

Waltham Territory Newsletter

Waltham Elementary
School District 185

Waltham Territory Newsletter
February 2010

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

Smile – it’s SPRING! Happy February too! I’d like to take a few moments to share what’s new and improved at Waltham this year! In the curriculum area we have worked hard to implement a solid Response To Intervention (RTI) schedule and process in place to assist all of our students’ needs. Students in grades K-8 are given 1 minute tests in Reading through a program entitled AIMSWEB – and those results then guide us with interventions necessary to assist each child. Progress is monitored regularly and students receive changes in interventions as needed. Testing for math was added new this year to help us assess where students are and what their needs are.

We are in our first year of our new reading series Treasures and Triumphs and our second year of Envision math. We are currently assessing new Science and Health materials for purchase yet this year. After purchasing these new textbooks, we will have a full toolbox for our students!

Enrollment has remained a steady 240-245 students but several larger groups have made it necessary to split some grade levels causing space needs that are urgent! As you may remember, we were forced to move our 3rd grade students to the south building and now every available space in the south building is in use daily, and all but one room is in use daily at the north building. We have continued to have larger class sizes entering kindergarten and smaller classes leaving in 8th grade leaving us with some tough decisions. The board has been considering all possible options to address the space concerns including possible reconfigurations (annexation or consolidation), referendums – for both education fund and building fund, life safety bonds, working cash bonds, portable classrooms, etc. The board has been vigilant in balancing the districts’ finances with the districts’ needs. We welcome any thoughts or suggestions!

Life safety work yet to be completed this summer includes asbestos abatement in the north office area, skylight removal, fire and emergency door replacements, and updated emergency and alarm systems for both north and south facilities. These items are the final items left on the 10 year life safety report and should be completed this summer.

Last but not least, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who have supported our school district by volunteering, participating in PTCC activities, providing funding, providing education, or any other wonderful opportunity for our kids! As the quote states, ...”It takes a Village...” Thank you for your continued support and for helping to make Waltham such a great place!

Inside this issue:

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE	2
PANCAKE BREAKFAST	2
KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP	2
NEWS FROM MRS. WILSON	3
YOU BE THE CHEMIST CHALLENGE	3
ELKS HOOP SHOOT	3
SPELLING BEE	3
HONOR ROLL	4
8TH GRADE OFFICERS	4
TDAP SHOTS	4
D.A.R.E.. PROGRAM GRADUATES	5
GEOGRAPHY BEE	5
FAYE’S BBQ FUNDRAISER	5
LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION	6
MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS	6

**FROM OUR PRINCIPAL....MR. HAMANN**

ISAT Tips

Reading Tips (includes writing responses)

- o Read at least 100 minutes a week, read both fiction and nonfiction materials.
- o Read newspapers, poetry, textbooks, poems, plays, and advertisements
- o Write letters to friends, grandparents, and relatives
- o Discuss with your children what they read; use a variety of questioning techniques, ask who, what, when where, why and how events occurred.

Math Tips (includes writing responses)

- o Set aside a brief time, 2-3 days a week, to practice computational facts involving whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
- o Follow a recipe and bake cookies
- o Encourage your child to orally discuss the steps used in solving math problems
- o Write and solve one's own word problems involving shopping experiences, telling time, following recipes, and linear measurement.
- o Estimate the grocery or restaurant bill, determine the tip and tax in a restaurant or when purchasing items
- o Relate amounts of money to fraction and decimal equivalents

Science Tips

- o Explain the steps for the scientific method and setting up and conducting an experiment
- o Name the items in the four basic food groups
- o Name the seasons of the year and explain the concepts of rotation and revolution
- o Use charts and graphs to interpret data

**WALTHAM SCHOOL
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

The Waltham PTCC Pancake Breakfast and Raffle is fast approaching.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010 FROM 8 A.M. UNTIL 12:30 p.m. (snow date: Sunday, March 21st) at the Waltham North gym.

Breakfast will include: PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, AND BEVERAGES.

Tickets are \$6 for adults - \$3.00 for children 4-13 years of age- Free for those 3 yrs. or under.

Tickets may be purchased from a Waltham student, at the school, or at the door the day of the breakfast..

