

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL—Mrs. Judy Cox

Dear Parents,
November was a great month, wow it sure went quickly! I would like to share with you the update on the school playground. As you all know “Big Red” is not safe for the students to play on and will need to be taken down. The good news is a new playground structure has been purchased and with the cooperation of the weather should be installed by the end of January. The students were able to participate in choosing the colors for the new structure. The color scheme will be red posts, blue plastic, silver accessories and brown decks.
Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for Dec. 13th and 15th. If you have not called in to schedule a conference time please call the main office and speak to Ms. Tracey or Ms. Jackie. Teachers will be available to discuss your child’s progress and answer any questions you may have. Your attendance is very important to us.
As always thank you for your dedication to the success of Washington Elementary.

WINTER BREAK

This year, our Winter Break begins on Saturday, December 17, through Monday, January 2, 2012. Students return, Tuesday January 3, 2012.

THE SHINING EAGLE

The Shining Eagle is a special award presented to two students on Friday mornings. These students are individuals that display good behavior and their personal best in the learning environment. When their name is announced they are invited to the office to assist with morning announcements, they are presented a special t-shirt to wear proudly every Friday, and a phone call is made home to share the good news with their parents and families. Congratulations to the following Shining Eagle recipients: **Joseph Schalk, April LaRosa, Jomar Griffin, Natalie Kuehlewind, Darien Fitrakis, Anjali Gutierrez, Aaron Hine and Katelyn Matlock**

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Washington Student Council had the opportunity to donate 1,000 Double Tree Cookies to the follow organizations: Bay City Police Department, the Volunteer Veteran's Food Drive and Women’s Shelter. Washington student council participated in a program presented by Double Tree called Caring for the Community. Student Council along with Double Tree staff went into the community and gave cookies to show how much we appreciate them caring about us as a community. The council members were excited to show



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Important Dates to Remember

- Dec. 1-9th** Can Food Drive
- Dec. 2—**End of 1st Marking Period
- Dec. 3-9—**Book Fair
- Dec. 7—**Morning Coffee @ 8:30 AM
- Dec. 8—**Holiday Program @ 6 PM
- Dec. 16—**V & O Assembly @ 1:45 PM
- December 13 and 15:** Parent Teacher Conferences
- December 19- January 2—**Winter Break
- Students return on Tuesday, January 3**

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,

There have been so many exciting happenings within the District so far this year. I hope you have had the opportunity to join in some of the events that have been occurring in your children's schools.

Handy Middle School hosted a Family Night in November and had over 400 attendees. Middle school students and their parents enjoyed an inspirational evening with a nationally known motivational speaker, Brian Pruitt, with a focus on students showing respect for one another. This program is one part of our bullying prevention initiatives. It was a great evening for all.

McAlear-Sawden hosted over 50 local veterans during a special Veteran's Day celebration, honoring them with patriotic song and student enthusiasm. Principal Connors received a great deal of positive feedback from the veterans who were in attendance.

Schools are hosting Family Math Nights, Harvest Dinners, Harvest Nights, Fitness Family Fun Nights, Reading Parties ... you name it, it's happening! Look to school calendars for more info.

Of course, this month will offer many holiday concerts, assemblies and celebrations. If you are able, please attend these school activities and feel free to share your thoughts about the programs you are enjoying with your children's building principals. They would love to hear from you.

On another note, in lieu of the shorter days and challenging weather we expect for the winter season, please take a moment to remind your family members and friends that driver safety plays a key role in keeping our students out of harm's way on our roadways. This is especially true at our school bus stops - during early morning hours as well as school dismissal times.

Wishing you a safe and very enjoyable holiday break,

Douglas L. Newcombe
Superintendent





Attendance usually begins to go down due to illness. During the coming months, please continue to stress good nutrition, good sleep habits (an elementary school child should be sleeping 9-10 hours per night), and hand washing with your child. If your child has a fever, please continue to keep him/her home until the fever has subsided for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER—MRS. ZACHARKO: TEACHING EMPATHY

Teaching Empathy to our Children

At around 8 or 9, children begin to develop the skills necessary to understand the concept of empathy. But even 6 year olds are concerned about being treated well, and they want others to be treated well too. The following are some ideas to help develop empathy in our children.

