

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

Dear Parents,  
November was great month! We had a Veterans’ Day Program, a very successful Food Drive, and had our third Victories and Opportunities Assembly. All of these activities reinforce many qualities and skills we want all of our students to demonstrate. To celebrate the upcoming holidays, Washington will host a Holiday Night on Tuesday, December 15, beginning at 6 PM. Please come and join us. All of us at Washington wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!



**WINTER BREAK**

This year, our Winter Break begins on Saturday, December 18, through Sunday, January 2, 2011. Students return, Monday, January 3, 2011.

**BOOK FAIR**

Mark your calendars—so you will not miss our Winter Scholastic Book Fair! The children will be browsing and making out their “wish lists” on Friday, December 3rd & Monday morning, December 6th, 2010. They will have an opportunity to purchase books during their scheduled library time on December 6th, 7th, 8th, & 9th. The book fair will be open to families during the Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 7th, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Please remember to send enough money to cover sales tax. We accept cash and major credit cards. Money raised helps the library to buy new books and supplies. Thank you for supporting our school.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Washington Student Council would like to thank all those who donated canned food items for our food drive. We worked with the Doubletree Hotel and collected over 200 pounds of food!



At left student council members visiting the Doubletree Hotel.



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**Important Dates to Remember**

**Dec. 1**—Blood Drive 3 -7 PM

**Dec. 1**—Morning Coffee @ 8:30 AM

**Dec. 3**—End of 1st Marking Period

**Dec. 3-9**—Book Fair

**Dec. 7**—Holiday Program @ 6 PM

**Dec. 10**—V & O Assembly @ 1:45 PM

**December 13**—Report Cards Sent Home

**December 15:** Holiday Night @ 6 PM

**December 18-January 2**—Winter Break

**Students return on**

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

With the holidays fast approaching, I want to take a few minutes to share some of what is happening in our District.

#### 41<sup>ST</sup> WORLD SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

Six art students along with their teachers were recognized at our November board meeting for participating in an international art exhibition organized by the Association for Education through Art Republic of China (Taiwan). It was the first time Bay City Schools participated. Six of the nine students who submitted their artwork last May received "Selected Certificates" meaning their art was selected to be shown in the exhibition. The students were (and their school/grade levels from last school year):

Cory Ann Harder (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Handy), Diondra Heading, (10<sup>th</sup> Grade Western), Savannah Hegyi, (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Western), Joshua Nickless, (5<sup>th</sup> Grade McAlear), Bryant Pero, (10<sup>th</sup> Grade Central), Alissa Westenburg (5<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington)

#### SAFETY PREPAREDNESS

Each year, our District goals include the safety of our staff and students as a priority. You may have already experienced receiving a call through our School Messenger system for a school closure due to an inclement weather situation or a school facility issue. In the event of an emergency – say a safety evacuation for some reason – parents would receive a recorded phone message stating a designated "pick-up" location if the situation warranted.

#### IRISH HISTORY WRITING CONTEST

Our middle and high school students will compete again this year in an Irish History Writing Contest hosted by the Ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Last year, two of our Western Middle School students, Nicole Ouellette and Alexis Sikes, took a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the state level last year and received a \$100 and a \$50 award.

#### 20 MINUTES A DAY

Thanks to many staff, volunteers, and organizations, the 20 Minutes a Day event, rescheduled at Handy after the rainout at Vets Park in September, was a huge success!! Many children and their parents enjoyed a fun event filled with books and prizes, with an emphasis on the importance of getting kids interested in reading at an early age.

#### PRESCHOOL ...

Is off and running in our buildings. We have had an open house and three family interactive days. We have four classrooms (half day morning and afternoon sessions) at Kolb, Lindsay, MacGregor and Washington. There are plans to expand the program where possible.

#### ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS

At the November Board meeting, our Board began the process to change the annual election from May to November. The change will mean that we will not have a May 2011 election but rather a November 2011 election which will save the District between \$20,000 and \$40,000 annually.

I want to wish you and your families a healthy, safe, and enjoyable holiday season. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to email ([newcombed@bcschools.net](mailto:newcombed@bcschools.net)) or call me (671-8165).

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe  
Superintendent of Schools





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 REDUCING BULLYING

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Washington Elementary, we are committed to maintain a safe and encouraging environment. Part of this is reducing and removing bullying at school. It has always been my priority that all children be safe in their lives. This includes their daily activities on playground equipment, keeping shoes tied, and caution when crossing streets. As parents, we work hard to keep our children safe from strangers, drugs, abuse and any evils that exist to rob them of their innocence. Included in this priority is the issue of "Bullying" or most recently known as "Peer to Peer Aggression".

