

# Woodland

January 2017



# Newsletter

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The staff and parents at Woodland school work cooperatively to develop the whole child in an atmosphere of respect and dignity



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I am very excited about our upcoming break, but really can't believe that it is here already! I hope that you all are able to enjoy time with your family, relaxing and having fun. Remind the kids to spend time reading, doing some math fact work, and lots of playing outside

As we get back into the "groove" after winter break and testing, teachers are hard at work teaching curriculum and adjusting instruction to meet the needs of all students. We are working hard to ensure your child is successful in school and appreciate all you do to help your child be successful in school as well. Something as simple as checking your child's backpack each night for papers and notes, and taking a few minutes to discuss schoolwork can have a major impact on how your child does. Thanks for your help!

We are also trying to help children learn to be independent and take responsibility for their belongings. We want them to have everything they need for school when they arrive. If parents are constantly bringing forgotten boots, lunches etc. to them during the day, it can become a pattern and can give the message that students do not have to be responsible for their things. Once in a while, of course, is fine. We just do not want it to become a "crutch".

## PARKING LOT SAFETY

A couple reminders:

- The parent loop is a moving lane in the morning. Please do not sit and wait for the bell to ring! Drop your child off and keep moving.
- Never exit your car while in the loop
- Always have your child exit and enter the car at the curb-they should never run across the driving zone unescorted-even if cars are stopped
- After school, you may "sit" in the loop as the students dismiss but NEVER exit your car.

Following these simple procedures consistently will ensure a safe arrival and dismissal for your child.

## KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

We are beginning to collect names of youngsters who will be attending kindergarten at Woodland next fall. Any child, who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2017 will be eligible to attend kindergarten. Current young fives students need not re-register.

To register, please call Woodland at 323-6600. Specific enrollment and medical information will be sent to you once we have received your registration information. Your help in communicating this request to your friends and neighbors is appreciated.

## CONFERENCES

It's hard to believe but it is almost time for parent-teacher conferences again. It is so important for the success of your child for parents and teacher to have that communication link.

Woodland conference dates are February 14 and 16. Please make a note of it. Your conference time will be coming home in early February.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| January 27   | No school                                |
| Feb. 10      | ½ day of school; dismissal 12:00         |
| Feb. 14 & 16 | Conferences                              |
| Feb. 24 & 27 | No school, Mid-Winter Break              |
| March 10     | ½ day of school; dismissal 12:00         |
| March 3      | ½ day of school, dismissal 12:00         |
| April 3 - 7  | No school, Spring Recess                 |
| April 10     | Classes resume                           |
| May 5        | ½ day of school; dismissal 12:00         |
| May 26       | ½ day of school, dismissal 12:00         |
| May 29       | No school, Memorial Day                  |
| June 15      | Half day of school<br>Last day of school |

## REQUEST TO STAY INDOORS FOR RECESS

We believe that except on rare occasions, if a child is well enough to be in school they are well enough to go outside and enjoy recess. In addition, an adult must always be present to supervise a child staying in for recess, which takes away from staff lunch times and office staff duties. Therefore, a note from a physician stating the child is to remain indoors for recess is required for a child to be individually supervised during recess time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

## MORNING NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CLOSING

When Portage Public Schools cancels school due to weather conditions or other emergencies, news media is notified by 6:00 a.m. School cancellation information is also available online and via the phone. To access school cancellation information online, visit the Portage Public Schools webpage at [www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org), click on the "Parents & Visitors" box and then on the next page look for the school-closing link on the right hand side. This link will take you to the WWMT-TV website that posts school closings. District officials have found linking to the WWMT-TV website is the fastest method for families. *Families may also call the Portage Public Schools "School Closing Hotline" at 323-6800* for updates on school closure information. A message is recorded and

updated at the same time news media is notified of closures.

**Please note: Anytime the district cancels classes due to severe weather, all afternoon and evening activities in all Portage Public School buildings are also canceled.**

### **SCHOOL MESSENGER**

In addition to Twitter and Facebook, School Messenger phone calls are a means of communication from school to parents. It is important for families to keep their contact information current so they can be notified about school cancellations and emergencies. Parents can access their information through the Skyward Parent Portal available from our website.



### **SEVERE WEATHER AND CLOSING SCHOOL WHILE ALREADY IN SESSION**

When severe weather causes school to be closed during the school day, please remember the following procedures:

Radio stations are notified first in order to alert parents that school closing is imminent. They also carry news in the evening concerning the following school day.

If you have access to a computer, school closing information is posted on the Portage Public Schools website at <http://www.portageps.org>. Television stations are another good source of information as they normally scroll school closing information at the bottom of the television screen.

When school is dismissed early, secondary students are dismissed first so they are home when younger siblings arrive. ***Elementary student buses do not arrive at***

***school for a minimum of 1 to 2 hours after the initial school closing has been announced.***

Students who walk to school may be dismissed before the buses arrive in order to allow them to arrive home prior to conditions worsening.

**Please DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL! We are unable to deliver last minute messages at these times of emergency dismissals. PLEASE INSURE YOUR EARLY DISMISSAL FORM IS UP-TO DATE.**

***Please be certain that you review with your child where s/he is to go in case school closes on days when there is a possibility of severe weather.***

### **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER & LABEL STUDENT OUTERWEAR!**

Winter weather has arrived and students need to dress for it! **Children should be wearing winter jackets, snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves or mittens to school. PLEASE WRITE STUDENT NAMES INSIDE COATS, GLOVES AND BOOTS.** We have many students with look-alike clothing and a multitude of items that end up in Lost and Found. Labeling clothing will assist us in returning lost outerwear to students.

***Note: If the actual temperature (wind chill can be below zero) at recess time is below zero degrees we will have indoor recess.*** Please have children come to school dressed with the anticipation of spending a thirty-minute recess outside.



