



Inside the Pack

From the Desk of Principal Lockenvitz

Inside the Pack is published monthly by the Washington School PTO to promote communication between the PTO, school, and parents. The newsletter includes PTO updates, committee news, notes from the school office and general school information. Submissions are welcome and should be sent to Rajiv Shah via email: rajiv.shah@alumni.illinois.edu or using the submission form available in the school office. The deadline is the first FRIDAY of each month.

PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011

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Kindergarten Registration - Registration for all kindergarten classes will be on April 13th by appointment only. Please see page 3 for more information.

Spring Break - March 18- 12:05 Dismissal for Students; Return to school March 28th. Please notify the school office and your child's teacher if your student will miss school due to a planned trip. Thank you!

June Schedule - Field Day-May 25th, Honor's Day-May 26th, Last day of school-May 27th (15 minutes)

DIII Women's Basketball Championship - Washington School has partnered with Illinois Wesleyan University for the DIII Women's Basketball Championship and we will play host to one of the Final Four teams. One of these teams will visit Washington School on Thursday, March 17th for a special Pep Rally and team event. The student athletes and their coaches will also visit PE classes and perhaps some grade levels during their short time with us. We hope to make some banners and generate interest in this exciting event!

State Street Reminders - Please DO NOT block driveways on Grove Street & State Street. We have received multiple calls about issues related to blocking driveways as cars queue up on Grove Street. We need everyone's help with this matter. If things do not improve, it may come to police presence and perhaps a few tickets.

Also, many of you may not be aware of the "In/Out" sign that appears in our 5th grade classroom window. The sign is used to determine if the students will be in the building or out on the playground at the beginning of each day. As you are dropping off your students, please refer to the sign to determine where the kids should go. If we are out, please drop them at the North door on State Street & they may proceed through to the playground from there. We are having issues with students roaming the building unsupervised in the morning & ask for your assistance with this so that all the students are together where they should be with monitors. Thank you for helping us keep the Washington students safe!



You're Invited!

General Meetings - Please Come!
April 4, 2011

Where: Cafeteria
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Board Meetings - Routine PTO
Business - You are welcome!
May 9, 2011

Washington School Carnival

April 15th...put it on your calendar!!

Just a heads up that the carnival will have a Smoothie King sample station again this year....and the Bloomington Public Library is sending Dora, Cat in the Hat, and Curious George!

We also need baskets and donation volunteers!



Nutrition Matters

In keeping with recent discussion about providing healthier choices for our school lunches, we would like to request that students not bring soda & other carbonated beverages in their lunches from home. For 50 cents, students may opt to purchase milk or a bottle of water to have with their sack lunch if they wish to do so. Thank you for your understanding & cooperation!

Discovery Days

Discovery Days will be held on Thursday, April 21 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the gym. Children are encouraged to research and make a presentation board on a subject that interests them. The project can be done individually, with a friend or as a group. Flyers will be coming home soon with more detailed information. Every participant receives a certificate and is eligible for a Barnes and Noble gift card. If you have any questions regarding Discovery Days, please call Suzanne Daniels at 663-9960 or Kim Nolan at 664-9151.



Art Show

This year the Bloomington District #87 Elementary Art Exhibit will SPOTLIGHT our 5TH grade students. This is a change from previous years where work from all elementary grade levels was exhibited. Please join us in celebrating the 5th grade and see what they have been working on in visual art this year.

The exhibit will be on display from April 6-May 1 in the Bloomington Public Library Children's Room.

Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found containers are overflowing with items like coats, sweatshirts, gloves, hats & many more items. If you are missing anything, please come in & check. The containers are located in the gym & in the cafeteria. We also have several pairs of lost eyeglasses in the office.



Lost & Found: Teachers Lounge

There are several dishes & crock pots in the teacher's lounge from our PTO luncheons. If you are missing a dish please check our lounge to see if any of them belong to you. As always, thanks for the yummy treats!!

REMINDERS

- PE classes may be held outside starting in April. Please make sure your child has a light jacket and PE shoes to wear.
- If your child will be absent for any reason call the school at 829 - 7034 by 9:30am that morning. If you do not call by 9:30am it may be an unexcused absence.
- It is neither safe nor permitted for you to drop your child off at school too early. Students who eat breakfast can arrive at 8:20, but no earlier.

