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Holiday Spirit Week

Monday, Dec. 19th

"Ugly Sweater Monday"

Wear a goofy/fun holiday sweater or sweatshirt...or any silly shirt.

Tuesday, Dec. 20th

"Toes'ty Tuesday"

Wear holiday socks...or any silly socks.

Wednesday, Dec. 21st

"Festive Wednesday"

Wear red and/or green

Thursday, Dec. 22nd

"Comfy Thursday"

Wear your favorite pajamas

No School

December 23, 2021–
January 6, 2023

School Resumes

January 9, 2023

John Wood Elementary School
6100 E. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305
www.mvsc.k12.in.us/8/home

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



From the Desk of Principal Igras

by Mrs. Igras

Dear Wood Family –

I cannot believe that the Winter Holiday Break is just around the corner. This past month, John Wood students have participated in numerous activities to help out family members in the community. We have collected coats for Coats for Kids, donated food items to the new Pirate Pantry, conducted the Penguin Patch Holiday Shop, and raised money in a Penny War competition to help families during the holiday season. I would like to thank all of you for supporting these initiatives. I also want to send out a special thanks to the John Wood PTO and several parents, Ms. Hehr, our Family and Community Engagement Specialist, Ms. Vlassopoulos, and Ms. Jongsma.

Communication is so important between the school and our families. Please make sure your email address and phone numbers are updated in Skyward. Also, if you have Twitter, you can follow me at @WoodPrin. If you don't have Twitter, you can follow my Twitter thread on the John Wood website. I post school information, resources to help your child, and other fun things.

When we return to school after the break, we will be going over the school's procedures and expectations. We are asking that you take time to assist us with this by doing the same. Together, we can make 2023 an incredible year!

As you are able to spend time with your child over the holiday break, we can only hope that you make a lot of wonderful memories!

Happy holidays to each and every one of you.

"Connecting Home and School Makes Us a Great Community of Learners"

IgraSPY

Mrs. Igras

Every month, one John Wood student who is seen by me going above and beyond in the school setting receives the IgraSPY trophy and certificate.

November

Mia Harper-Wiley – Mrs. Carney

John Wood School Mission Statement

Together with parents and community, the John Wood team shall provide a safe learning environment and prepare students to be productive, tolerant, and respectful citizens by fostering individual development and striving for highest academic achievement.

Dean's Discussion

By Mrs. Swift, Dean of Students

Hello John Wood Families!

Welcome to December! Hard to believe we are nearing the halfway point of the school year and winter break.

As you may recall from last month's newsletter, we are continuing the conversations and lessons with our students on how to express our feelings and emotions in safe and school appropriate ways. Please continue to talk to your children at home about seeking an adult when they are having problems with peers, as finding an adult and asking for help is better in the end than taking care of it themselves by hitting or kicking someone else when they are upset.

With that being said, please make sure to review the Merrillville Community School Corporation Elementary Handbook for school conduct and discipline policies and procedures should you have any questions regarding discipline.

In November teachers discussed gratitude and what it means to be thankful for something with our students. Each day Mrs. Dukes would ask a different question during the morning announcements and the students would have the opportunity to give a written response of what they are thankful for that day. Below you will find some of the things our students were thankful for each day! Thank you all for sharing your precious children with us every day and I wish you all a warm and joyful winter break!