***Praise empathetic behavior;** when your child performs an act of kindness, tell him/her what they did right, and be as specific as possible: “You were very generous to share your pretzels with Tommy. I saw him smiling and I know he was happy.”

***Use role play.** Have your child put himself in the other person’s shoes and role play the situation. Also, look back at prior experiences when the tables were turned.

***Look for Good in Everyone.** When our children are faced with people they don’t like or are at odds with, encourage them to try to find something good, however small, in that person.

***Involve your children in charitable activities.** Acts of kindness and charity are an excellent way to teach your child empathy. Your child could help when planning and making a meal to take to a sick friend. They could also help donate time or items to a local charity.

***Teach basic rules of politeness.** Good manners are a concrete way for your child to show caring and respect for others.

***Give your child jobs.** Research suggests that children who learn responsibility also learn kindness and caring.

***Use I-Messages.** Use I-Messages when you talk to your children about feelings. Teach your child to use I-Messages to express his feelings in a positive way. I feel _____, When you _____, and I want _____.

Adopted from Otsego Elementary Counseling

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Our Winter Music Program, put on by the Fifth Grade, will be on Thursday, December 8, 2011. We will feature festive and humorous holiday music. There will be an afternoon program/dress rehearsal for the school at 2:00 p.m. and an evening program at 6:00 p.m. for parents. Both programs will be in the gym. We have been working hard and are looking forward to a fun show! Hope you may be able to attend.



CAN FOOD DRIVE

Washington Student Council is having a Can Food drive from November 28—December 9th. Please donate a can of food to help families around the county. The food will be donated to Hidden Harvest.

REPORT CARDS

wonderful holiday gifts. Please considering supporting our students as they are working towards going to Henry Ford and Greenfield Village in May.

The Fourth Graders will be building Holiday Trees on Wednesday, December 14, 2011. Please send in a bag of candy with your child to help support this creative project. We would appreciate the candy to be at school by Friday, December 9, 2011. The kids look forward to this every year! It is amazing to see how creative the kids can be!

The Fourth Graders will be taking a field trip to the BAISD Career Center on Thursday, December 15, 2011. The students will be touring the building and attending a variety of sessions to learn about different job opportunities. We will be leaving Washington at 12:00 and returning by 1:40. Be sure to ask a fourth grader all about the wonderful things they learned.

FINANCIAL EDGE CREDIT UNION



FinancialEdge Community Credit Union had a blast at the annual Washington School Student Credit Union Kick-Off assembly. Laughter and cheer filled the gym as students watched the Credit Union Volunteers, Kirby, and a team of Washington staff in a competition against each other. There was music, games, and loads of credit union spunk! The following students participated in the exciting assembly!

Jacob Achtabowski, Brice Rule, Hannah Lincoln, Noelle Archer, Amber Birdsall, Sunshine Holes, Gabby Rembish, Kiara Jones and Cody Rodriguez



DECEMBER PROMOTION: FINANCIAL EDGE CREDIT UNION

Help Kirby decorate his holiday tree! Kirby wants each of you to place your special touch on his tree! Each time you make a deposit at the Student Credit Union now through December 15th, they'll receive a special decoration to place on Kirby's tree. The goal is to help Kirby fill the tree with as many decorations as you can. At the end of the contest your names will be placed into a drawing to win a special holiday gift! Winners will be chosen from all of the decorations placed on the tree! Remember, the Student Credit Union is open every Wednesday at 9:30am. Be sure to make a deposit and help Kirby celebrate the holidays! Parents if you have questions please call either Whitney Van Idour or Ellie Hamme, FECCU, at (989)

5TH GRADE NEWS

On 5th grade students went to Camp Timbers on October 27th. The students had fun participating in team building activities such as; team course, bike riding, and group luncheon. What a great opportunity for our students to share time with fellow classmates and learn skills related to team work and cooperation.