Kindergarten Pre-Registration Wednesday, April 13

Call the Washington office at 829-7034 to set up an appointment.

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2011 to register for the 2011-12 school year.

For registration you will need to bring:

- *Your child
- *Your child's certified birth certificate from the courthouse (not the hospital) in the county where your child was born.
- *Proof of residency (recent bill with your name and address on it; or a copy of your lease agreement; or a copy of your tax bill)
 - *A physical dated within a year of the start of the next school year (date pending)

***Proof of physical, shots, and lead must be turned in BEFORE a child will be allowed to enter the classroom on the first day of school.**

*Proof of dental needs to be turned in by 05/15/12 (Dental clinic offered at school will meet this requirement)

*Proof of eye examination needs to be turned in by 10/15/11.

If you know of any families with children that will be eligible for Kindergarten, please give them this information.

PTO Openings

We need your help! There are many open positions to fill for next year's PTO. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Amie Keeton,
akeeton@scbloomington.com,
827-8871 or

Courtney Turnbull,
trnblfamily@msn.com,
661-2020

Open Positions:

- Co-Vice President
- Co-Vice President
- Library Volunteer Coordinator
- Book Fair
- Barnes & Noble Fundraiser
- Market Day Ordering & Scheduling
- Market Day Publicity
- Market Day Pick-up
- Playground Committee
- School Pictures
- Yearbook
- Back To School Picnic
- Carnival

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!!!



Washington School's Learning Center was command central for the 14th Annual National Education Association's Read Across America Day, held annually on the birthday of the beloved children's author Theodore Geisel, best known as "Dr. Seuss." Dr. Seuss would be 107 years old this year!

The "Read Aloud" began at 10:25 a.m., and lasted the entire school day. Students visited the Learning



Center with their classes (two classes at a time) to enjoy 20 minutes of the Read Aloud. The Kindergarten classes showed up in their pajamas (it was pajama day after all), and talked with Ms. Singhal, the Learning Center Specialist, about their favorite Dr. Seuss books (we heard lots of votes for Green Eggs and Ham!) Mrs. Cheatham came back from her first year of retirement to do one session of

reading, and gave out lots of hugs to her former students. Dr. Barry M. Reilly, our District 87 Superintendent, stopped by and shared an animated rendition of "A Wocket in My Pocket." Many other special guests came to visit, each taking a turn to share 20 minutes of their favorite Dr.



Seuss books with the students. Even Washington's Principal Jeff Lockenvitz stopped in to lead the Read Aloud --- we are sure the children were very well behaved for that session!

The Dr. Seuss celebration didn't stop at the Learning Center. Many of the classrooms joined in the fun with class activities and costumes. We even had a number of Cats in the Hat roaming the halls, including each of the second grade teachers (Ms. Rowsey, Ms. Wilson and Ms. McGraw), who came to class in full costume!

It was a fun day for everyone . . . a celebration of words, books, community and learning. Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss, and thank you from all of the students . . . big and small, short and tall, in the class and in the hall!



*Written by
Eileen
Backman*

More about the Learning Center

Washington's Learning Center is tucked quietly away below the stage area in the school's gymnasium. It was the center of activity on March 2nd for Read Across America Day, and that celebration provided an opportunity to explore how



vital this center is to Washington School. After a few minutes roaming this quiet area filled with books, you will quickly discover it is so much more than just a library: the Learning Center is the hub of the

school's technology.

The center hosts 28 computers which are assigned to individual students for their weekly sessions. The children spend 60 minutes a week at the Learning Center (40 minutes for Kindergarten and 1st Grade), more than half of which they spend on the computers doing activities and projects that tie directly into their classroom curriculum. They learn to use computer software, to do research on the Internet, and learn to perform basic computer functions such as locating documents and saving their work.

We want to send a special thanks to Mrs. Rati Singhal and the rest of the Learning Center staff for all of the work that they do. The Learning Center does not put on shows for the parents, or display their projects on bulletin board, so it is easy to overlook the very important contribution it makes to our children's success. So next time you are trekking through the gym, pay the Learning Center a visit (it's through the door and down the steps on the either side of the



stage). See what the center has to offer, and say thanks to the staff for all they do!

