

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

Thanks to the parents, staff and students at Washington we are off to a great start. It is a good measure that things are going right when a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader greeted me on a Friday morning by saying, “I hate Fridays!” I am of course shocked and ask why, he simply states “because that means 2 days of no school”

October brings in fall weather, football, Halloween and the MEAP test. We are fortunate to have 2 flag football teams that are coached by two of our volunteer dads. The parent group has big plans for a magic show and fall photos to celebrate the harvest season with the students. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> will participate in the state assessment (MEAP). I will be meeting individually with each student to encourage them to do their best! The family support we have at Washington is amazing!

I am sure most of you have noticed that our big red playground is fenced off due to safety concerns. Unfortunately this summer it was vandalized. I have been working with central office, maintenance and the insurance company to get the equipment repaired and safe for our students. I will keep you all informed of the progress.

I look forward to another great school year at Washington!!!



**PICTURE DAY**



Fall picture day is **Thursday Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**. Approximately 2 weeks from picture day you will receive proofs. At that time you can order your photo package, so please do not send any money on picture day. If your child is absent or needs a retake the make up picture day is scheduled for **Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**.

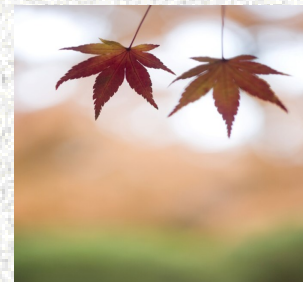
**MEAP TESTING**

Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> will be taking the MEAP beginning on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be assessed in Reading, Writing and Math, along with Science for grade 5. The testing will begin right after breakfast. Please have your child well rested and to school on time.



**HARVEST FEST**

There will be a harvest of laughter and amazement on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> as the students are entertained in a magical school assembly designed just for fall time. The parent volunteer group has a day full of events to celebrate our first annual Harvest Fest. Not only will the students enjoy the assembly they will also get the opportunity to play a few harvest games, receive a beautiful individual photograph in a fall scene and bring home a bag of surprises including a book and some candy. We are asking each child to contribute a bag of candy for the sharing. If you would like to volunteer



October, 2011

**Inside this issue:**

Superintendent message	2
Nurse, Life Skills Technology	3
Lunchtime, Sports, Two-Can Tuesdays, Coffee Club	4
Shining Eagles, Bus safety, Volunteer news, Fruit and Vegetable Grant	5
Attendance Policy, Homework Policy	6
Sign form and return	6

**Important Dates to Remember**

- Oct. 3—No School (PD DAY)**
- Oct. 6 - Picture Day**
- Oct. 10-21 -MEAP Test**
- Oct. 12 –Morning Coffee**
- Oct. 14—Homecoming parade for Central High School: Float**
- Oct. 14—Michigan vs. Michigan State: Wear your favorite color**
- Oct. 25—Wear your college shirt day**
- Oct. 28—Fundraiser Order Pick-Up**
- Oct. 29-Harvest Fest**
- Oct. 31—No school**
- Nov. 1—No school**

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

I hope that your children have had a good start to this school year. One area that has been of concern to some parents and us as well has been bus delays due to road construction projects in the area. Our Transportation Department has made route and time adjustments in an effort to reduce or prevent these delays.

We also made adjustments at the start of the school year to reduce class sizes where possible and needed by adding teaching staff, adding classrooms, or other measures. Our goal is to continue to bring class sizes down as much as possible and we are seeing lower class sizes this year as compared to previous years. I believe that lowering class sizes particularly in lower elementary grade levels is very important to the development of younger students.

A few cool items to share, some of which you may know, others you may not:

All of our schools improved overall student achievement last year with Central achieving the State's Adequate Yearly Progress measure for the first time in 7 years and Handy for the first time in 5 years. There were nice gains in core areas such as reading and math and test scores improved overall. We should be proud of the work of our students, teachers, and school staff and we will continue to build on these successes into the future.

In September, the NAACP and our local Meijer Stores combined to donate \$1,000 to Washington, Lindsay, Kolb, and MacGregor to assist students and teachers with school supplies.

Several members of the Detroit Red Wings were on hand at Kolb last month to present students and staff with a Red Wing Jersey signed by all team members for display at the school. This is part of the Wings' "Community Relations Tour."

The United Way provided **1,236 Bay County** kids with new shoes, pants, shirts, socks and other clothing items for back to school with the help of hundreds of volunteers, businesses and individuals; this effort also generated over \$64,000 in local retail purchases helping the Bay economy.

Lastly I want to provide you some information on the upcoming November special education millage increase request by Bay Arenac Intermediate School District of 1.0 mills. The special education millage received by the ISD benefits special education students in ALL of the local school districts including Bay City Schools. Most special education services are above and beyond regular education services received by all students and most are mandated by federal and state laws. However, school districts do not receive nearly enough funding to cover these mandated services. In Bay City, \$8 million is spent annually for special education; \$4 million in funding is received. The shortfall is paid from dollars supposed to go to regular education students. With falling local property values, special education funding has also fallen. The ISD millage is an attempt to assist local schools to cover some of their special education costs not currently covered. There will be more information on this topic on our website and through the media.

