

West Ottawa Public Schools

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Macatawa Bay

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January 26, 2012

Notes from the Principal

Dear Friends,

Each year public school students in grades 3-9 are required to take the MEAP test. Students are tested in Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies. The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law requires all students in grades 3 through 8 to take the reading and mathematics assessments. Eleventh grade students take the MME and the ACT with an additional writing component. The MME assesses students in English Language Arts (reading and writing), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

Recently, the state Board of Education adopted more rigorous standards for scores on the achievement tests effective this school year. This shift forward better reflects whether schools are preparing their students to be on-track to being college-capable and career-ready when they complete their high school education. Michigan now is only the third state in the nation (including New York and Tennessee) to have moved to this rigorous level of assessment scoring. Like in those other states, this action will result in an adjustment in schools' overall scores on the MEAP and MME tests, but one that is more accurate to where schools need to be. The state has worked with national and statewide experts, including: ACT Measurement & Research staff, the National Center for Educational Achievement; and other experts to identify college-ready benchmarks.

“Cut scores” are essential components in defining the levels of performance (e.g., Advanced; Proficient; Partially Proficient; or Not Proficient) on a given test, in consideration of the content being measured. The previous passing scores for the state assessments were set at a very basic level – enough for a basic trade in our old manufacturing economy, not in the advanced “global” economy of the future that requires significantly higher levels of academic proficiency. Our scores will go down initially, like all districts. But, for the future, it will produce higher standards which will result in improved learning for all students, it will provide parents with a more realistic picture of their students' academic progress, and students will more likely be “College, Career and Life Ready.”

West Ottawa has a tradition of maintaining high standards for all students. We have outstanding schools, with teachers that are committed to the success of all students. The change in the cut scores provides us an opportunity to have a better picture of where our students are and how we can assist them in their progression toward meeting their academic goals.

Thomas K. Martin
Superintendent of Schools

Calendar of Events

January

**26—1/2 day of School Dismissal
11:07 am
27—No School**

February

**8—Student Count Day
10—Pink Out
13—Music Booster Meeting 6 pm
14—Happy Valentine's Day
15—BBYA at HL
17—Anchor Function Night
21—Band & Orchestra Pre-festival
28—Choir Pre-festival Concert 7pm
28—BBYA at MB
29—Late Start Day
29—MSBOA MS Band Festival**

Student Count Day

Student Count Day will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Please be sure your child attends school on this day. If it's necessary for your child to be absent, please be sure to call the attendance line at 786-2009 to excuse the absence.

**1/2 day of School
Thursday, January 26**

**No School
Friday, January 27**

Geography Bee Winner

Congratulations to Aaron Stefanovsky, 8th grade, for winning the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee. All 7th and 8th grade students participated in the school-level competition. Aaron will be taking a National Geography Society test and if he scores in the top 100 students, Aaron will advance to the state level. Our 2nd Place Winner is Joe Sigler, 7th grade and 3rd Place Winner is Kevin Banhnasing, 8th grade. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Cash for Class

Please shop at Family Fare and D&W on the following dates and raise money for Macatawa Bay. Use your YES rewards card and your purchase will automatically be credited to the school account. Thank you for your continued support.

Weeks of:
February 5, 2012
February 18, 2012



R.O.C.K.S.

The R.O.C.K.S. winners for the week of January 16 are:

6th grade - Angel De La Rosa

7th grade - Esther Weerstra

8th grade - David Perez

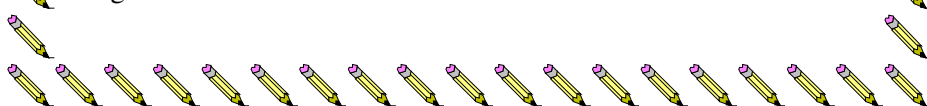
The winners from the week of January 23 are:

6th grade - Addison Panse

7th grade - Mia Limas

8th grade - Tanner Bakker

Congratulations to all the students who received R.O.C.K.S. tickets!



