



SEPTEMBER 2009-2010 Newsletter

Woodland Elementary School

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Dear Parents,

Is it still really summer? The weather, as of late, definitely makes me feel like it is fall. Before we know it, the leaves will turn colors; there will be the never ending job of raking, and the aromatic, spicy scents that come with the season will be in the air. Amongst these observances, another school year has started. Our start to this school year has been busy, but for the most part, gone rather smoothly. Over the past six days, we have held a kindergarten playground social, preschool orientation and kindergarten orientation, and are now welcoming all 641 students to Woodland daily. Minor adjustments have been made in adjusting routines to include the preschool.

Some bumps in the road have occurred in regards to staffing. Both Ms. Osterfund(PE) and Mrs. Baillargeon(Music) have not been able to start the school year with us, but will be back in approximately a month's time or sooner. In the meantime, Mrs. Pignatere has been filling in for Ms. Osterfund with the assistance and support of Mrs. Rousseau, our other physical education teacher. Mr. Phillip Crouch, has been covering Mrs. Baillargeon's classes. As a result, the specials classes have proceeded as scheduled.

Library this year has been taken out of the specials rotation. Ms. Halbeisen has retired and our plan is to staff the library with a half time librarian. Also, we will be sharing a librarian assistant with Powder Mill. Since this summer, we have been searching for a certified librarian for our half time position. After several advertisements, our search has not turned up a qualified candidate. Recently I was informed of another possible avenue, which I will be following up on in the next few days. My results will determine our next steps in opening the library for students and staff. I thank you for your patience and want to reassure all that the library will be opened in the near future. Furthermore, I have received the names of several parents who are willing to help and I thank you for your responses. Once the coverage of this position gets ironed out, I will have a clearer picture of our needs and will contact parents for their support.

One other change that I would like to inform parents about is that upon arrival to school, all students enter the building directly and proceed to their classroom. Last year I did discuss with some teachers my thoughts about making this change because of my concern for student safety. The sheer number of students on the playground at one time and the space they have, especially in the winter months, is not adequate and could potentially lead to serious accidents. Since this implementation, nurse visits and discipline referrals have decreased and the students appear calmer and more settled to begin their learning after morning announcements.

Lastly, I have begun sharing with students my next reading challenge. I have scheduled with all classrooms a time to read, Ziggy's Blue-Ribbon Day, by Claudia Mills. This book has some close connections to the reading challenge. By September 18th, I will have been to all classrooms. Be on the lookout for my recording sheets. Many have been sent home already. Let the reading begin!

Sincerely, Kim

SWING FOR OUR SCHOOLS



Our sixth annual golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th at the Southwick Country Club. Last year this event raised over \$13,700 to purchase a Fast Math Computer Program. This year proceeds will be used to transition our Accelerated Reader/Star Reader literacy program to be web-based.



INS & OUTS

School hours for Woodland Students are 9:00 AM - 3:20 PM. Teachers are on duty at 8:40 to greet students. Our morning bell rings at 8:50 and **children are expected to be in their classes, ready to begin the day at 9:00.**

If you are driving your child to school, the drop off point is at the REC Center. There are signs that direct traffic around the building to the crossing guard. Please allow sufficient time for your child to walk from the drop off point to the classroom. **If your child is late, you are required to sign him/her in at the office.**

Students being dismissed to parents will meet them in the gym at 3:20 where the teachers on duty will ask for picture identification before releasing a student. Please do not ask to dismiss a student before 3:20. Early dismissals disrupt classrooms and reduce learning time.

Crossing guards are available to assist pedestrians and help with traffic flow. Please help them to keep your children safe by following their directions.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

School volunteers are an important part of this learning community. Throughout the year they assist in classrooms, help students select books in the library, help chaperone field trips or work on "Paint the Walls" projects.



All volunteers are required to complete a **CORI** form which can be filled out anytime during the school day. A copy of your current license is required. If you completed a **CORI** last year, please check with the office to make sure we have your clearance; cori's are good for three years. Furthermore, when volunteering in the classroom, student confidentiality must always be maintained. Do not share information with others about students you support or observe.

School Council

Members of this year's Council include:

Parents: Dianne Houle, Jennifer Kavrakis, Kim Parrow, Heather Bourbonnais

Teachers: Mary Lou Chunglo, Pennie Sibley, Emily Tampono

Administrator: Kim Saso

Community Rep: [Maureen Girard](#)

Three goals are outlined in this year's School Improvement Plan.

- To hold all students to high academic standards and attain A.Y.P in English Language Arts.
- To continue the process of acquiring NAEYC accreditation at the Kindergarten level and prepare for reaccreditation at the preschool level.
- To strengthen communication between home and school

The Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the school library. The public is always welcome. Our first meeting was held on September 9th. The council discussed the opening of school, preliminary MCAS data and are in the beginning stages of creating a school climate survey for 3rd and 4th grade students.



Open House for preschool through second grade families is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd and third and fourth grade Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th. Brief presentations are planned in each classroom to provide an overview of the curriculum, grade level expectations and plans for the year. Our students and staff are proud of the work they do and are eager to share it with you.

Books and baked goods will be on sale in the dining room throughout the evening. Please help us make this year's sale a success. Food donations may be dropped off at school on Wednesday or Thursday, or brought in at the time of Open House. Proceeds will help fund the fourth grade Bronx Zoo fieldtrip. Sales begin at 5:30 p.m.