If you have not had a chance to read our "Pledge to Parents" on the front page of our District website, I encourage you to do so. This is our commitment to work with you to provide your children with a rewarding and successful educational experience. Thank you for supporting your children and our teachers and staff in these efforts; it is appreciated, and is extremely important. If you have any questions or comments, I encourage you to contact me at 989-671-8165 or by email at [newcombed@bcschools.net](mailto:newcombed@bcschools.net). Thank you.

**Sincerely,**

**Douglas L. Newcombe**  
**Superintendent**

Please remember to check out these resources 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](http://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](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com)



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!

## **LIFE SKILLS**

It is part of our mission at Washington Elementary to provide a safe, nurturing and caring environment to all students. We know that if students feel safe and cared for they can focus on their learning. We spend time both in and out of the classroom to teach life skills. Life skills are those skills that teach us how to get along with one another and the importance of giving things our personal best. We teach students that Washington is our family away from family, and this means we need to treat each other with respect and encourage one another.

Two specific life skills we have focused on this year are Citizenship and Perseverance. Citizenship is defined as behaving in a responsible manner as a citizen of a community, Perseverance is defined as the ability to persist or continue striving to the end. Students see these skills displayed in Thinking Maps in the classroom and have the opportunity to watch short video clips that illustrate examples of these skills in real life.

One goal of teaching life skills is to minimize conflict and teach students to solve problems in a peaceful manner. This will contribute to our ongoing goal to have a bully free school. If your child does report bullying to you please contact school personnel.

## **MID MARKING PERIOD REPORTS**

Mid Marking Period reports will be sent home with each child on Oct. 24, 2011. If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact your child's teacher.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Students at Washington Elementary have many opportunities to utilize technology. One learning tool available to all students is the Headsprout Reading Program. Early Reading is the first part of the program. When a student successfully completes Early Reading they will have mastered strategies for segmenting, blending, decoding in context and reading for meaning. Reading Comprehension is the second part of the Headsprout Reading Program. This component helps students to master the four main components of comprehension including finding facts, making inferences, identifying themes, main idea and learning vocabulary in context. Teachers are able to access reports and use that information to provide individual instruction to the students. This program has an at home connection. If you have a computer and access to the internet and would like a log in for your child please contact your child's teacher.



means is that all our students will get a hot and healthy lunch for free. This is a grant that was given to 2 elementary schools in Bay City and we were selected to partake in the grant.

### Lunch Times @ Washington 2011-12



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

## SPORTS



It is that time of the year for our students to participate in flag football. This year we have two teams participating. We would like to thank Coach Males and Coach Lopez for volunteering to coach. We could not provide these opportunities to our students without our volunteers. Below is the schedule of games, all games are played at Handy Middle School. Good Luck Boys!!!

Date	Team 17	Team 18
October 1st	11:00	12:15
October 8th	11:00	9:45
October 15th	9:45	9:45
October 22	11:00	12:15

## TWO-CAN FUNDRAISER

The third graders at Washington need your help. For the past three years they have had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Mackinaw Island. One of the main fund raisers for this trip is "Two Can Tuesday" Every Tuesday they ask for every student to bring in two returnable pop cans. This is not only a fundraiser but a great learning experience for the students. The third graders tally the cans donated by each classroom and report to the entire school. The classroom at each grade level that contributes the most cans receives a Piñata party in May. So good luck and thanks for your support.



## COFFEE CLUB

Coffee Club is a parent information opportunity for all parents at Washington Elementary. The group meets monthly from 8:30-9:30 in the school cafeteria. The next meeting is Oct. 12, 2011.

## OFFICE CALLS



Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you would like to volunteer for special programs or have some time to spare please contact Sandy or Lisa at 894-2744 and ask for the Volunteer Office. Remember we collect both Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels; your child can turn them into the office or to their teacher. The volunteer coordinators are also asking for each child to donate a bag of wrapped candy for the Harvest Fest Celebration.

## THE SHINING EAGLES

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:

**Jarett Moore, Brittany Kolba, Hunter Ingram, Marielena Silva, Hunter Hendry, Katie Haag and Jacob Walz.**

## BUS SAFETY

Many students ride the bus to and from school daily. It is very important that they understand the importance of bus behavior and bus safety. Each bus and classroom is provided with a Thinking Map displaying the behaviors that support bus safety. These behaviors are reinforced daily at school. We have many students that take these behaviors seriously and do a great job while riding the bus. In order to celebrate these amazing individuals bus drivers present them with a "Righteous Rider" ticket. All the tickets are placed in a container and once a month two names are picked to receive a limousine ride to and from school. The Stock Pot restaurant donates these monthly rides. Ask your child if they have earned a "Righteous Rider" ticket. This month we would like to congratulate Sage Bowyer and Asia Zaragoza, congrats ladies!!!



## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GRANT

Starting on October 10th, all our students will be served a fresh fruit or veggie from our Fruit and Vegetable Grant. This is an opportunity for all our students to not only have fresh fruit and veggies, but to try new foods. We will also be introducing some nutritional activities



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 October 3 due to Staff Development Day. Also no school on October 31st and November 1st.***

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 have read the October Newsletter.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Parent (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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