Here is what Denitrea Brinson said about Camp Timbers: "My peak of Camp Timbers was the team course. It was awesome. However, it was hard when we had to get in alphabetical by our middle name. The spider web was outstanding. My "pit" was the bike riding. It wasn't all that fun because I fell off. Another "pit" was the beast. I thought it was going to be something scary, but it was



Our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled from December 2nd through 8th. Please see the schedule below:

Browsing and Wish List:

December 2nd from 9am-3pm

December 5th from 9am-12pm

Student Purchase Day (Please remember 6% sales tax):

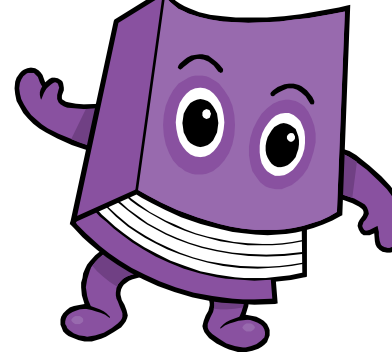
December 5: Dubay, Bukowski, Keenan, Peter

December 7: Bragiel, Rankey, Haag, Wendt, Legner, McCuen, Maciejewski

December 8: Kraut, Chase, Kern, Leisentrirt, Lyons, DuRussel, Neering

Book Fair open to families (before, during and after 5th grade concert):

December 8th from 5:30pm-7:30pm



ONLINE BOOK FAIR

If you are unable to make it to the book fair, you can access it online from November 28th-December 10th. Log on to <http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs/2911868>

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Volunteers Needed

Our book fair will be more successful with the help of volunteers like you! If you are able to give the gift of your time on Dec.2 or the week of Dec. 5th, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter.

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HEADPHONES

Great News! Washington has made a huge investment in headphones for the computer lab for each student. Each student will get a pair to use through their elementary career. They will each be responsible to take care with their headphones. If they break their headphones, they will need to pay \$3 to replace the set.

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- Common Core State Standard of Argumentative writing!! Argumentative writing involves the following.
1. Choosing a position on a given topic
 2. Giving the background of that topic
 3. Stating the "Pros" of your position
 4. Stating the "Cons" (what would those who oppose you say?)
 5. Summarizing

We began with a teacher modeled writing addressing the questions, "Should cell phones be used while driving?" Then, as a class, we did a guided/shared writing involving the following topics:

---Should students wear uniforms to school?

---Should students go to school year round?

---Should students get paid for good grades?

They certainly had a lot of opinions to share and great classroom discussions were had by all!!! Students are now in the phase of drafting their own Argumentative Essays, using a variety of Thinking Map! Feel free to visit our hallway (across from Room 215) to see where all of their hard work of the writing process is displayed :)

MRS. BROWN: ART TEACHER

Mrs. Brown would like to Thank Meijers for the grant given for incentives for Art class.

COFFEE CLUB

Our next Coffee Club meeting is Wednesday, December 7. The topics will be nutrition, fitness, couponing tips, and Holiday coping hints. We hope you can join us!



TWO CAN TUESDAY

Every Tuesday is Two-Can Tuesday. The 3rd graders ask each student to donate two returnable cans to help fund their trip in May to Mackinaw Island. Please support them by sending your child with two cans on Tuesday. The class at each grade level with the most cans will participate in a Pinata party in May. We currently have collected 2,544 cans. The class leaders are as follows:

K- Mrs. Keenan 563 cans	1st - Mrs. Neering 246 cans
2nd -Mrs. DuRussel 40 cans	3rd- Mrs. Lyons 345 cans
4th -Mrs. Haag 48 cans	5th- Ms. Wendt 48 can

SCHOOL DELAY AND CLOSING INFORMATION



Winter is here! Weather changes quickly in Michigan. With these changes, school delays and/or closings are possible. In a school delay, it is just that— school starts exactly 2 hours later than our regular starting time of 8:20 AM. That means all morning bus pick-up times are 2 hours later than normal. On days when it appears school may be delayed or closed, please **do not** call the office. Please listen to TV or radio stations for announcements, or check our webpage at www.bcschools.net. As soon as schools are closed or delayed, the media and our webpage are updated. The safety of our students is

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 Jackie at 894-2744 with any changes.



Our goal is to have all of our students in class, learning every day for the entire learning day, 8:20 am-3:19 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

8:10—Universal Breakfast

8:20— Student's must be in classrooms ready to learn.

3:19—The end of the learning day.

**Winter Holiday: December 19—
January 2
School begins: Tuesday, January 3rd!**



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 read the December Newsletter.

Student _____ Parent (optional) _____

Parent Signature _____ Phone #: _____

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