In the coming months you'll be hearing about upcoming renovations and improvements to the Learning Center, which will be funded partly through the money raised by We.Fit.In last fall. Washington parents should be proud of how their contributions will benefit our students directly through this improved learning environment.

For more information about the Learning Center, check out Mrs. Singhal's webpage at <http://www.district87.org/staff/singhalr/> or click on the Learning Center link on the Washington School Homepage (<http://www.district87.org/washington>) for answers to frequently asked questions and lists of resources for parents, teachers and students.

Written by Eileen Backman

Wellness for All

- March is National Sleep Awareness Month. The amount of sleep definitely affects all of us, directly or indirectly, as an employee and employer. The Center for Healthy Lifestyles offers a 'Stress Less for Success' 3-part education series including the following concepts: Sleep, Emotional Eating, and Stress, all things that can affect sleep patterns. Kim McClintic, MS, RD, LDN does a fabulous presenting this material in a fun and educational way. Email or call for more information if interested in a workplace seminar.
- Live Healthy Central Illinois participants: Remember, if you are one of the 500+ participants striving for increased physical activity and/or weight loss, come to the following FREE seminars sponsored by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce. Come one, Come all!



What's
news!

Grade 1

100% of the profits from December's sale will be divided up among the teachers of the 1st grade.

Important Dates

03/21 Written order forms turned into the office
03/23 Online orders placed by 11:00 pm
03/28 Distribution in the cafeteria between 3:45-5:00

Washington School Goal

Our goal each month is to sell \$3,500 in Market Day products. If we can reach this goal the featured grade will receive \$525 to spend as they choose!

Please go into www.marketday.com and place your order today!

Contact Cindy Linton with questions.
linton862@comcast.net

We Need Your Help!

When your child's grade is featured, we are requesting the parents to participate and help raise money for their child's class.

Thank you to the volunteers that have offered their time during distribution. If you signed up at Open House, please report to the cafeteria at your designated time (2:45-3:45 or 3:45-5:00).



Around the Bend

March 15, 2011 – Mrs. Szabo will lead the 3rd and 4th graders in a heart-pumping Physical Education Program! Join them in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.!

March 15, 2011 – Celebrate Reading! The Bloomington High School Key Club hosts “Raider Reading Night” for all District 87 Pre-K-5 families on Tuesday, March 15th. The event runs from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30. Join in the family fun with crafts, drama, reading and popcorn! Bring your favorite books to read and share!

March 17, 2011 – Author Lorenzo Pace will be visiting the 4th and 5th grade classes at 2 p.m. Mr. Pace is an international artist and author, who is well known for his award-winning African American Heritage Children's Book *Jalani and the Lock*.

March 21st to March 25th – SPRING BREAK!!!! Have a great time, everyone!

March 29th – Spring Picture Day . . . look your best!

April 12th -- Author Alyssa Capucilli visits the 1st and 2nd grades. Ms. Capucilli is the author of *Katy Duck*, *Peekaboo Bunny*, *Biscuit* and other lovable early reader books.

April 15th –The Washington Carnival comes to town!



Locks of Love

Each year, thousands of children are diagnosed with life altering diseases. Often, many are treatable, but have devastating side effects. Washington School is looking to do their part to help in anyway we can. Last year we asked for help **growing your hair**






out for an entire year.

We will be meeting again in May to cut it all off and donate some tails to Locks of Love.

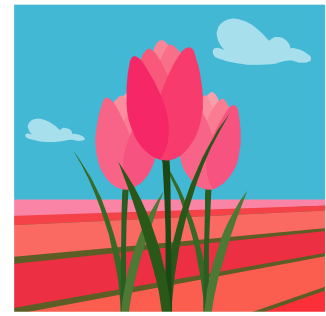
If you have questions contact Kelly Mathy,
mathyk@district87.org


