

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL—Mrs. Judy Cox

November, 2011

Dear Parents,

As November begins thankfulness and gratitude instantly pop into my mind. I am thankful every day that you have given me the opportunity to educate and spend time with your children. I am also thankful for the amazing professionals that are dedicated to your children and to Washington Elementary.

November will be bringing us cooler weather and shorter days. Please remember to dress your children for daily lunch recess. Also, if your children walk to or from school remind them of the importance of safety, including crossing streets and staying focused on their walk.

The students had a busy month of October and November looks busy as well. The student council will begin planning their activities and the 5th graders will begin working at the school run Financial Edge Credit Union. This is our 5th year of a partnership with the credit union. If your child does not have an account it only takes \$.25 cents and your signature for your child to open their very own savings account. The credit union will be at Washington on a bi-weekly basis for your child to add to their savings.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving!



Inside this issue:

Note from the Superintendent	2
20 Minutes a day Parking lot pick-up And procedures Two-Can Tuesday Thanksgiving recess Shining Eagle	3
Mrs. Zacharko Coffee Club Life Principles Wired for Wind	4
Nurse Monica Weather related	5
Homework policy Change of address Attendance policy Parent signature	6

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is a great opportunity for students to begin to understand the political process, and to have a voice in the operation of their school. The students did a great job preparing speeches and designing signs. The signs are displayed in the cafeteria and will remain there for the remainder of the year. Ms. Weiss will be the Student Council coordinator, and the following students are the officers and representatives.

President—Tia Good, **Vice President**—Alex Facundo, **Secretary**—Gabby Rembish, **Treasurer**—Cody Rodriguez. **3rd Grade Reps:** Krista Tremble, Luisa Rodriguez, Katie Haag, Logan Kelly, James Brinson, Max Lopez **4th Grade Reps:** Ginea Spicher, Emily Pockrandt, Dawson Brown, Darius Mounts, Esperanza Silva-Davidson **5th Grade Reps:** Brianna Imker, Sabrina Villarreal, Shawn Calloway, Grace Facundo.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES



Tuesday, December 13th 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 15th from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Please call the office at 894.2744 to schedule an

Important Dates to Remember

Oct. 31—NO SCHOOL

Nov. 1—NO SCHOOL—Professional Learning Day for staff.

Nov 5.—20 Minutes a day at Handy Middle School

Nov. 6—Day Light Savings: Set clocks back

Nov. 9—Coffee Club @8:30

Nov. 10: Music with a message assembly

November 11: Red, White, and Blue Spirit Day.

November 16: Picture Make-Up Day

November 2011

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

For the fourth year in a row, our Hampton Elementary staff and students are participating in a **French-American Cultural Exchange Program**. This opportunity includes hosting French students as well as travel abroad for our students. It's a wonderful opportunity for District families for cultural enrichment. District families with 4th or 5th graders who are interesting in hosting should contact Madam Fall at fallb@bcschools.net or 893-1100 (Hampton School). 5th graders would have the option of traveling to France in May 2012 for 2-3 weeks.

Joe Ricard, PE teacher (MacGregor, Kolb and McAlear) and Central High School Boys' Tennis Coach, was named the **Saginaw Valley League Coach of the Year in Boys Tennis!** Congratulations, Mr. Ricard!

We have many interesting events occurring across the district. Please be sure to visit your child's school website as well as our district website (www.bcschools.net), where school links and our district calendar link can be found.

If you're interested in volunteering in your child's school, please visit the school office for a district volunteer application or you can download one from the district website at "Quick Program Finder." There are many opportunities available to participate in your child's education. All that you do to support the learning process in your child's life will provide a positive impact.

I want to wish you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving and thank you for your continued support of your children's education.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe
Superintendent

Resources available which may be of assistance to your children:

Opportunity Connection Website: offers a variety of learning opportunities for students, teachers, and businesses. You may visit their website at www.opportunityconnection.net.

Imagination Library: This is a FREE book a month program for ANY child (age birth to 5) living in Bay or Arenac Counties. Visit www.imaginationlibrary.com



PARKING LOT PICK UP AND PROCEDURES



The parking lot is a busy place, and your patience, kindness and understanding is needed to make it function properly. Our first goal is student safety! With that in mind it is necessary to follow the guidelines below:

- Be alert at all times for students and staff.
- Unless in a parking spot please remain in your car as not to block others from moving.
- Please follow parking restriction signs, parking on McKinley Street is prohibited.
- Do not park on the grass.
- Avoid using private drive ways.

