



Woodland Elementary School
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Issue 6, March 2020

Woodland Elementary News

Welcome to Woodland Elementary School News!

Important March Dates (Page 1)
A Message from the Principal (Page 2)
From the School Nurse (Page 3)

From the School Counselor (Page 4)
From the Media Center (Page 5)
From Your PTO (Page 6)

IMPORTANT DATES

- March – 5th Grade Science MCA testing, and 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade Reading MCA Testing
- March 3, Primary Day -No activities after 6:00 p.m.
- March 6, PTO Family Dance, Woodland Gym, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- March 8, Daylight Saving Time
- March 9, No School, Mark Reporting for Pre-K- 12
- March 10, Tri III Begins
- March 17, PTO Community Dinner Chuck E. Cheese Maple Grove, 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- March 24, Orientation for entering Kindergarten students in Fall 2020, Cafeteria, Doors open 5:00 p.m., Program 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- March 25, Spring PTO Pizza Pick Up, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- March 27, PTO Carnival, 5:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
- March 31, PTO Meeting, WD Media Center, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Woodland Elementary

Where Kids Soar

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are coming. Each year, in response to federal legislation, beginning in third grade Minnesota students are assessed using the MCAs. Most Woodland students will be assessed during March and April. Please watch for communication from your child's teacher on upcoming testing dates for your child.

The results of these assessments are used in several ways. First, they are used by the State of Minnesota to create school report cards. These quick snapshots are used to give the public an idea of how each school district and each school perform. In addition, these assessments establish a consistent way of measuring student performance. Parents and school staff members can determine if students make adequate growth from year to year (Ex.- A 4th grader who scores a 461 on the test should score at or near 561 in 5th grade). The results are also used in combination with other school data to help make programming choices for our schools and your children. Attendance is also an item reported on the school report card, not only for the number of kids who took the MCAs, but also the attendance rate throughout the school year.

Again, the MCAs and other assessments, provide us a snapshot into the life and academic progress of a child. Even with the dedication of staff and students and the amazing education your child receives at Woodland, there are a host of reasons why this snapshot can be distorted. Standardized tests can contain biases that make it challenging for some students to truly show what they know. Test and performance anxiety can impact how a child performs on specific types of assessment. Limited language proficiency can also be strong contributing factor of a child's success. Life events and trauma, such as the loss of a loved one can have dramatic effects as well. Finally, studies show well-rested kids, who eat a well-balanced breakfast, consistently score higher in school and on tests. Of course, the inverse is then true as well.

I am confident that the staff at Woodland has prepared your children very well, not only for these tests, but also for their many years ahead. Thank you for entrusting your children to us and for your continued partnership in their educational journeys!

Your Principal,



Rob Nelson

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Information is from Osseo School District Website

Children should not be in school if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or above. Children who have a contagious illness or are experiencing vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms of illness that may prohibit active participation in school routines should not be in school until appropriate treatment is secured. Students should be free of elevated temperature without use of Tylenol or Advil/Ibuprofen for 24 hours, vomiting, and diarrhea symptoms for 24 hours prior to their return to school.

If a student has contracted a contagious disease and a doctor has confirmed it, please inform the student's teacher and include this information in your attendance line call. Parents of other students may then be cautioned to watch for signs of the disease and help prevent its spread throughout the classroom.

While at school, if a student develops a temperature of 100 or above and/or shows other symptoms of illness, parents will be contacted to pick him/her up. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called.

If a parent/guardian has any questions or concerns please contact me in the health office. My direct phone is 763-315-6408.

Thank you,

Mandy Reitmeier, RN

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Dear Families,

Our character trait for March is **CITIZENSHIP!**

Our scholars will be learning about what citizenship is and how to make our school better, protect the environment and respect the rules and authority around us. Try some of the strategies below to practice this trait and talk about it with your child.

Read about it

Try some of these literature resources to learn more about citizenship!

- [Many: The Diversity of Life on Earth](#) by Nicola Davies
- [What Can a Citizen Do?](#) by Dave Eggers
- [A Castle on Viola Street](#) by DyAnne Disalvo
- [Her Right Foot](#) by Dave Eggers
- [Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box](#) by Michael S. Bandy

Talk about it

Use some guiding questions to have family discussions about kindness at home!

- What does citizenship mean?
- Why is it important?
- How can you be a good citizen at school? In the community? To our earth?
- Talk about who you see as a stand up citizen in your school? Community? On tv/the world?

Practice it!

Consider finding a neighborhood or community service project to participate in.

Mrs. Larson, School Counselor



FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Research season has begun! It is important to use quality sources of information when doing research. We encourage students to begin their research with Woodland’s online databases. Databases are not Internet search engines. Here are some differences:

Databases	Internet Search Engines and Websites
Databases are electronic collections of information from encyclopedias, journals, magazines, almanacs, etc. Examples of Woodland’s databases include PebbleGo , CultureGrams , Kids InfoBits , and Encyclopedia Britannica Online .	Search engines are computer programs that look for information (websites) on the Internet. The most famous Search Engine is Google.
Databases are assembled by experts who have high standards.	Anyone can create a website. Some are excellent. Many contain biased or untrue information. Many contain words and images inappropriate for young people.
Databases are tailored to specific age groups and interest areas. For example, Woodland students have access to databases designed for elementary students. The content and reading levels are appropriate for elementary students.	Most search engines are not tailored to specific age groups. So, when children search the Internet, they receive many websites that are not appropriate for children.
Libraries subscribe to them. Students can use them for free at school and at home. (Some require a username and password. Ask Ms. Cobb if you need help.)	Free.
Databases do not contain advertisements.	Most websites contain advertisements.
Students receive manageable numbers of search results. The results are of high quality.	Students may receive millions of search results. Students must sort through them to find websites of high quality.

I encourage you to look at our databases with your children. They are wonderful sources of interesting non-fiction information!

FROM YOUR PTO

Playground- We have finalized our vendor and equipment choices! We are hoping to unveil this at the upcoming Family Dance. We hope you are as excited as we are to add some new pieces to our playground!

Pizza Fundraiser-Who's hungry for pizza? We will be selling Luige's pizza February 24 to March 11. Pickup at Woodland will be on Wednesday, March 25th.

Tree Trust Project-Woodland was chosen by a MN non-profit, Tree Trust, to help schools plan, plant, celebrate and teach in an outdoor environment.



There are two parts to this project:

-On-site exhibition at Woodland in April where the children will learn about trees.

-All School tree planting day on May 21st! Each classroom will plant a tree, which means 28 trees will be planted on school grounds.

If you are interested in being a part of the Green Team committee we meet at 5 p.m. before PTO meetings. This committee will help plan for planting day, the celebration after planting, maintenance, volunteer recruitment and site prep.

Upcoming Events:

3/6/20: Woodland Family Dance, 6-8pm, featuring DJ Mountain Drew! \$7 per family and includes a glow stick for each child. ****Children must be accompanied by adult. Not a student drop off event****

3/17/20: Chuck E Cheese Community Supper, Maple Grove, 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

3/27/20: Carnival, 5:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m., at Woodland Elementary

Reminders:

- Follow “Woodland Elementary PTO” on **Facebook** for updates and reminders
- Download the **Box Tops app** and continue to scan your receipts!
- Use **AmazonSmile** and choose WDPTO so a portion of the sales comes back to Woodland!

Thank you for your continued support of Woodland!