Presently, Washington Elementary is addressing this issue with face to face discussion of all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. A survey was given to help extract what type of bullying is going on, who is being bullied, and how we stop this vicious cycle. Elementary Counselor, Mrs. Zacharko is meeting individually with every 5<sup>th</sup> grader reviewing the results of the survey. In addition, students are being directed to become active participants, not silent bystanders. Students **are promising** to support the victims with courageous words like; "Knock it Off, Leave her/him alone, that wasn't nice, or you hurt their feelings." Students are also being advised to report to principals, teachers, and the parent any behavior they see that goes beyond the line of helpful to hurtful.

Please feel free to contact me any school day at 894-2744 ext. 1729 – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or 892-1558 ext. 2741 – Monday & Wednesday.

## HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Our Winter Music Program, put on by the Fifth Grade, will be on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. 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.



## TOYS FOR TOTS

Washington Elementary, again this year, is helping out with Toys for Tots program. Any spare change you can send in would be appreciated. Thank you for your support.

## REPORT CARDS

energetic boys: Alden 5 years and Brady 5 months.

**Favorite TV Show:** Man vs. Food

**Hobbies:** I love spending time outside with my boys and going out to dinner with my friends.

**Pets:** Newfoundland dog- Cosmo

**Favorite Color:** Orange

**Something About Me:** I swam during my middle and high school years and was a swim coach for BAYS swim team for 4 years.

**Quote:** "Take a deep breathe, go with the flow, Just do your best and show what you know."



## 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! All students had a chance to win prizes just for their spirit! We are excited to announce the drawing winners who are as follows:

|                             |                        |                     |                       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Emma McDonald</b>        | <b>Angel Williams</b>  | <b>Jacob Marion</b> | <b>Daniel Stevens</b> |
| <b>Olivia Reinhardt</b>     | <b>James Baldwin</b>   | <b>Caden Burns</b>  | <b>Justin View</b>    |
| <b>Christopher Heikkila</b> | <b>Jordan Schwerin</b> | <b>Ethan Duso</b>   | <b>Ariana Brown</b>   |

FECCU would also like to congratulate our 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers for the student credit union this school year! Thank you for your participation! Our tellers are **Sasha Lopez, Alexandria Perrou, Alissa Westenburg-Harthausen,** and **Amala Torres.** Our bookkeepers are **Nathaniel Feinman,** and **Abby Newsham.** Our Assistant Managers are **Josie Tacey** and **Mackenzie Leach-Stewart** and last but not least, our Managers are **Creighton McCullough** and **Keelie Jones.** They can be seen helping out at the student credit union on Wednesdays and also will be keeping busy with our new holiday contest!

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) 892.6088 ext. 212.

## HUNGRY HOWIES



Our fourth grades are selling Hungry Howie's Pizza Coupons to help pay for their class trip. The cost is \$10. The coupon is good for one large, two item pizza—at no cost. Other coupons you receive are buy a large and get a medium free free Howie Bread with



great year. Here is a short list of projects we have coming up. Friday, December 3 through Thursday, December 9 we are having our *Scholastic Book Fair* in the library. We will need volunteers for all days. If you can help, please call the office. We are currently planning a Holiday Project, so look for upcoming news on this project.

As always, we still need Volunteers for **Popcorn Fridays** and **Library Aids** for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

We now have a newly updated *Parent's Page* on our school website. Please check out the volunteer opportunities section. You can also access the *new Washington Volunteer Form* that we updated last month. If you haven't filled it out yet, please do so. This form has a list of most of the volunteer areas available.

If you can help in any of these areas please contact Chris or Kat with a message in the office or through our email addresses. [sedlar@bcschools.net](mailto:sedlar@bcschools.net) [champagnek@bcschools.net](mailto:champagnek@bcschools.net)

Thank you again,

Volunteer Coordinators, Chris Sedlar and Kat Champagne

## WEBPAGE

If you haven't visited the Washington School webpage, please do. Our webpage has a variety of forms, newsletters from teachers, calendars, and much, much, more. The site is: <http://www.bcpswashington.com/>

## COFFEE CLUB

Our next Coffee Club meeting is Wednesday, December 1. The curriculum focus will be on Drop in a Bucket Math. We hope you can join us!



## BLOOD DRIVE

Washington Elementary School is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, December 1, from 3 to 7 PM. The blood you donate will give the gift of life to many people from many communities. Notes will be going home with more information. Please join us on this day.

## 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](http://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.

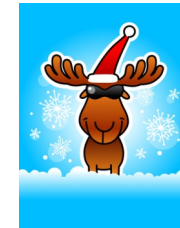
### The Learning Day

8:10—Universal Breakfast

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

3:19—The end of the learning day.

**Remember, no school on Monday, December 20—January 2. Students return on Monday, January 3.**



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!

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