MANY NICE RAFFLE ITEMS TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year was held on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

Please call 815-667-4790 and speak to Susan Hewitt to set up an appointment to bring in your child for a brief skills assessment if you were not seen on that day.

Children must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2010 to start Kindergarten. Please bring birth certificate and social security number to registration with you.

PTCC OFFICERS for 2010-2011 School Year

Your children grow up fast. Wouldn't it be great to be involved in your child's school for a few short months? It's not too late to become a PTCC officer. Anyone who is interested in being a PTCC officer or knows of anyone who may be interested can contact the school office.



NEWS FROM MRS. WILSON:

Waltham Students Study Black History through Hands-on Presentation

In March 1849, a slave named Henry Brown escaped from Richmond, Virginia hidden inside a box. With the help of a white shoemaker and a free black man, he shipped himself to the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia and after a harrowing trip of 26 hours, he became a free man.

Waltham students had a chance this month to see what it would have been like to “mail” themselves to freedom. A box built to the same specifications as the box used by Henry “Box” Brown was on display here at Waltham School and used by classes to study Slavery, the Underground Railroad and the people trying to abolish slavery.

YOU BE THE CHEMIST CHALLENGE

Congratulation to Aaron Kamke and Michaela Russell for being the school winners of the *You Be The Chemist Challenge*. Aaron Kamke is the school winner and will receive a \$500 savings bond. Michaela Russell is the runner-up and will receive a \$100 savings bond. Aaron Kamke and Michaela Russell will be competing in the Illinois Valley Challenge (Regional Competition) on Monday, February 22nd at Seneca Grade School (South Campus) at 6:00 p.m. One Illinois winner will advance to the national competition, which is held in Philadelphia, PA.

The local coordinator is Patricia Neff of Morris and the local sponsors are: Air Products and Chemicals, Carus Corporation, PQ Corporation, Flint Hills Resources, Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry, Lyondell Basell Industries, Aux Sable Liquids, Dow Chemical–Wilmington, Exelon-Dresden Station and LaSalle stations. The state sponsors and local challenge is supported by the Illinois Chemical Education Foundation, and the Chemical Education Foundation is the national organizer.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST

The results of the Elks Hoop Shoot Contest held at Waltham North are as follows:

Girls 8-9	Jolene Flynn—Winner Mary Claire Tomminello—Runner Up
Boys 8-9	Ryan Skoog—Winner Billy George—Runner Up
Girls 10-11	Kathryn Henry—Winner Chase Ludford—Runner Up
Boys 10-11	Lukas Schwartz—Winner Jace Hardy—Runner Up
Girls 12-13	Maggie Durdan—Winner Cierra Johnson—Runner Up
Boys 12-13	Jonathon Simcich—Winner Joe Kim—Runner Up



SPELLING BEE—A word from Ms. Lanzrath

The following Junior High students were the classroom winners and participated in the Waltham Spelling Bee on Friday, January 22nd.

6th grade: Olivia Graham, Aaron Kamke, Madeline Luce, Taylor Moriarity, Adam Schwartz

7th grade: Joe Kim, Dylan Krager, Chris Moshage, Samantha Whalen

8th grade: Danielle Claggett, Nolan Durdan, Morgan Grubar, Nicholas Lewis

Congratulations to all of our participants!

The winner of the 2010 Spelling Bee was Joe Kim from 7th grade. The runner-up was Danielle Claggett, from 8th grade. Joe will be competing in the LaSalle County Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at Ottawa High School. We wish him well.



HONOR ROLL STUDENTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER GRADING PERIOD AND FIRST SEMESTER

Second Quarter Grading Period

High Honor Roll: Eighth Grade: Jacob Adams, Danielle Claggett, Falyne Dawson, Nolan Durdan, Trevor Finnan, Morgan Grubar, Nicholas Lewis, Kyle Rothrock, Michaela Russell

Seventh Grade: Madison Anderson, Maggie Durdan, Joe Kim, Chris Moshage, Samantha Whalen

Sixth Grade: Fred Becker, Olivia Graham, Logan Guerrero, Aaron Kamke, Madeline Luce, Gabbi McCabe, Adam Schwartz, Max Senica, Melanie Wilson

Second Quarter Grading Period

Honor Roll: Eighth Grade: Allison Andreatta, Brianna Atkinson, Samantha George, Zack Giovanine, Dylan Guerrero, Anna Harmon, Marissa Martin, Josh McTee, Justin Miller, Reed Pezanoski, Brittany Pode, Drew Radke

Seventh Grade: Breann Aubry, Taylor Cimei, Cody Corcoran, Brody Frig, Tiara Golgin, Cierra Johnson, Micah Johnson, Dylan Krager, Alena Laws, Jane Leonatti, Christine Perona, Erica Pode, Rachel Senica, Hannah Sheth, Jonathon Simcich,

Sixth Grade: Garrett Andreatta, Kaleigh Cox, Matthew Cummings, Austin Flow, Mariah Gibson, Anna Low, Taylor Moriarity, Carter Piercy, Roberta Rehor, Frank Senica, Kyle Small, Kalli Steele, Kendra Yade

8th GRADE CLASS OFFICERS

The 8th grade class has elected their class officers for the 2009-2010 school year.

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

Semester High Honor Roll

Eighth Grade: Jacob Adams, Danielle Claggett, Falyne Dawson, Nolan Durdan, Trevor Finnan, Morgan Grubar, Nicholas Lewis, Kyle Rothrock, Michaela Russell

Seventh Grade: Madison Anderson, Maggie Durdan, Joe Kim, Chris Moshage, Christine Perona, Rachel Senica, Samantha Whalen

Sixth Grade: Fred Becker, Olivia Graham, Logan Guerrero, Aaron Kamke, Madeline Luce, Adam Schwartz, Max Senica, Melanie Wilson

Semester Honor Roll

Eighth Grade: Allison Andreatta, Brianna Atkinson, Samantha George, Zack Giovanine, Dylan Guerrero, Anna Harmon, Marissa Martin, Josh McTee, Justin Miller, Reed Pezanoski, Brittany Pode, Drew Radke

Seventh Grade: Breann Aubry, Brandon Bryan, Taylor Cimei, Cody Corcoran, Cody Flynn, Brody Frig, Tiara Golgin, Cierra Johnson, Micah Johnson, Dylan Krager, Alena Laws, Jane Leonatti, Erica Pode, Hannah Sheth, Hannah Simcich, Jonathon Simcich

Sixth Grade: Garrett Andreatta, Kaleigh Cox, Matthew Cummings, Austin Flow, Mariah Gibson, Anna Low, Gabbi McCabe, Taylor Moriarity, Roberta Rehor, Frank Senica, Kyle Small, Kalli Steele, Kendra Yade

Tdap SHOTS

LaSalle County School Health Services will be here on Friday, April 9, 2010, at 9:15 a.m. to offer the 8th grade class the opportunity to receive their tdap shot. Tdap shots are required for admittance into high school. More information will be distributed in the future.



D.A.R.E. PROGRAM ANNOUNCES GRADUATES

The fifth grade students were involved in the D.A.R.E. program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) for fifteen weeks. Every Tuesday for one hour, Deputy Yacko would teach the students concepts such as, saying no to peer pressure, ways to deal with stress, ways to say no, and how to raise self-esteem. The D.A.R.E. program conducted a graduation for the students who participated. In order to graduate, the students were required to submit what they learned in the form of a poem, article, cartoon, etc. We would like to congratulate both fifth grade classes.

Ms. Ann Dinkel's class: Matthew Adams, Jack Atkins, Julia Browning, Cody Corneglio, Emily Ficek, Autumn Flow, Carter Funfsinn, Jace Hardy, Kathryn Henry, Joe Jansen, Nicholas McTee, Adam Payne, Ryan Pijanowski, Carly Ramirez, Brendon Sebastian, Owen Stoneking, Declan Zuchora.

Mrs. Christi Hellman's class: Cole Bokus, Nic Bollis, Levi Bottomley, Adam Claggett, Katie Corcoran, Paige Foster, Bryanna Hoskins, Wesley Kielski, Andrew Kim, Allison Laws, Chase Ludford, Keegan Miller, Devin Oberjat, Brendan Pode, Payton Rietgraf, Alex Smith, Jeremy Smith, Conner Wheeler

FAY'S PORK CHOP BBQ FUNDRAISER AT WALTHAM SOUTH

Waltham PTCC is again sponsoring a Fay's Drive Thru Pork Chop and Chicken BBQ dinner at Waltham South. Mark your Calendar for Friday April 23 from 4:30-7:00. Dinners are carryout only. Each meal will be \$11 and will include 2 pork chops or 1/2 chicken, applesauce, baked beans, slaw, and a dinner roll. All food is fresh and prepared on site. Tickets will be available in April from any Waltham student or in the school offices.

