



WMS WARRIOR NEWS

March 2014

Willoughby Middle School – 36901 Ridge Road, Willoughby, OH 44094
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A NOTE FROM MR. KELLER

Welcome to March! It hardly seems possible that we are nearing the midpoint of the third grading quarter and parents and students are making decisions about academic scheduling for next school year! The prospect of ending one academic year and preparing for a new one can be both exciting and anxious for students and parents.

As always, the March newsletter is devoted to the discussion of student development and the ever-changing social adjustments and challenges that students in their “tweens” face each school year. During the middle school years, many students begin to search for their own identity and in the process distance themselves from their parents. This transitional time between childhood and young adulthood also gives rise to some students questioning the purpose behind school, school activities and even family. If you’re experiencing these things at home, you’re not alone.

Adolescence can be a time of great insecurity for young people and that’s why parent involvement, careful communication and heightened awareness to the risk factors associated with some teen behaviors are more important than ever. With the eventuality of spring break and the approach of longer days and warmer weather, we ask for your help in maintaining both student focus and open lines of communication. Most of the staff at WMS are parents and thus, understand the social pressures facing young teens in our world. We want to work together with parents to heighten awareness and keep our children safe. Here are some helpful tips:

Talk to your kids on a regular basis, getting past the typical “how was your day.” To get children to really talk, we have to really listen. Encourage your child to discuss their academic courses, friends and peer pressures. Sometimes the privacy of the car is the best time for meaningful conversation. Silence the electronic devices and have a great conversation with your child.

Allow your children to explore issues through discussion without passing judgment. Make sure they understand the dangers of smoking, drug-use and sexual relationships.

- **Ask lots or questions.** Know your child’s friends. Know what your child is doing in class and what’s bothering them.
- **Don’t sweat the small stuff.** Conflict can be expected. Is the crazy hairstyle or hair color as important as keeping up with homework?
- **Encourage children to consider future aspirations** like college, a career, or academic, musical or athletic achievement. Explain the importance of setting goals and developing a plan of action.
- **Model appropriate behavior** when you are around your child. Practice what you preach. This is the time when kids become acutely aware of inconsistencies and contradictions.
- **Respect your child’s autonomy** and their increasing interest in peer groups. Now is the time to allow your child some independence, but make the most of time spent with them. Take your kids shopping, do chores together and eat dinner with the TV off and electronic media silenced. While you’re out and about in the community, make sure to get your child talking and make sure they know you’re listening and that what they say matters.

- **Finally, acknowledge achievements.** During this stage of their life, children undergo rapid physical and mental growth. They're constantly seeking affirmation from teachers, peers and parents. Celebrate their success in school activities, music, drama, art, academics, athletics and any other accomplishment in their life.

I would also like to remind parents of the dangers associated with cyber-bullying and students spending inordinate amounts of time on social networking sites. Posting inappropriate images and content on these sites can jeopardize a student's future college admission or employment. The rule of thumb is simply this; a student should not post anything they would not want parents, teachers, friends, coaches or future employers to see or read. Internet postings and downloading inappropriate images to social networking pages allows young people to become the target of sexual predators and others who prey on children. Please take the time to discuss risky behaviors with your child and feel free to contact us with any concerns you may have.

If you are uncomfortable sharing information directly, the school district has a toll-free message line for students, parents, school personnel and other members of the Willoughby-Eastlake school community, to report anonymously, any activities that could cause harm to our students, staff or facilities. Threats of violence, theft, instances of alcohol or drug abuse, the presence of weapons or other security concerns can be reported by dialing the Safe Schools Helpline at 800-418-6423 x359 or by accessing the form on the district webpage. On the left side bar there is a SafeSchools button to click on.

March marks the beginning of a very busy end of the school year calendar, featuring art, music concerts, academic awards and spring athletics, including Tennis and Boys and Girls Track.

On the athletic front, the 7th and 8th Grade Girls' Basketball season draws to a close this month with playoff tournament action. Our Lady Warriors will take on the best teams in Lake-Geauga Conference in search of their own "March Magic"!

Don't forget to order your holiday candy from the **WMS Malley's Chocolates Athletic Fund Raiser**. Sales begin on March 7th. Order turn-in days are March 12 and 19th. Internet orders will be shipped directly to the recipient's house. All other Malley's chocolate orders will be delivered and distributed to students at WMS on April 2nd.

WMS will host **Parent/Teacher Conferences** on March 5th and March 11th from 4 to 7 p.m. Teachers will be in their classrooms and will meet with parents on a first come – first served basis. Please remember to limit your conference to ten minutes so that all parents may have equal time with teachers.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Go Warriors!

