replaced the septic system at our north facility and moved/replaced the leech field area. We had to move our playground equipment to accommodate this change and have since – through the help of many volunteers – replaced it in a new location. Inside the north facility, we also replaced all heater cores (heating units) on the west side of the building, and three on the east side. All is going well with our life safety projects! We have a few minor items yet to complete at our north facility, and they will likely take place during our winter and spring breaks and/or next summer.

SWINE FLU: The decision on school attendance is indeed a difficult one at times. Although we do not wish to have students attend school when they are truly ill, it is important for students to be **IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY**. As we have noted on our website and in notes home earlier this year, the H1N1 virus is a big concern and school attendance is a huge decision to make. Please exercise caution – and erring on the side of caution if you feel at all that your child may have contracted the H1N1 virus. The district will be providing more information shortly regarding the H1N1 vaccinations and the plan for offering them at our facilities.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: While we do not wish for students to attend school when they are truly ill, we do feel strongly that students need to be at school every day to gain the most from their education and their instruction. Lessons and true learning cannot simply be "made up" with a worksheet. Also, our school district relies very heavily on attendance from each and every student for state aid reimbursement monies. Quite simply, the higher number of absences we have – regardless of the reason, the less money we receive in general state aid. When planning vacations, appointments, or other activities we ask that you **PLEASE** make every attempt to follow the school calendar. We hope that the Tuesday early dismissals will help with doctor, dentist, etc. appointments. We need your support to increase our student attendance rate - - and to increase your child's opportunities for learning.

WALTHAM ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FOUNDATION: We are in the process of completing our 501 C3 status and will be fully operational soon!



FROM OUR PRINCIPALMR. HAMANN YOU BE THE CHEMIST

Junior High students will have the opportunity to participate in the "You Be The Chemist Challenge." This contest quizzes students' knowledge of chemistry concepts, important discoveries, and chemical safety awareness. The local competitions will be held at Waltham in January and the regional competition will be February 22, 2010 at Seneca Elementary South Campus. The regional winner will participate in the national contest held in the Schaumburg area, and possibly the national contest held at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, PA. Study materials will be available at a later date.

Along with the national sponsor, the Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF), and the state sponsor which is the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois under the auspices of the Illinois Chemical Education Foundation, the following local chemical companies are sponsors: PQ Corporation, Air Products and Chemicals, Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry, Aux Sable Liquids, Carus Corporation, Flint Hills Resources, Dow Chemical—Wilmington, Exelon (Dresden & LaSalle Stations—sponsors of two sites). Without the participation of these companies this contest would not be possible. Thank you to all sponsors!!!!!!!

BUS REMINDER

Beginning this year your child has one bus stop in the morning and one bus stop in the afternoon on the bus route. This means that students are not allowed to be dropped off at another student's bus stop. Also, students should not arrive at school before 8:20 at North, and not before 8:40 a.m. at South.

FALL FESTIVAL

The Annual Fall Festival will be held on Friday October 16th from 6:30 to 8 pm. It is a night of family fun for all.

There are games for children of all ages, a cake walk, refreshments and music. The book fair will also be at the South building during the Fall Festival, so come out and join the fun.

PROJECT SANTA

Project Santa is a whole school project to send Christmas stockings to our servicemen and women. Mrs. Schultz and the Art classes will do the decorating of the stockings and we would like the different classes to bring in the "goodies" to stuff in the stockings. The organizers are very specific when they ask for items to send. Extra weight means extra money in postage. We would like the each class to bring in the following items:

Kindergarten: Gum, Life Savers, Tic Tacs, Chapstick

1st : Cup of Soup, Ramen Noodles, single serving Instant Oatmeal

2nd: Snack size peanuts, Trail Mix, NO CANS. Band-aids

3rd: Single serving packets of Gatorade or Crystal Light

4th: pens and pencils, notepads, stationary, individually wrapped wet wipes

5th: Playing cards, dice or individual hot chocolate packets

6th: Granola bars, protein bars, Fun-size candy bars

7th: Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Eye drops

8th: Gummy candy or Fruit Snacks in small packages

Teachers & Staff: individually wrapped tea bags, single serve coffee packets, cream (dry) and sugar packets, apple cider packets

Please feel free to donate any items listed. **All items must be at school by Friday, October 30th.**

MOBILE DENTISTS AT WALTHAM

We are hosting Mobile Dentists at Waltham school. This is an easy way for your child to receive their dental screening, cleanings, and fluoride treatments at school! Children with Medicaid are welcomed and encouraged to join us. Every student who participates will receive a shiny smile and a new toothbrush.

Mobile Dental forms went home earlier this week, please return them to school as soon as possible.



SCHOOL REPORT CARD

The 2009 Illinois District Report Card is located on our website. Just go to www.wesl185.org and then to the people, Board of Education, School Report Card. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy of the School Report Card, please contact Waltham North at 667-4417.

OPEN HOUSES FOR 8TH GRADERS

LaSalle-Peru Township High School open house for eighth-grade students and their parents will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Ottawa High School open house for eighth grade students and their parents will be held on Thursday, October 22nd from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Ottawa High School.

A WORD FROM MRS. WILSON

The 8th graders are selling candy bars for \$1.00 in the month of October. They are selling Caramel, Krunch, Almond, and Dark Chocolate bars. Please contact any 8th grader.

8th grade is selling Bergner's Community Day coupon books for **\$5.00 each**. The coupon books contain a \$10.00 coupon good for November 14, 2009 and eight 20% off coupons.

8TH GRADE CLASS OFFICERS

The 8th grade class officers have been voted on and the results are as follows:

President—Zack Giovanine
 Vice-President—Drew Radke
 Secretary—Brittany Pode
 Treasurer—Jacob Adams



October/November Calendar of Events

October

- 15-16 VIP Lunch – K (South) 5th grade (North)
- 16 Fall Festival 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 19 PTCC Meeting at 6:30 p.m.— South
- 20 Early Dismissal 2:05-N 2:20-S**
- 21 Hot Lunch Day
- 20 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 22 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 23 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- 27 Early Dismissal 2:05-N 2:20-S**
- 28 School Picture Retakes 9:00 a.m.
- 30 K-3 Costume Parade—South
Parade down Mill St.-2:00 p.m.
- 30 K-3 Class Parties—2:30 p.m.
- 30 4th-5th Class Parties—2:15 p.m. (North)
- 31 Daylight Savings Time**

November

- 2 Market Day 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- 3 Early Dismissal 2:05-N 2:20-S**
- 5 Boys Basketball & Cheerleading pictures at South 3:30 p.m.**
- 9 PTCC Meeting at 6:30 p.m.— North
- 10 Early Dismissal 2:05-N 2:20-S**
- 12-13 VIP Lunch – 2nd Grade (South) 6th grade (North)
- 17 Early Dismissal 2:05-N 2:20-S**
- 18 Hot Lunch Day
- 18 Board of Education Mtg. 6:30 p.m.—North
- 25 Early Dismissal of 2:05 pm and 2:20 pm
Progress Reports Distributed**
- 26-27 No School Thanksgiving Break**
- 30 Market Day 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Remember to set your clocks BACK one hour before you go to sleep! It's also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms.