

A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It was a personal pleasure to reconnect with so many of our families, as well as meet folks new to Woodridge during our grade level "Back to School" nights this week. Our families value education, and, as evidenced by the large turnout, are willing to invest the time needed to truly find out what is happening in their child's class each day. At the same time, our staff prides itself on thorough and frequent communications with parents. What a winning combination on behalf of kids!



I'd like to offer a special thank you to the parents who took the time to attend one of my presentations on the new Standards Based Grading and Reporting system. After three years in study and development, and an extensive pilot year in seven of our elementary schools last year, the new report card is being implemented at all Spokane Public Schools elementary sites this year.

Standards Based Grading and Reporting provides more information to parents, and the information is more accurate than in the past. This system provides for consistency from class to class within grade level, and more continuity from Kindergarten through **Grade Six**. Most importantly the changes in practice will help students be more aware of their strengths and allow them to see the next steps in their learning that they need to be successful.

Today, each parent will be receiving a red Parent Report Card Handbook. Please take the time to read and understand the contained information so that you can track your child's progress and be ready for your first Parent/Teacher Conference in November. The more familiar you are with the new report card, the less explanation will be necessary and you and your child's teacher can focus on the most important topic of all . . . your child.

Communication between school and home is one of our greatest strengths at Woodridge, and Standards Based Grading and reporting makes that bond even stronger. As always, thank you for your interest and involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Brian Melody

Brian Melody	Principal	354-4600
Attendance		354-4606

September 18, 2009

Upcoming Events

September

Sept. 22	First Day of Autumn	
Sept. 23	Volunteer Orientation	9:00 a.m.
	Volunteer Workroom	Room 135
Sept. 24	9:30 a.m. Start for Students	
Sept. 25	PTSO Back to School	
	Ice Cream Social and Bingo	
Sept. 29	Site Council	3:15 p.m.
Sept. 30	PTSO Skate Night	

October

Oct. 5	Read to Succeed Begins	
Oct. 7	PTSO Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	PTSO Papa John's Pizza Night	
Oct. 9	Curriculum Day	No School
Oct. 23	ASB Character Counts Day	
	RESPECT (Yellow)	
Oct. 27	Site Council	3:15 p.m.
Oct. 27	PTSO Skate Night	
Oct. 31	Halloween	

RESPECT and Yellow



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Building Confidence



Personality plays a big role in the way children react to different situations that occur in their lives. Some children may naturally be more cautious than others but you can help them feel more comfortable. Help your child ease into new situations. Think of them as the kind of children who prefer to wade gradually into a cold pool instead of jumping in all at once. Daily habits reassure children, especially when kids associate them with happy feelings.

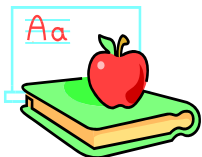
From the day children are born until they graduate from high school, they spend just 15 percent of their waking hours in school. The other 85 percent is spent outside school . . . And most of that time is spent at home.

That means that you are your child's most influential teacher. Fortunately, children are naturally curious and love to learn.

Reading to your child is just as important as letting your child read to you. Read a paragraph, a page, or a chapter, then ask your young audience questions. When your children read to you, listen carefully and be ready with creative answers to the questions you might be asked.

Talk to your children often about their different strengths. When children know they're good at something they will feel more confident. Teach them manners and respect for others. Children will feel more at ease around other people when they know the right things to do and say.

Jodi Harmon, Counselor



Volunteer Orientation

Please join us Wednesday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. for our annual Volunteer Orientation and training. We will meet in the Room 135, our Volunteer Workroom. New volunteers as well as returning ones are encouraged to come and learn everything you need to know about being a volunteer. Your questions will be answered along with learning our different school procedures.

We appreciate all the time and energy that our volunteers put into making Woodridge such a great school!

Lael Martin, Volunteer Coordinator



Influenza Update

As anticipated, influenza season has arrived in our community. We have parent reported cases of influenza at most every school in the area. As of 9-17-09, the number of absences is not considered high but we are seeing about twice as many absences due to influenza-like symptoms as compared to last year.

At this time, it is not significant which particular influenza virus is circulating in our area. We need to take the same preventative measures during all influenza seasons. It's true that the H1N1 virus appears to be more contagious than the "seasonal" influenza but that is because it is a new strain of virus and our bodies have not yet had the chance to build immunity against the H1N1 virus.

The reason we need repeated "seasonal" flu vaccination every year is because the influenza virus is known to frequently change as it moves around the world. The next season's flu vaccine production needs to anticipate these changes and be formulated slightly differently every year. Most of us benefit from boosting our immune system by vaccinating for influenza yearly.

Seasonal influenza vaccinations are available in our community now and H1N1 will be available for persons in the identified "vaccine priority groups" by mid-October. Vaccine priority groups include pregnant women, children age 6 months to 24 years, adults 25-64 who have chronic medical conditions, health care and emergency workers, and those who live in households where there is an infant less than 6 months of age. Please call your health care provider for more details.

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep your child home when ill, has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, reporting specific symptoms when your child is absent, encouraging good hand washing practices and covering their coughs and sneezes.

Kathe Reed-McKay, Director, Health Services