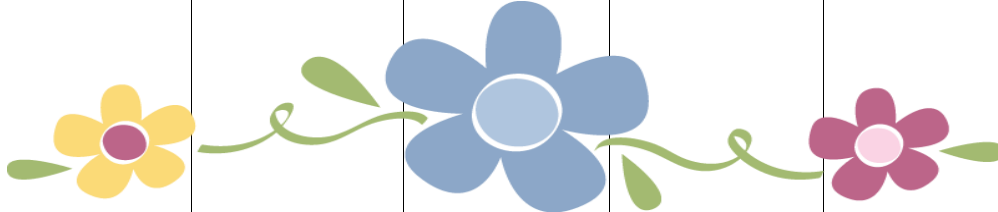
March 2011



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|
|  | | 1 <i>Basketball 3:30-5</i> <i>Science Club 3:15 pm</i> | 2 <i>Basketball 3:30-5 pm</i> <i>Chess Club 3:15 pm</i> <i>Dr. Seuss Read-Aloud</i> | 3 <i>Basketball 3:30-5 pm</i> <i>Girl Scouts #1126 5:30 pm</i> <i>Brownies #1138 6 pm</i> | 4 <i>Brownies #1138 6 pm</i> | 5 |
| 6 | 7 <i>Free Breakfast-5th Grade</i> <i>PTO Meeting 6:30</i> ISAT TESTING THIS WEEK | 8 <i>Free Breakfast-4th Grade</i> <i>Science Club 3:15 pm</i> <i>Cub Scout Pack 33 meeting 7 pm</i> | 9 <i>Free Breakfast-3rd Grade</i> <i>Chess Club 3:15 pm</i> | 10 <i>Free Breakfast-2nd Grade</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6:30 pm</i> | 11 <i>Free Breakfast-1st Grade & Kindergarten</i> | 12 |
| 13  | 14 <i>Girl Scouts #1290 3:15 pm</i> <i>Daisy Scouts #1165 6 pm</i> <i>Girl Scouts #1083 6pm</i> ISAT TESTING THIS WEEK | 15 <i>3rd/4th Grade PE program 7:00 pm</i> <i>Science Club 3:15 pm</i> <i>Cub Scout Pack 33 meeting 6:30 pm</i> | 16 | 17 <i>Girl Scouts #1126 5:30 pm</i> <i>Brownies #1138 6 pm</i> <i>Author Visit-4th/5th grades</i> | 18 <i>Teacher Institute</i> <i>Dismiss at 12:05 pm</i> | 19 |
| 20 <i>First day of Spring</i>  | 21 Spring Break-No School | 22 | 23  | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 <i>Market Day 3:45 pm</i> <i>Daisy Scouts #1165 6 pm</i> <i>Girl Scouts #1083 6pm</i> <i>Girl Scouts #1290 3:15 pm</i> <i>4th grade tea 3:15 pm</i> | 29 <i>Spring Pictures</i> <i>Flag Football 3:30-5</i> | 30 | 31 <i>Flag Football 3:30-5</i> | | |
| |  | | | | | |

April 2011



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|------------------------|-----|
|  | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 PTO Meeting 6:30 SAT 10 testing 1st & 2nd grades | 5 Band Concert 7pm @ BHS auditorium Flag football 3:30-5:00 | 6 Band Concert with 6th grade @ BHS auditorium 9:30 am | 7 Flag football 3:30-5:00 Girl Scouts #1126 5:30 pm Brownies #1138 6 pm | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Girl Scouts #1290 3:15 Girl Scouts #1083 6pm Daisy Scouts #1165 6 pm | 12 Flag football 3:30 pm 1st/2nd Grade Author Visit 2:15 pm Cub Scout Pack 33 7 pm BJHS Open House 6:30 pm | 13 Kindergarten Pre- Registration 8:30-10:30 am, 1:30-3:30 pm | 14 Flag football 3:30 pm Boy Scouts Pack 33 6:30 pm | 15 Carnival 5:30 pm | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Flag football 3:30pm Cub Scout Pack 33 meeting 6:30 | 20 Book Fair Preview 3:30 pm | 21 Book Fair/Discovery Days Flag football 3:30 pm | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Girl Scouts #1290 3:15 pm Girl Scouts #1083 6pm Daisy Scouts #1165 6 pm | 26 Flag football 3:30pm | 27 | 28 Flag football 3:30pm | 29 | 30 |
| |  | | | | | |