Warm Wishes,
Mrs. Swift
Dean of Students

For Math

The books that I have

***My dad, my mom, my little brother
Dobby, and dad Toby***

The Flowers

Winter

Summer

My Teacher

Dogs

Neat handwriting

Singing

Pasta

Pizza

Cheeseburger

Pumpkin pie

A new puppy

My Family

Thinking

Mashed Potatoes

The book The Lost Girl

Mommy Kim & Daddy Jason

Food

Thanksgiving Food

Basketball

The Star Spangled Banner

Madden 23

Rodwave

Fortnite

Super Smash Brothers

Minecraft

The song Believer

Grandma

All music

Roblox

Spring

Winter and the animals

Winter and the snow

Chicken

Pizza

Turkey

Summer and Spring

Cynthia

Fall

Pie and turkey

Cookies and apples

Popcorn

Carrot soup

Donuts

Spicy food

Meat

Chicken nuggets

Cheeseburgers

Ham

Dogs and cats

My eyes

reptiles

Everyone

My mom

My Titi

All best friends

Art

My pumpkin

Corn

Pumpkin hat

Having talents

Baked beans

Milk

Ice cream

Hamburgers

Spaghetti

Fruits and vegetables

Fish

Cheerleading

Football

Good Citizens November 2022

ECD

King Thomas –

Ms. Headd (Miss Thea)

Daniyah Smith –

Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)

Kindergarten

Jakiah Hill – Mrs. Anderson

Amyra Clayborne – Mrs. Scott

Kenna Riley – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Alejandro Gonzales – Mrs. Pace

Esteban Cedillo – Miss Talian

Arya Marquez – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Allison Shooltz – Mrs. Carney

Ashton Scott – Mrs. Foster

Camden Toney – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Valoria Wardlow – Mrs. Cseke

Leila Grady – Miss Hull

Aurora Eberly – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Jayden Correa – Miss Jongsma

Zane Theodorakos –

Miss Vlassopoulos

Multi-grade

ED

Daijon Jones – Ms. Halliburton

Deron Gill – Ms. Polacek

Title One

Francisco Sanchez – Mrs. Wiley

November Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs. Foster's 2nd grade class for having the best attendance for the month. Their November attendance was 97.81%. "Beary", the attendance trophy, will move to their classroom for the month of December!

Emergency Communications

In cases of inclement weather or other emergency situations, there may be times when school may be cancelled or delayed. In those cases, information will be broadcast over various Northwest Indiana and Chicago television and radio stations. MVSC uses a variety of additional ways to notify parents:

- Delays and closings will be posted on the Merrillville Community School Corporation website at www.mvsc.k12.in.us.
- You will receive an automated call to the phone number you gave us as your primary number. Do not list your phone number as “unlisted” or you may not receive notices.
- You may choose to receive an email notification by registering with an outside service. This site offers the opportunity to sign up for web alerts. The alerts can be provided to any email you provide.
<http://www.cancellations.com/>
- MVSC and John Wood PTO may also post this information on their Twitter and/or Facebook pages.

Many factors go into the decision to have a 2-hour delay or school closing. To read an explanation about how the decision is made, go to the MVSC website. Click on “Parents”, then “Emergency School Closing Information.”

The Dentist is Coming to John Wood School!

We have invited the “Smile Programs...the mobile dentists” to coordinate on-site dental care at our school because we know how important taking care of your children’s teeth is to keeping them healthy. Best of all, **your child can receive dental care at NO COST TO YOU**, as Medicaid, CHIP and most other insurances cover 100% of treatment.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic and infectious disease among children. In addition, kids with oral disease can suffer with pain and difficulty eating.

The dental team will set up a mini-dental office in our building and provide dental services for all children who return completed forms.

Dental services can be provided to families who need financial assistance, and there are subsidized fees for those who choose to pay for preventive care.

The Smile program has been servicing schools, and creating healthy smiles, since 1997. All dentists are state licensed and will conduct a complete dental exam.

Signing up your children to see the mobile dental team is an easy way for them to get necessary dental care. **If you want your child to see the dentist just fill out the permission slip your child will be bringing home on January 9th and return it to the school.** The dentist and his/her crew will be in our building on Tuesday, January 31st.

You can learn more about “Smile Programs...the mobile dentists” by going to www.mobiledentists.com and watching the short video about the dental care program.

Recess Reminders

During the winter months, our students go outside for recess every day that the temperature or wind chill temperature is 15° or above (as long as the playground is in an acceptable condition for playing). Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather with a winter coat, boots, hat, gloves or mittens, and a scarf.