Late Start Days

New this year to the West Ottawa schedule are Late Start Days. The last date for the school year is **February 29**. Teachers will use this time for Professional Development. On these days school will start at 9:50 am and classes will run a 2 hour delay schedule.

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

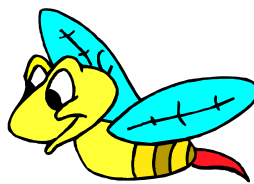
SCHOOLS OF CHOICE AND NON-RESIDENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2012-2013

Internal schools of choice elementary and middle school renewal forms will be mailed January 23.

New applications will be available February 1 at all West Ottawa schools and online at www.westottawa.net

To assist us in planning for the 2012-2013 school year, renewal forms and applications are due by March 1.

Non-resident applications must be completed each year and will be available February 1 at all West Ottawa schools and online at www.westottawa.net.



Spelling Bee at Mac Bay

Over thirty students participated in the 2012 Macatawa Bay Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the champion speller, 8th grader Kyle Maas who correctly spelled "punctual" and "schooner" to win the contest for the second year in a row. The Runner-Up, 8th grader Preston Saycocie will join Kyle to represent Macatawa Bay at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 15th. We were glad to have so many students take the risk to compete this year.

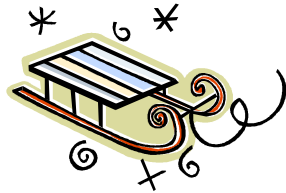
Parent Workshop Series

#Trending Topics in Parenting

Teen Trends

March 1, 2012, from 6:30-8:00 PM
Location: Allendale Library (6175 Library Ln., Allendale)

Do you find it hard to relate to teens? Have no clue what they are interested in? At this session you will develop a better understanding on this upcoming generation, learn about teen culture and receive helpful tips to stay in the know with teen trends and culture.



Anxiety & Depression in Children

February 9, 2012, from 6:30-8:00 PM
Location: Pathways, MI (412 Century Ln. Holland)

Children can sometimes struggle with feelings of depression and anxiety. As parents, it is important to recognize what these feelings might look like, as children often express their feelings differently than adults do. Learning to understand these feelings better allows us the opportunity to help our children address and deal with them more self-confidently.



The Gift of Reading

April 12, 2012, from 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Zeeland Community Hospital—Dewitt Professional Building (8333 Felch, Zeeland)

Reading to a child is a gift that keeps on giving all through a child's life. Discover how reading to a child from birth can positively affect all areas of a child's development, from social emotional to speech development, and why it's never too late to start.

Counselors Corner

It's a new semester...

Schedules have been finalized and we are on to the second semester! This is yet another beginning for our students. If results from the first semester are what was expected or desired or not, this is a clean start time for all. Those who always do well – continue STRONG – it will only benefit your future! Those who want to do better, here's your OPPORTUNITY to shine!

Note, it was necessary to change some core class hours, but teachers remained the same. Since we are fortunate to have language and our other elective courses, it was necessary to move some students out of their current core classes to a different hour. We are always working at what is best for our students!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 786-2013.

Happy new beginnings!

~Pam Van Zwooll, Counselor

Calling all families with
pre-teens (10-14 yrs)

Are you struggling with communication?

Want to improve respect in your home?



Learn and practice being a strong family unit at the
**Strengthening Families
Program 2012**

Sessions for teens and parents, as well as family sessions!

FREE DINNER and activities for children ages 3-9

7 week Program

When: Thursdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 April 12, 19 & 26

Time: 5:30-8:00pm

Where: Community Reformed Church

10376 Felch St, Zeeland, MI 49464



CALL NOW TO REGISTER!

Contact Julie Leeson @
616-396-2301 ext 145 OR
jleeson@pathwaysmi.org

*Recipients of substance abuse services have rights protected by state and federal law and promulgated rules. For information contact (Jeanette Hoyer at jhoeyer@pathwaysmi.org or 616-396-2301) or the Bureau of Health Systems, Division of Licensing and Certification, Substance Abuse Licensing Section, Recipient Rights Coordinator, P.O. Box 30664, Lansing, Michigan 48909.