Thank you for your cooperation!

TWO-CAN FUNDRAISER

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. The class leaders are as follows:

K- Mrs. Keenan-221 cans

1st - Mrs. Neering 50 cans

2nd –Mrs. McCuen 7 cans

3rd– Mr. Legner 208 cans

4th –Mrs. Haag 35 cans

5th– 0 cans for all classrooms



SPIRIT HOCKEY “KID OF THE GAME”

Bay Regional Medical Center and the Saginaw Spirit are once again providing the “Kid of the Game” opportunity. Three times throughout the year a student will be selected by the staff to be the “Kid of the Game” at a Saginaw Spirit Hockey Game. They student will receive 4 tickets and while at the game their name will be announced, posted on the video board and they will be visited by the Spirit Mascot.

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:

Caden Dore, Haley Buechler, Max Lee and Myda Moreno

THANKSGIVING RECESS



Parents can help to build responsible children by “practicing” for the real world by adopting **Four Steps to Responsibility** :

Step 1: *Give your child a responsibility*

Step 2: *Hope your child makes a mistake.* If we don't allow our children to make mistakes and then live with the consequences, we are really “stealing” valuable learning experiences from them. And today's mistakes, forgetting to finish their homework or leaving lunch at home----are bargains compared to what mistakes may cost as they grow older.

Step 3: *Allow empathy and consequences to do the teaching.* Learning never takes place from parental anger. Instead, use empathy when you talk with your children to allow them to look closely at their decisions.

Step 4: *Give the same responsibility again.* This is the most important step. It sends a powerful message to the child that he or she is smart enough to learn from the previous mistake.

*Adopted from Cline/Fay Institute

WIRED FOR WIND: 4TH GRADE

The 4th graders had a wonderful opportunity to learn about alternative energy first hand. MSU (Michigan State University) extension of Bay County provided this opportunity through the 4-H National Youth Science Program. The students worked in cooperative groups to design a wind turbine. They studied the amount of energy that was being generated and had the chance to make modifications to design a more efficient wind turbine. Wow! Future scientists and engineers hard at work.



COFFEE CLUB

The Parent Coffee Club is a monthly opportunity for parents to meet to plan school functions, receive information and socialize with other parents. Linda LaVictor the district parent involvement coordinator along with our school volunteer coordinators facilitate the meetings. The next meeting will be November 9th at 8:30 in the school cafeteria. The topic will be Nutrition and Health.

LIFE Principles

The students and staff at Washington work very hard on the academic subjects and skills that students need to be successful at the next level. We also teach life skills that will contribute to their success. We spend two weeks developing their understanding and application of specific skills. For example, the life principle of respect, the students learn the definition, watch brief video clips that demonstrate respect in real life situations, and Thinking Maps are displayed in each classroom with visuals, synonyms, and non

Is my child too ill to attend school?

Knowing when a child is too sick to be in school is a challenge for most parents. Here are a few guidelines I like to share to help with this dilemma. Keep in mind that all of these conditions can put other students at risk of infection!

Fever: A fever is a sign of illness. Please keep your child home with a fever above 100 degrees. Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin before returning.

Sore throat/colds/cough: Minor cold symptoms are common and usually do not interfere with school attendance. A persistent, frequent cough and/or constant nasal drainage may affect your child's performance at school. Harsh, constant coughs can be distracting in the classroom.

Rash: A child with a rash that is draining, has open areas or is causing the child to scratch excessively should not attend school. A rash accompanied with other symptoms such as a fever, headache, sore throat, irritability vomiting, etc., is worthy of a call to your family doctor.

Vomiting/diarrhea: A child who is vomiting and/or having frequent diarrhea stools should not attend school. If there is cramps/abdominal pain with diarrhea, your child will be more comfortable at home. Please keep your child home 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting. This helps to prevent the spread of these "germs".

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 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, check our webpage at www.bcschools.net, or wait for the callout system from our superintendent. As soon as schools are closed or delayed, you will receive a call, or you can check the TV or website for updates. The safety of our students is our major concern.



MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE ASSEMBLY

On November 10th all the students will participate in a school wide character building assembly. The assembly is titled "Music With A Message." The students will hear positive messages through music, a few songs they will enjoy include, "Fearless Leaders Lead by Example" and "Don't Just Sit There...Get Healthy." It is sure to be an enjoyable learning time for all.



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 Oct 31st and November 1st for staff development.

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 November Newsletter.

Student _____ Parent (optional) _____

Parent Signature _____ Phone #: _____

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