Also, the colder weather brings more requests for students to stay indoors for recess. The Merrillville Community School Elementary Handbook states that if a student needs to stay inside for more than three days, a doctor’s note is necessary.

Tips to Keep your Child Learning over the Holidays

Explore opportunities to learn online.

Use the kitchen as a learning tool.

Don’t forget story time!

Honor Roll 1st Trimester 2022-2023

3rd Grade

A Honor Roll

Kevin Englerth
Jacob Ling
Valoria Wardlow
Sydney Wigley-Sims

A/B Honor Roll

Nadiya Akbar
Brooke Baisden
Mason Boord
Aurora Eberly
Alondra Gonzalez
Londyn Hill
Cailin Stewart
Jakob Triplett

4th Grade

A Honor Roll

Jaxx Annoman
Kaelyn Kitchens

A/B Honor Roll

Arturo Briano-Dominguez
Rylan Dworak
Issac Mendoza
Alexander Nawrocki
Zane Theodorakos
Isaiah Watson
Mariah Williams

PTO News

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! We will be discussing the activities we are planning for the rest of the year.

Box Tops/Coca-Cola

Box tops are now digital. You will very rarely find a product that still has physical clips to turn in. For us to get credit for your box top purchases, you now need to download the Box Tops for Education app. Then, when you get home from shopping, just scan the receipt and it will automatically find the qualifying purchases and give us the credit instantly!

Continue sending in Coca-Cola codes found under Coke product caps and inside the tear off flap on cases. We can redeem these codes for CASH!

Strack & Van Til/ Apples for the Students

We hope you are saving every receipt you get from your grocery shopping at Strack & Van Til. Just send all your receipts in to the school. We get points for every dollar spent and will be able to use the points to purchase items for our school.

Receipts can be from ANY Strack & Van Til store. Does grandma live in East Chicago? Have her save her receipts. Cousins who live in Lowell? We'll take their receipts too! Receipts must be dated no earlier than September 1, 2022 and no later than March 31, 2023.

Penguin Patch Holiday Shop

The PTO recently held its first ever holiday shop for students to shop for holiday presents. The students were able to shop during their recess time.

Thank you to the volunteers and staff who were able to help with this fun activity.

Popcorn Fridays

PTO is continuing this fun monthly treat for students. On the day before the second Friday of the month, you should receive a purple ½ page note reminding you that Popcorn Friday is coming. If you would like your child to receive a bag of popcorn at lunch, you will need to return the form with .50¢ attached. No change will be made. Anything over .50¢ will be considered a

donation to the PTO. Students will only receive one bag of popcorn. All students will receive their popcorn during lunchtime and have the opportunity to finish it during recess.

Volunteers are needed on Popcorn Fridays to help pop and bag popcorn. If we do not have volunteers lined up for Popcorn Friday, a note will NOT be sent home on that Thursday and there will be no popcorn that month.

PTO on Facebook

Make sure to "Like" us so you can see reminders for events.

You can find us at:

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

Student Council Activities

The student council has been busy the past couple of months helping local families.

In November, the student council organized a food drive. They were able to collect about 200 items. These items were donated to the newly opened Pirate Pantry. The goal of the Pirate Pantry is to provide temporary food support to families within the MCSC.

In December, with help from the PTO, the student council held a Penny War! Students were encouraged to bring in coins (and bills) to donate. Students and staff donated a total of \$900. With this money, the student council was able to sponsor families for the holiday season. The top class who brought in the most money earned a 15-minute recess.

1st Place

Extra Recess

Mrs. Mahy (3rd grade)

2nd Place

Miss Welsh (2nd grade)

3rd Place

Miss Hull (3rd grade)

The student council would like to thank everyone who was able to contribute these activities.

Pop Tab Collection

John Wood School is still collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House of Indiana. Simply remove the pop tab from the aluminum can and put them in your favorite collection container. When you are ready to send them to school, just put them in a Ziploc-type bag and send them with your child.

Perfect Attendance 1st Trimester 2022-2023

The following students were present at school every day of the first trimester and had zero tardies!