FOOD DRIVE



Mrs. Sibley's safety council and Junior Troop (40062) will be collecting nonperishable food items for the Southwick Food Pantry. The Safety Council will be present in the dining room at the Open House on Sept. 23rd and 24th to collect donations. From Sept. 16th—Oct. 19th there will also be a box in the lobby for any donations before or after the Open House dates. Junior Troop (40062) will frequently collect the donations at Woodland and deliver them to the Food Pantry.

WES School Nurse News



4th Grade Physicals Are Due

A physical examination is required by the state in order to meet requirements for 4th grade entry. Please call the school nurse at 569-6598 if you have any questions.

When to keep a Child Home

It is sometimes difficult to decide when a child should remain home from school. Here are some guidelines:

1. Child has vomiting or diarrhea
2. Fever over 100 degrees, to remain home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever medications
3. 24 hours after starting antibiotics, especially after conjunctivitis or strep throat
4. Excessive fatigue after illness
5. When your child's doctor recommends rest at home following an illness, injury, or surgery

Medications

Medications to be given to students in school require both a physician order and a parental consent. This includes both prescription and over the counter medicines. **Students may not carry medications to and from WES.** Medications must be picked up and delivered by an adult, and cannot be given without a physician order. **Please do not send your child to school with medicines.**



A+
bonus bucks

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ Bonus Bucks. Starting October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010, Woodland Elementary will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop&Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program. All you have to do is:

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop&Shop using your Stop&Shop Card earns CASH for our school!



Our school ID# is 05093

Big Y News



Help is just a phone call or "click" away.
Open Monday through Thursday, 4 pm to 7 pm throughout the school year.

So, Get Online...or Get on the Phone...& Do Your Homework!

We are still participating in the Big Y Education Express Program. This program will continue to run until January 1, 2010. We will be receiving enrollment forms shortly and will send them home with the students. Otherwise you may enroll at your local Big Y or online at www.bigy.com. Our School ID# is 6337.

Friday Notices

This year we will be sending notices home on a weekly basis. So please check your child's backpack on Friday afternoon for important information.

ALUMINUM PULL TABS

We will be collecting aluminum pull tabs from soda cans to assist the Shiners Hospital. A box will be placed in the dining room for your collections. Thank you!

Computer News



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer! I am really excited to see everyone's smiling faces in the computer lab again. I am happy to announce that we have a subscription to Brain Pop Jr. this year. Without a subscription, it can still be visited from anywhere but it is very limited. With the subscription, students will be able to watch great educational, animated videos and play interactive games in all subject areas *while in school*. 3rd and 4th grades will continue to access Study Island while all grades will continue their access to Symphony Math, and Lexia while in school and at home. Students who have already had accounts will keep their same usernames and passwords from previous years; there is no delay in beginning these programs. For those of you who are new to this, a letter will be going home shortly with downloading information as well as usernames/passwords. As always, if you have any questions or comments, I can be reached via e-mail. I will respond as quickly as possible. Here's to a great year!

~Melinda Fitzsimmons, Computer Lab Facilitator J

VISITORS

At Woodland School, we are working very hard to ensure that our building is secure and that everyone can be accounted for if we need to evacuate the building. For these reasons, **anyone** coming into the school must stop at the office window, sign in, and wear a visitor badge. This process must be followed for all circumstances, including, walking your child to their classroom, bringing snacks for the class, picking up a sick child from the nurse, or if you have a scheduled meeting. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe school environment and improving our accountability system.

If you should be present during one of our fire drills, please exit with the class you are with, or through the nearest exit if you are not in a classroom. Once outside, the procedure for visitors/volunteers is to report to the front of the school in the parking lot near the bus garage. The secretaries will have the visitor sign-in sheet to check you off. This way we know you made it safely outside.

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe school environment and improving our accountability system

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION



In an effort to reduce the number of Connect-Ed phone calls going home, we would appreciate you calling the attendance line 569-1143 where you will be requested to key in your teachers voicemail ext. # (list of voice mail extensions are included in this newsletter) or 569-6598, ext. 180 by 10:00 am to report an absence.

Woodland Elementary School Lunch Program

Things to Know:

The Manager and Assistant are
"Serve-Safe" and C.P.R. Certified.

Free/Reduced Student Lunch

Applications are available throughout the year.

Please call the Food Service Office for an application

569-6870

All information is confidential.

"REMINDER"

If your child is eligible for Free/Reduced lunch
He/she is entitled to Free/Reduced breakfast daily.

Prices: Student lunch \$2.00

Reduced Lunch \$.40

Ala Carte Milk \$.50

Paid Breakfast \$1.00

Reduced Breakfast \$.25

Lunch Tickets sold @ \$40.00 for 20 day ticket.

Assorted Snacks are sold between .25 -\$.75

The Southwick-Tolland Regional School District, 86 Powder Mill Road, Southwick, MA, is committed to maintain and promote a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, marital status and national origin. This policy incorporates by reference and where applicable the requirements of the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988; the Civil Rights Act of 1991; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and pertinent statutes, regulations and executive orders; directives of the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other applicable local, state and federal statutes.
