

**NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL—Mrs. Judy Cox**

This month’s newsletter is mainly a recap of the many happenings in March. I hope you enjoy this edition. April is another busy month, too. With Spring Break ahead/behind us, the students and staff are reenergized 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 27. At Washington, Ms. Tracy Mowbray and Ms. Helene Lochinski take care of so many things. Besides all the paperwork, phones, etc., all 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” makes 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.



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**SPRING BREAK**

As a reminder, Spring Break is here. Our Spring Break begins on Monday, March 28 through Friday, April 1. Students return to school on Monday, April 4. Have a safe vacation!

**SCHOOL TIME CHANGE**

Since we have had too many days closed due to weather, beginning April 4, the school day will be lengthened by 6 minutes. **The end of school will now be 3:25 PM.**

**MUSIC PROGRAM**



Please mark your calendar for Thursday, April 14, at 6 PM for our third and fourth grade music program. Hope you can make it!

**READING IS BAY COUNTY’S BUSINESS**

On Monday, March 1, several community members came to Washington Elementary to read to students. Since **March is Reading Month**, these volunteers wanted to come to school to explain the importance of reading. At right is one of our guest readers



**Important Dates to Remember**

**March 28-April 1**—Spring Break. Students return to School on Monday, April 4.

**April 6**—Parent Morning Coffee-8:30 AM

**April 8**—V & O Assembly @ 1:45 PM

**April 14**—3rd & 4th Grade Music Program @ 6 PM

**April 21**—Easter Egg Hunt

**April 22**—Earth Day

**April 22**—**NO SCHOOL**—Good Friday

**April 27**—Administrative Professionals’ Day

**April 28**—Spring

### **Thank you!**

A big thank you goes out to all of our Bay City Public School volunteers. Our volunteer program is one of our shining stars. April 10-16 is National Volunteer Week and I'd like to recognize all the effort put forth by the many, many people who assist our students and staff in so many ways. Whether you volunteer in our school libraries, work directly with students in the Remarkable Readers program, participate in field trips, organize fundraisers, assist at co-curricular functions ... the list is limitless. We are so fortunate to have such a strong volunteer program and so far this year, our volunteers have logged over 18,000 hours of time in support of educational excellence!

Thank you to all volunteers for helping our students succeed in so many areas.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations Western Warriors varsity boys basketball players and coaches! Western won the District Championship for only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in school history (last in 1991) and won their first Regional title ever. As of this writing, they will be competing at the next level.

### **2010-11 AP Achievement District (College Board)**

We were recently notified that the Bay City Public School District is one of 388 school districts in the nation being recognized by the College Board on its AP<sup>®</sup> Achievement List. This list recognizes districts for opening AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while at the same time, maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher.

*“From 2008 to 2010, your district has increased the number of students participating in AP from 195 to 232 while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher, the score typically needed to earn college credit, from 52% in 2008 to 53% in 2010. These nation-wide measurable achievements in AP classes are noteworthy and newsworthy.”*

We take great pride in creating a culture focused on college readiness.

If you have comments or questions, please feel free to email ([newcombed@bcschools.net](mailto:newcombed@bcschools.net)) or call me at 671-8165.

### **LIBRARY NEWS—Scholastic Book Fair Monday, April 11 - Thursday, April 14**

Mark your calendars—so you will not miss our Spring Scholastic Book Fair! The children will be browsing and making out their “wish lists” on Friday, April 8th & Monday morning, April 11th, 2011. They will have an opportunity to purchase books during their scheduled library time on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 14<sup>th</sup>. The book fair will be open to families during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program on Thursday, April 14th, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Please remember to send enough money to cover **sales tax**. We



**Something You may not know about me:** I went to Washington Elementary from kindergarten to fifth grade! :)  
**Favorite TV Show:** The Big Bang Theory & Grey's Anatomy  
**Favorite Hobby:** I have a lot of hobbies, but I am looking forward to warmer weather. I like to be outdoors. I like to ride my bike and go kayaking. I also really like to watch football, especially U of M. GO BLUE!  
**Pets:** one cat named Maizy  
**Favorite Color:** Green and Purple  
**Favorite Quote:** Love the Life you Live! Live the Life you Love!



## **VOLUNTEER NEWS—Upcoming Events in April**

Due to the snow days extending our Schwann Food Sale, we will not be doing our Cookie Dough Sale. This Cookie Dough Sale was in the April Newsletter, but this version is updated.

