



Waltham News

Waltham Elementary
School

September 2009

“ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT”.....FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

WELCOME BACK and thank you for a great start to the school year! We appreciate your patience with the changes that have taken place, and we ask you to please be diligent in monitoring the early dismissal schedule throughout the year. If you are ever in doubt as to an early or regular dismissal time. Please don't hesitate to contact the offices. We will be providing you with monthly calendars that will show the early release dates/times, but again, we have some odd weeks with holidays or ½ day early outs that don't conform to the new schedule.

On another note, we have had several new families move into the district, so please extend a warm Waltham Welcome to our new students and their families! We are glad to have you here at Waltham! We would also like to Welcome the following new staff members and share staff changes with you:

New 3rd grade teacher – Mrs. Nina Mitchell

New Basketball coaches: Girl's 7th & 8th Grade Coach – Mr. Larry Laio, Girl's 5th & 6th Grade Coach – Mrs. Angie Hartman, Boy's 5th & 6th Grade Coach – Mr. Andrew Brown, and Girl's 7th & 8th Grade Volleyball Coach – Mrs. Ronda Simcich, Girl's 5th & 6th Grade Volleyball Coach – Mrs. Nina Mitchell.

Welcome Mrs. Jennifer Smith (formerly Miss Baracani) to third Grade and Waltham South

Welcome Back to Mrs. Christi Hellman – 5th grade

Waltham is a District full of CHARACTER and it COUNTS! Our Character counts program is continuing to focus on giving back to the community this year. We have several events planned to help assist our community with some of their efforts, but would welcome any ideas or suggestions you might have as well! Our entrance way areas at both buildings have pillars waiting to be filled with good character examples. Your support at home with the 6 pillars will be greatly appreciated as well. The pillars are: Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, Fairness and Caring. We will keep you informed through our monthly newsletters and our website as to the projects we are working on.

Reminders: Students may not be dropped off at Waltham North before 8:20 a.m. and Students may not be dropped off at Waltham South before 8:40 a.m.

We ask students to follow the sidewalk area in to the north building to help alleviate some safety concerns, and we ask that parents refrain from going around the barricades at the south building. We have appreciated your patience and understanding with the minor busing changes made this year, and ask as always, that you direct your questions and concerns to me as my door is always open.

To quote Dr. Samuel Johnson, “our aspirations are our possibilities”. HAVE A TERRIFIC YEAR!

WALTHAM IS AWESOME



Hot Lunch

The PTCC is providing a Hot Lunch for the students Each month. Everyone will receive 2 slices of cheese pizza and a treat.

At registration, the PTCC offered the option of each family donating \$27.00 per student for the year. For those who choose to pay on a monthly basis, the fee is \$3.50 per month for each student.

For students that are not prepaid, you will be sent a note the week before hot lunch is served. Money will be due by the date stated in the note since we will only be ordering enough pizza for those students that have paid.

You will no longer be able to pay on the day of hot lunch. Any student that has not paid will not be served hot lunch.

Explore Placement Test

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, at 7:45 A.M. The Explore Placement Test will be administered to all eighth grade students who will attend LaSalle-Peru High School next fall.

Character Counts and You

Welcome back to another year of building a community of character! The Character Counts Committee has planned the first half of the school year but will need the community’s help to make an impact!

During the month of September, Waltham students will have a “special day” each week in order to collect donations for the Utica Fire Department. The department is raising funds for an A.E.D. and needs our help. Get Ready! Find your best hat, a cozy pair of pajamas, with more fun to follow!

October will be dedicated to the men and women of the armed forces. For the third year, Waltham students will decorate stockings, write letters and collect items to fill the stockings for “Project Santa”. We will also be busy collecting pennies for the Veteran’s Parade. Start saving those coins!

“Toys for Tots” is on the November calendar with more information to follow. Again, welcome back and here’s to a successful year of being *caring citizens* who are *respectful, responsible, trustworthy*, and doing our *fair share*.

A Word From Mrs. Wilson

Welcome Back! We are off to a terrific start in Junior High! In all our Social Studies classes, we are starting with a review of the Five Themes of Geography and the basics of longitude and latitude. In Illinois History and 7th grade United States History, we are learning about early Native Americans. In 8th grade United States History, we are starting off with a quick review of the Civil War Period.

The 8th graders started discussing their Class Trip right after Labor Day. We will decide where we want to go within a 14 hour day and how we will fund raise to pay for our trip. This is always an interesting and lengthy discussion.

Please go over the handbook with your students, especially the dress code on pages 9 and 10. No tank tops or spaghetti straps are allowed.