24 Hour Attendance Line: 440-283-2182

CHILD FIND

Child Find is an activity conducted by state and local education agencies to locate children ages' birth to 21 that have disabilities. The purpose of the program is to provide special education and related services that are needed. Disabilities may include developmental delays in communication skills, motor skills, or social emotional/behavior functioning. A student is considered disabled if they have one or more of the following conditions: autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, brain injury, learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, or a speech or language impairment. If you know of any child who has or may have special needs, please contact Mrs. Eileen Bowers, Office of Pupil Services, Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools at 440-975-3800. Once notified, the school district will contact the parent/guardian to find out if the child needs to be evaluated. The evaluation will be provided free of charge and if eligible, the child will receive appropriate special education and related services.

WILLOUGHBY MIDDLE DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS *My Son Pinocchio Jr.*

The WMS Spring musical, *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.*, will be held the weekend of March 14 and 15. Based on the Disney classic, it features the toy-maker Geppetto, the stringless puppet Pinocchio, the Blue Fairy and her fairies-in-training, and the villain Stromboli. The story is also populated with the Ringmaster of the children's paradise Pleasure Island, the Professor who operates a unique machine, as well as numerous townspeople, village children, and talking animals. Over fifty WMS students are involved in the production.

The story chronicles Geppetto's journey beyond his village toy shop to discover what makes the ideal child and parent-child relationship. This enchanting blend of fairytale and adventure follows Geppetto's transformation from demanding craftsman and taskmaster to a 'live' and compassionate father.

There will be three performances on March 14 and 15. Evening performances are at 7 pm and the Saturday matinee is at 1 pm. Tickets will be on sale before school during the week before the show, as well as at the door for each performance. Tickets are just \$4.00 for students and senior citizens, and \$5.00 for adults. Students need to be accompanied by and seated with an adult during the show.

The doors open one hour before each show and a fundraiser, sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society, will be available at that time. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this family-friendly event!

COMING EVENTS

- March 5 – Parent – Teacher Conferences
4 – 7 P.M. - No appointment
- March 11 – Parent – Teacher Conferences
4 – 7 P.M. – No appointment
- March 12 – W-E Choir Festival
- March 14 – Spring Musical 7 P.M.
- March 15 – Spring Musical 1 P.M. & 7 P.M.
- March 19 – PTO Meeting – Library – 7 P.M.
- March 24 – NO SCHOOL
- March 31 - Report Cards available on
Parent Portal

Important Notice Regarding The Use Of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices!

Personal electronic equipment, including cell phones, can pose significant disruption to the educational process. In an attempt to protect academic time and deter distractions in the classroom, we are requiring that students turn off and place in their locker any personal items that interfere with classroom instruction. These items will remain in their locker from their entrance into the building until their departure in the afternoon. Violations of this rule will result in confiscation of the electronic device.

BREAKFAST MENU: March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>*All cereal kits come with milk. All other entrees come with juice and milk.</p>						1
2	3 Cereal Kit Breakfast Pizza	4 Cereal Kit Pancake Wrap	5 Cereal Kit Breakfast Sandwich	6 Cereal Kit Funnel Cake with apple	7 Cereal Kit Cook's Choice	8
9	10 Cereal Kit Breakfast Pizza	11 Cereal Kit Pancake Wrap	12 Cereal Kit Breakfast Sandwich	13 Cereal Kit Funnel Cake with apple	14 Cereal Kit Cook's Choice	15
16	17 Cereal Kit Breakfast Pizza	18 Cereal Kit Pancake Wrap	19 Cereal Kit Breakfast Sandwich	20 Cereal Kit Funnel Cake with apple	21 Cereal Kit Cook's Choice	22
23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 Cereal Kit Pancake Wrap	26 Cereal Kit Breakfast Sandwich	27 Cereal Kit Funnel Cake with apple	28 Cereal Kit Cook's Choice	29
30	31 Cereal Kit Breakfast Pizza					

Breakfast \$1.85 Reduced Breakfast \$.30

LUNCH MENU: March 2014

** Cook's Choice and secondary menu items are limited!

** All menus are subject to change without notice

Hamburgers are an entrée option every Wednesday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Chicken Patty Sandwich	4 Meatball Sub Sandwich	5 Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup Hamburger	6 Chicken Teriyaki & Rice Bowl	7 Cheese Pizza Cook's Choice	8
9	10 Popcorn Chicken	11 Hearty Nachos	12 Hamburger Sandwich Bar Hamburger	13 Cheesy Chili Hot Dog Sandwich	14 Bosco Sticks Cook's Choice	15
16	17 Tangy Orange Chicken & Rice Bowl	18 Pasta Bar	19 Turkey Club Sandwich Hamburger	20 BBQ Pulled Pork Slider Sandwich	21 Southwestern Pizza Cook's Choice	22
23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 Soft Taco	26 Italian Sub Sandwich Hamburger	27 Footlong Hot Dog Sandwich	28 Bosco Sticks Cook's Choice	29
30	31 Chicken Tenders					

Every effort is made to serve all items indicated on the menu.

There are 5 parts to the "Plate Lunch": Meat/Meat Alternative, Grain, Fruit, Vegetable, Milk. All 5 are offered: you must take 3 and one component must be at least ½ cup fruit or vegetable.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. "This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."