

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL—Mrs. Judy Cox

After a great start, we are back in full swing. The kids are GREAT! Thanks to our Lead Custodian, Mr. Bob, the building is looks GREAT! I hope the students have told you how nice things are. Please read through this newsletter for important dates and information. Many things are happening this month, such as: Picture Day, Parent Conferences, MEAP Testing, Head Sprouts, Morning Coffees, to name a few. As always, we could not do all these things without your help. Thank you! Thank you! As always, if you have any concerns, please contact me.



PICTURE DAY



This year's student picture day is Thursday, October 7. This is a fun time for students. You will receive sample photos of your child and may purchase afterwards.

MEAP TESTING

The MEAP testing period is October 12-29. Please have students well rested and in attendance on these dates.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent Conferences are on **Tuesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 28**. Times for both days are 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Please contact your child's teacher to set-up a time.



THE NED SHOW

Last month, students were treated with "The NED Show"! This was a school-wide assembly focusing on Never Give Up; Encourage Others; and Do Your Best. These messages were given in a kid friendly, fun, and entertaining way. Through use of yoyos, the presenter provided a variety of tricks while discussing NED's qualities. At left, a student enjoys being part of the show.



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Important Dates to Remember

- Oct. 7 - Picture Day
- Oct. 8 - V & O Assembly
- Oct. 12 - 29 -MEAP Test
- Oct. 13—Carmel Apple Sale
- Oct. 20 –Morning Coffee
- Oct. 26 - Parent Conferences 3:30—6:30
- Oct. 28 - Parent Conferences 3:30—6:30
- Oct. 28—Fundraiser Order Pick-Up
- Oct. 29-Washington Spooktacular
- Nov. 2—NO SCHOOL- Professional Learning Day for staff

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

The school year is off and running. Overall, the school year has started out well as we continue to address concerns from students, parents, or staff as best we can. There are a few items that I'd like to share.

Preschool Program

The Bay City Public School District is launching a preschool program in the second week of October. We recently received funding and approval from the State to offer a full-day program for up to 105 children. As of this writing, the preschool rooms will be located in several of our elementary school buildings including Washington, Linsday, MacGregor, and Kolb, depending on interest. The State sets the eligibility criteria, so please contact Wendy Legner at 671.8186 or visit our website at www.bcschools.net if you'd like to learn more.

Fire Rescue Quiz / Opportunity for \$10,000 Grant

Bay City Fire Rescue has asked for our help again this year to secure a \$10,000 grant through Liberty Mutual. (BCPS assisted last year for their \$10,000 award!) In order to be successful, it requires completion of a 10-question quiz related to fire safety and crediting Bay City Fire Rescue. **Entry is limited to one completed per email address** - so an email address is required to participate.

In the interest of fire safety education:

- 1) Go to: www.BeFireSmart.com/MichaelPiscopo
- 2) Select "Get Started. Take the Quiz"
- 3) Select Michigan
- 4) Select Bay City
- 5) Select Bay City Fire Rescue
- 6) Complete the 10-question interactive quiz.
- 7) Enter the requested information (name and email).
- 8) You will receive an email confirmation.

Health and Wellness

As we are getting into the cold and flu season, please remind your children to wash their hands regularly, dress warmly, and practice good eating and healthy habits that promote wellness. If your children are sick, please be sure they rest at home until feeling well; we all want to help prevent the spread of illnesses as much as possible.

In closing, I am always open to your comments or questions and can be reached at 671-8165 or at newcombed@bcschools.net. Thank you for your interest and support of the Bay City Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe
Superintendent

Opportunity Connection Website: www.opportunityconnection.net



are all together every day. You are such great bucket-fillers! I have seen so many of you coughing into your sleeve (not your hand), washing your hands, and using hand sanitizer. This is the BEST way to keep yourself and your friends from sharing germs. Parents—please speak with your child about these germ stoppers. Thank you, and keep up the good work!