The Book Fair is April 11th through April 14th. The Book Fair will remain open during and after the Spring Concert on April 14.

Thursday, April 21, will be our Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt, weather permitting. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help stuff the eggs and work the day of the Hunt.

Volunteer Appreciation Week comes up in April, and the first week of May is teacher Appreciation Week.

## **COUNSELOR CORNER—Mrs. Zacharko**



“April Showers Bring May Flowers”. I’m not talking about the garden variety, but rather the evidence that Washington Elementary students are beginning to bloom. Shoes are a bit tighter; hair is a tad longer, pants a bit shorter, word walls are almost full, and thinking maps fill the halls. Our students have proven daily that they know what “Filling a Bucket” looks and feels like as well as what a “Bucket Dipper” looks and feels like. Kids are even learning how to “Put a Lid” on their buckets to protect the contents.

Washington students have made their principals proud, their teachers proud, their parents proud, and most importantly, they have made themselves proud. It’s Spring, so let’s all continue to grow in a positive

## 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 2011-2012 school year from Monday, April 11 thru Friday, April 29. Please stop by the office and fill out the form if you have a preference. We will try to honor each request.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. STAUDACHER

Everyone knows that exercise is good for your body, but recent research also shows that students who are physically active during the school day are often better able to concentrate on their school work and may do better on standardized tests. In many schools, physical education classes and recess have been squeezed out due to increasing educational demands and tough financial times. Findings of research suggest PE classes and recess can improve students' concentration and achievement in classrooms. Finally, participation in sports can improve grades, school attachment, educational aspirations, and the likelihood of graduation. Please keep encouraging your child to be physically active for 30 minutes each day!



**Footwear for Gym:** Please have your child wear gym shoes on their day of PE.

## SCHOOL STORE

Our school store is up and running! Each Tuesday and Thursday, the store is open for business. We have pickles, licorice, pretzels, juice boxes, and fruit roll ups. We have many other school supplies: Pencils,

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION/DAYCARE/SHARED-CUSTODY FORM**

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER CHILD!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2011-12 School Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Last, First

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ 2011-12 Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address of Student \_\_\_\_\_

(No.) (N.S.E.W.) (Street) (St. Rd. Dr. Cir. Ave. Ln., etc.) (City) (Zip)

1st Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_

- Our child *does not need* transportation in 2011-2012. Stop here, please check the box and return this form with your student's name/address at the top as indicated.
- Our child *needs* transportation to & from HOME ONLY - no other sites in 2011-2012. Stop here, please check the box and return this form with your student's name/address at the top as indicated.
- Our child *does not need* transportation to & from HOME, only from following DayCare/Shared-Custody Sites in 2011-2012.
- Our child *needs* transportation to or from HOME and also from following DayCare Shared-Custody Sites in 2011-2012.
  - School of Choice (Out of District) / Building of Choice (Other than home school)**  
Please complete entire form.  
Dispatch Office will review your requests & provide transportation as allowed within their guidelines
  - Gifted & Talented Program**  
Please complete entire form.  
Dispatch Office will review your requests & provide transportation as allowed within their guidelines.
  - Special Education, Wenona Alternative Center**  
Please complete entire form.  
These programs are programs of need and bussing is provided. If however, a program of need is offered in two locations and a parent opts for a choice that involves additional transportation, bussing will not be provided.

**DAYCARE/SHARED-CUSTODY INFORMATION**

AM Pick-up Address (for DayCare/Sitter/Shared -Custody (name/phone): \_\_\_\_\_):

(No.) (N.S.E.W.) (Street) (St. Rd. Dr. Cir. Ave. Ln., etc.) (City) (Zip)

1st Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_

PM Take-home Address (for DayCare/Sitter/Shared -Custody (name/phone): \_\_\_\_\_):

(No.) (N.S.E.W.) (Street) (St. Rd. Dr. Cir. Ave. Ln., etc.) (City) (Zip)

1st Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature on this completed form and returned to us indicates your understanding and agreement of the Transportation Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Please return form to: Bay City Public Schools, Transportation Dept., 480 Midland Road, Bay City, MI 48706**

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. Helene 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-3:25 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

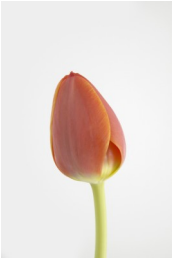
8:10—Universal Breakfast

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

**3:25—The end of the learning day.**

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.

**Spring Break**  
**March 28-April 1**  
**Students return April 4!**



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!  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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