



Washington Elementary School

April, 2017



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL—Dr. Bill Tithof

With Spring Break ahead/behind us, the students and staff are re-energized for the important last two months of the school year. April is also the month in which we recognize our office staff on Administrative Professionals Day, April 26. At Washington, Ms. Kelly Hutchison and Ms. Shari Sweebe take care of so many things. Besides all the paperwork, phones, etc., each of them tend to your students with birthday pencils, band aids, ice for bumps, a smile, or a hug, and many other needs. All of these “little things” make your child feel comfortable and safe. I can’t say enough thanks to our Administrative Assistants for all they do at Washington! If you have the opportunity, please thank them, too, for all they do.

SPRING BREAK

As a reminder, Spring Break is here. Our Spring Break begins on Saturday, March 25, through Sunday, April 2. Students return to school on Monday, April 3. Have a safe vacation!

M-STEP ASSESSMENT

The M-STEP, the Michigan assessment, is coming up. This test is administered on the computer and is now taken in the spring. Fifth graders begin on April 10; fourth graders begin on May 1; third graders begin on May 1. Students have been trained on the testing tools they will be using. If you would like to look at sample questions, testing tools, and other M-STEP info, please visit: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117---,00.html



Important Dates to Remember

March 25-April 2—Spring Break. Students return to School on Monday, April 3

April 10-May 5—M-STEP begins for 5th Grades

April 10—Board of Education Meeting @ 7:15 PM at Western High School

April 11—V & O Assembly @ 1:30 pm

April 12—Student Council to Pine Towers 12– 3 PM.

April 13—5th Grades to State Park Fishing

April 14-April 17—NO SCHOOL

April 23-30: Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 26—Administrative Professionals’ Day

April 28—Midterm 3

May 4—Mid Term Reports sent home

VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 23-29 is National Volunteer Week. If it wasn’t for our volunteers, we would not be able to do several projects around Washington. For all of you who volunteer—a HUGE thank you!



FAMILY HEALT INITIATIVE—MS. BRANDI

HOW TO HELP A GRIVING STUDENT

Since our goal is to be a more trauma centered school, the school-based support and increased understanding grief are essential when a student experiences the death of a friend or loved one or even an animal. Each student handles the event differently. We want to make sure that the student feels support at school. There are some strategies listed below that can be helpful in supporting bereaved students.

- Be simple and straightforward. Discuss death in developmentally appropriate terms for students.
- Be brief and patient. Remember that you may have to answer the same question multiple times and repeat key information to ensure understanding.
- Listen, acknowledge feelings, and be nonjudgmental.
- Express your own feelings in an open, calm, and appropriate way that encourages students to share their feelings and grief.
- Avoid making assumptions and imposing your own beliefs on students.
- Consider a student's intellectual abilities, behavior, and conceptual understanding of death. For children with developmental disabilities. Their limited communication skills do not mean they are unaffected by the death. Behaviors such as increased frustration and compulsivity, somatic complaints, relationship difficulties, and increased self-stimulatory behaviors may be expressions of grief.

There is a summer camp called Forget-Me-Not that is free of charge for ages 6-14 in Pinconning. The deadline is July 3rd. If you feel that your student would benefit from this camp please get with Ms. Brandi.

PARENT CONNECT

Our next Parent Connect Meeting is on April 20 at 8:30 AM. We will discuss Title I, M-STEP Testing, Family Health Initiative Staff update, and Love and Logic. I hope you can attend.



REDUCING BULLYING



Staff and students continue each day to discuss bullying and the effects on others. At Washington, we believe, that continuing discussion among students, with examples, assist them in their behavior relating to others.

What is Bullying?

Bullying hurts someone's feelings. When mean kids do bad things to other kids, it's just wrong. Bullying is the wrong thing to do.

When you get bullied, what do you do?
Tell them nice people don't talk that way and walk away.
Ignore the person that is bullying you. Tell someone you know and trust.
Always treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Jordan—Third Grade

TEACHER REQUESTS

The office will be accepting teacher requests for the 2017-2018 school year beginning Monday, April 3 thru Friday, April 28. Please stop by the office and complete the form if you have a teacher preference. We will try to honor each request, but students will be placed so their educational needs can be met.

SCHOOL STORE

Our school store is still up and running! Each Tuesday, the store is open for business. We have many school supplies: Pencils, book marks, highlighters, note pads, and many other items. The students have a lot of fun "buying" items. Thanks for your support.

NURSE STACY

It is sad to say, but Nurse Stacy is leaving Washington for another job beginning April 3. We will definitely miss her! We are in search of another nurse.

Meanwhile, here is a message from Nurse Stacy: Did you know that most Cold & Flu symptoms are viruses? Viruses DO NOT require an antibiotic as they are only effective for bacterial infections, not viral infections. What this means is that usually the virus just needs to "run its course" with the help from lots of fluids, extra rest and maybe some children's symptom relief medication if indicated. If your child has a fever that lasts longer than 24 hours or other symptoms that are not improving, it's always a good idea to call your child's doctor's office and speak to the nurse to see if they think your child needs to be seen in the office.



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/
PHONE/EMERGENCY FORMS**

It is very important that parents notify the school office of any changes in address, home, and work phone numbers, etc. When we have emergencies, it is important that we have the correct information to reach a parent as soon as possible.



If you have had any changes on your emergency/profile sheet, please let us know. Please call Ms. Shari at 894-2744 with any changes.



ATTENDANCE

Our goal is to have all of our students in class, learning every day for the entire learning day, 8:19 am-3:12 pm. When it is necessary for a child to miss school for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to call the school office at 894-2744 to excuse your child. If at all possible it is best for your child's education to schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school or during scheduled vacations.

The Learning Day

8:09—Universal Breakfast

8:19— Student's must be in classrooms ready to learn.

3:12—The end of the learning day.

Spring Break

March 25-April 2

Students return April 3!

**HOMEWORK
POLICY**

If your child is absent for a very short term, they can contact their teachers upon returning to school. For absences more than one day, parents may call the school and request assignments that may be worked on prior to the student returning. Please request your student's homework at least 24 hours in advance only if they will be out for more than one day.



Please complete the bottom portion and have your child return it to their teacher.

.....
_____ Yes, I received and have read the April Newsletter.

Student _____ Parent (optional) _____

Parent Signature _____ Phone #: _____

Any comments, concerns, suggestions, or congratulations are appreciated!

Thank you for your thoughts!