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 Turigliattii and ZomNyet Webster

5th grade: Levi Bottomley and Chase Ludford

6th grade: Adam Schwartz and Kyle Small

7th Grade: Samantha Whalen and Jane Leonatti

8th grade: Trevor Finnan and 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.

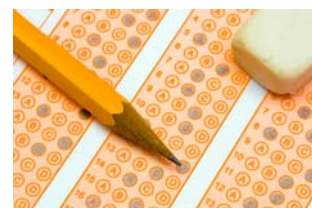
A WORD FROM MRS. SMYTHE

We have one student who is taking advantage of the opportunity to play with other bands in the area; as well as the L-P High School Band on February 18th. The event is at L-P High School and the concert is that evening. Samantha Whalen will be performing with the bands. Let's cheer for Samantha!

ISAT REMINDER

Just a reminder that ISAT testing begins March 2nd. Please remember that students will need a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast.

Attendance is very important!





2010 UTICA LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Utica Little League Baseball, Softball, & T-Ball sign-ups will be held Saturday, February 20, from 9:00-12:00 and Saturday, February 27, 9:00-12:00 at the Utica Community Township Building in downtown Utica. Registration fees are \$60 for initial child, \$35 for each additional child. There is a \$15 late fee per child for anyone signing up after March 3rd, \$75/\$50. Final sign-ups will be March 3 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. @Waltham South. No sign-ups will be allowed after March 24. **If you have a child age 4 and would like them to have the opportunity to play T-Ball, you must contact Utica Little League President Doug Porter or Vice President Mike Adams and request a waiver who will present the waiver to the Utica Little League Board of Directors.** Registration forms will be handed out at the North & South buildings.

Note: Any player who has not returned their uniform from last year will not be allowed to sign up until the uniform has been returned or paid for.

Our annual Spring Clinic for players 7-12 yrs. Old will be held on March 3, 10, 17, & 24 at Waltham South. Clinic times will be handed out at registration. Any questions about registration or the Spring Clinic, contact Doug Porter @ 343-1632, 667-4877, or Mike Adams a@488-2211.

7th & 8th grade boys & girls interested in being scorekeepers this spring & summer for the Utica Little League should contact Mr. Mike Adams @ 815-488-2211 for more information.



CHARACTER COUNTS CAPS FOR CANS

The Waltham Community is working together to fill the shelves at our local food pantries. Join the fun! Our goal is 1200 lbs by March 19th. Students can bring in groceries any day of the week. Students can wear a hat on the following Fridays **IF** they bring in groceries: Feb. 19, March 12, March 19.

ST. BALDRICK'S SHAVEES

A group of Waltham students are on a crusade to raise money to conquer childhood cancer. On Sunday, March 21st @12:00 noon at Senica's Oak Ridge they will gather to have their heads shaved. You can join the crusades by contributing a cash donation to Waltham's Money Jars found in the offices at both buildings. Or you can type in stbaldricks.org on your computer, click on "donate on behalf of participant or team" type in student's name, click on shave, search.

Students that have signed up so far are: Nic Bollis, Adam Claggett, Jace Hardy, Logan Humpage, Payton Rietgraf, and Frank Senica.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 1** No School Casimir Pulaski Day
- March 2-12** ISAT Tests (Grades 3-8)
- March 8 Market Day 4:30-5:30 p.m. @ N
- March 12** 11:40 Dismissal North
- March 12** 11:55 Dismissal South
- March 14 Pancake Breakfast 8:00-12:00 @ N
- March 15 PTCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- March 16** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South
- March 17 Board of Ed Meeting at 6:30 p.m. @ N
- March 18-19 VIP Lunch (3rd & 6th grade)
- March 23** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South
- March 24 Hot Lunch Day
- March 25 Holiday Dinner
- March 26 Report Cards Distributed
- March 26** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South
- March 29-April 2** No School, Spring Break