BULLYING

As all schools, we, at Washington Elementary School takes bullying seriously. If your child is being bullied, please have your child come to us. Here are some suggestions that you can help your child with bullying:

Our job as parents is to keep our kids safe. Always encourage your son or daughter to tell you if he is being bullied and how it makes him feel. Remind him that it is not his fault. Suggest that he stay away from those kids and persuade him not to threaten back. You need to encourage him to be the "better person." Have him tell the kids who are bullying him that he doesn't like it and that they should stop! He could just say "Quit it, David" and then walk away. Remind him that bullies like to upset people, so if he can keep his cool and react with a calm voice rather than an angry voice, the bully will not get the desired response. If your son doesn't feel comfortable saying that to the bully by himself, he could ask someone (teacher or principal) to be there when he does speak face to face with the bully. The bully might be more open to listening than to bullying when another person is present. Also, if your son doesn't feel comfortable with what you are suggesting, encourage him to just walk away but to still tell you or school personnel about it.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

During the school day, all building doors are locked, except the front door. When you visit the school during the day, please sign in at the office before proceeding into the school.

HEADSPROUT

A technology based reading program is in use at Washington Elementary. Headsprout is for our students in grades K-2. All students use this program to help in learning reading strategies. During the first half of *Headsprout Early Reading*, children learn through direct positive experience that letters and sounds go together to make words, words go together to make sentences, and sentences make stories. The basic component skills and strategies necessary for reading, such as phonemic awareness (the sounds within words), print awareness, phonics, sounding out, segmenting and blending, are explicitly mastered in a fun, self-directed manner. The second half of the program focuses more on reading vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension, while still teaching more sounds and sight words. Your child will have a fluent knowledge



see if you qualify. Lunch forms need to be completed each year. If your family situation changes, you may qualify. If you have any questions, please contact the Food Service Department at 671-8191. The following is our lunch schedule:

Lunch Times @ Washington 2009-2010



GRADE	LUNCH/RECESS
Kindergarten	12:10 - 12:50 pm
First Grade	11:20 - Noon
Second Grade	11:20 - Noon
Third Grade	11:20 - Noon
Fourth Grade	12:10 - 12:50 pm
Fifth Grade	12:10 - 12:50 pm

DAY OF CARING

On Saturday, September 18, over 25 people came to Washington Elementary to help spruce up the grounds. The *Day of Caring* was sponsored by the United Way. Part of the work involved spreading mulch behind our building preparing for a reading garden with benches students and teachers will us for outside reading and lessons. Benches were donated by the United Way. Thank you to all those who helped out on this day.



TWO-CAN FUNDRAISER

Our 3rd graders are planning a field trip to Mackinaw Island this spring. To raise funds for this trip, the 3rd graders are organizing a "Two-Can" Tuesday fundraiser. Each Tuesday, students are asked to bring in 2 pop cans to donate to the 3rd graders. Tally will be kept, and the winning classrooms will receive a prize. We are asking that all students help support our 3rd graders on this.



OFFICE CALLS

purchase. As the weather turns cooler, the sweatshirts and hoodies will be great! Contact the office if you are interested buying.



\$16



\$7



\$12

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR



The Parent Volunteers are sponsoring a Halloween Celebration for all students. The celebration will take place on Friday, Oct. 29, 2009. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please fill out a volunteer form and contact the school office. We will be asking all students in grades K-3 to bring in a bag of wrapped candy, and students in 4th and 5th to bring in \$2.00 to help with purchasing prizes. If for any reason you would not like your child to participate, please contact the office, and we will arrange an engaging alternative for them.

COFFEE CLUB

Our Coffee Club meets monthly. This is for any parent who wishes to attend to help with school events, have questions about things at school, or just would like to socialize with other parents. Each meeting will have a school focus. Our next Coffee Club meeting is Wednesday, October 20, from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. Please join us!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers for our library. If you can volunteer during your child's media time, that would be great. On page 6 is our Media Class schedule. Please call the office at 894-2744 if you are available.

SCHOOL DELAY AND CLOSING INFORMATION

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 bus pick-up times are 2 hours later than normal, too. 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



Class					
Peter	2:15-3:00				
Keenan			11:05—11:50		
Johnston				11:05—11:50	
Connors			12:35—1:20		
Dubay				12:35—1:20	
Neering	12:35—1:20				
Leisentritt		2:15-3:00			
Kern	1:25—2:10				
McCuen				1:25—2:10	
DuRussel			1:25—2:10		
Legner				10:15 - 11:00	
Lyons			10:15 - 11:00		
Mach				2:15-3:00	
Chase				9:25 - 10:10	
Rankey			9:25 - 10:10		
Haag			2:15-3:00		
Dine			8:35 - 9:20		
T. Kraut				8:35 - 9:20	

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, November 2 due to Staff Development 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.



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

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

Student _____ Parent (optional) _____

Parent Signature _____ Phone #: _____

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