I am looking forward to a great year and we are on our way. Class of 2010, graduation will be here before you know it!!

Parents of 4th Graders:

Several 4th Grade students have expressed an interest in signing up for Band. If you would like to sign up for Band, please send a note letting me know what instrument you are considering. If you need to purchase and instrument, I recommend Valley Music or Kidder music stores. They will also rent an instrument at reasonable rates. The school does have two trumpets to rent for \$10 per month if anyone is interested.

The office needs a Band fee of \$50 which covers the entire year. Next, you need to set up an individual lesson time. You can do this by calling Waltham North on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday at (1-815-667-4417).

Thank you for supporting our Band program.

Mrs. Smythe





Summer Reading

Congratulations to the 39 Waltham students who participated in Waltham's 2009 Summer Reading Program. Many students read **hundreds** of pages and several read **thousands!** Fantastic! We are proud of each student's commitment to reading.

Each student received a certificate, book mark, and award. The top readers, who received plaques for reading the most pages for their age categories were: **Jacob Ovanic** (K-2), **Abigail Kamke** (3-5), and **Aaron Kamke** (6-8).

Participants were:

Kindergarten-2nd: Nick Chase, Maverick Andrews, Nolan Hamilton, Tyler Hartman, Alyssa Heitz, Kirsten Low, Samantha May, Noah Olivero, Joe Tomminello, Cassidy Antle, Matthew George, Emma Mertes, Jacob Ovanic

3rd-5th: Madison Aimone, A.J. Bollis, Paige Bunzell, Andy Chase, Jalen Depenbrock, Julia Graham, Zach Hartman, Anna Jereb, James Luce, Abbie May, Mary Claire Tomminello, Annabelle Heitz, Abigail Kamke, Jordan Ovanic, Claire Senica, Ryan Pijanowski, Carly Ramirez, Brendon Sebastian, Nic Bollis

6th-8th: Olivia Graham, Aaron Kamke, Anna Low, Madeline Luce, Taylor Moriarity, Carter Piercy, Chris Moshage

Welcome from Waltham PTCC!

Thanks to all who have signed up to volunteer their time and talents for the various PTCC Committees and Room Parents/Helpers. Congratulations to Ericka Tomminello as the winner of a \$25 Walmart Card from our registration drawing!!

We encourage all to attend our monthly meetings to discuss the mission and progress of our various activities held throughout the year. A meeting agenda is sent home a few days before each PTCC meeting for your review. We understand the busy schedules of Waltham parents and their children, therefore, it is the goal of the PTCC Officers to keep the meeting length at or under 1 hour.

Our first meeting is Sept. 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Waltham North. We have a couple of Jr. High Students who will be there to entertain young children in the gym while their parents attend the meeting. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the PTCC Officers. The Waltham website www.wesd185.org is a great resource as well. We are looking forward to a great year!!

PTCC is seeking the following:

Chairperson(s) for Trivia Night
Chairperson(s) for Nominating Committee
Co-Chair for 2010 Golf Outing

Michele Luce – President, Kelli Rietgraf – Vice President
Marianne Monterastelli – Treasurer, Renee Kim - Secretary

Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels

We have a good start on Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels already this year. Keep them coming to the schools.

STORE CERTIFICATES

Please support our store certificate program. Every penny of our profit is paid to us by the participating stores. It costs you nothing extra to use certificates and/or cards at the register. Use gift cards from Wal-Mart, HyVee, Jewel, Kohl's, Thornton Gas Station, Steak & Shake, and Bella's Pizza. If you are interested in purchasing a gift card, please contact Waltham North School at 815-667-4417.

Store Certificate Committee:
Renee Kim
Tiffany Lewis

October

- 5 Market Day
- 6 Early Dismissal (North 2:05) South(2:20)
- 9 No School County Institute
- 12 No School, Columbus Day
- 13 Early Dismissal (North 2:05) South(2:20)
- 15-16 VIP Lunch—Kindergarten (South) 5th (North)
- 16 PTCC Fall Festival, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (South)
- 19 PTCC Meeting 6:30 p.m. @ South
- 20 Early Dismissal 2:05 North, 2:20 South
- 20 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 pm
- 10-26 Book Fair
- 21 Hot Lunch Day
- 21 Board of Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.-North
- 22 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 pm
- 23 No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:30-11:30
- 27 Early Dismissal 2:05 North, 2:20 South
- 28 School Picture Retakes 9:00 North & South
- 30 Costume Parade downtown Utica (South) 2:00 p.m.
- 30 2:15 Halloween Activities for 4th-5th grades (North)
- 30 2:30 Halloween Activities for K-3rd grades (South)