Kindergarten

Elijah Brown
Jaxson Eberly
Gus Herrera
Athena Rivera
Titus Sherman

1st Grade

Greyson Moseley

2nd Grade

Jackson Mican
Eva Shaw
Dahlia Wardlow
Violet Wardlow

3rd Grade

Tremaine Brandon
Aurora Eberly
Isaac Estes
Valoria Wardlow

4th Grade

Rylan Dworak
Kamarion Flakes
Latrice Hubbard
Isabel Whittinghill

A Word from the Social Worker

Ms. Albertson, LCSE, LSSW

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is anything that I may help your family or John Wood student with during this holiday season. This includes, but is not limited to, clothing, food or other needed items to make the holidays much more enjoyable for your family.

I can be reached by calling 219-650-5305 ext. 6545 or by email at malbertson@mvs.k12.in.us.

Important Info Required

It is vital that we have your current home phone number on file in our office. When we have a delay or cancellation of school due to poor weather conditions, we have an automated system that is used. This system is also used when we need to notify everyone quickly with important information. If we have an incorrect or disconnected number, you may not receive the information. You can update your phone number, along with emergency contact numbers by accessing your Skyward account or by giving this information to the office staff. Please do NOT change your phone number in Skyward to "unlisted". These numbers are kept confidential and the school needs to have the phone number in that slot to be able to contact you quickly in an emergency situation.

A Reminder from the Nurse

Ms. Foreman, RN, BA
MCSC Nursing Coordinator

Nearly every U.S. state is battling high levels of flu-like illness. Beginning with the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the first of the year, we expect illness to increase.

Most importantly, there are strategies that we can utilize to limit the community spread. Please see your primary care provider or nearest urgent care if you or your loved ones develop symptoms. Testing can determine if you have influenza, COVID-19, or RSV. Treatment can then be initiated to shorten and lessen the severity of the virus.

Most viruses are airborne and are spread through droplets in the air or coming in contact with contaminated surfaces. Please initiate the following to decrease the spread:

- Wash your hands. Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself from getting sick.
- Don't touch your face.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid close contact.
- Boost your immunity.
- Clean and disinfect.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Consult your physician on recommended immunizations.

Always reach out to your school nurse for questions or guidance. Here's to a healthy holiday season!

Tardy Drop-offs

If your child is a car-rider, the doors close promptly as the bell rings at 8:25 a.m. If you arrive after the doors are closed, you will need to pull around to Entrance A and come inside with your child to sign him/her in.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday

Buddy Blue Day

Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

Every Friday

Pirate Pride Day

Wear John Wood spirit wear, Merrillville spirit wear, or even just purple to show support for our school community! Everyone who wears purple will have their name in a weekly drawing. One winner will be pulled from each grade level to win a small prize.

December 23-January 6

Winter Holiday Break

No School. We hope everyone has a joyous holiday. We'll see you after the new year begins.

January 9, 2023

School Resumes

January 10

Monthly PD Day

12:35 Dismissal

Students will be dismissed early and have eLearning lessons in the afternoon so teachers can attend professional development.

January 12

PTO Meeting

6:00 p.m., Cafeteria

Join us as we plan events for the coming months.

January 13

End of 3rd Grading Period

Today is the last day of the third grading period. Please continue to monitor your child's grades in Skyward.

January 13

Popcorn Friday

Students will have the opportunity to purchase a bag of popcorn for 50¢.

January 16

Dr. King's Birthday

No School

There will be no school today in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

January 31

Visiting Dentist

The mobile dentist program will be visiting our school. See the article on page three for more information. If you are interested, please return the form that will be coming home after the holidays.

February 9

PTO Meeting

6:00 p.m., Cafeteria

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend and help decide upcoming activities.

February 10

Popcorn Friday

February 14

Monthly PD Day

12:35 dismissal

February 17-20

Winter Break/President's Day

No School

Behavioral Expectations Matrix - John Wood School

All Settings	Hallways	Playground	Cafeteria	Special Classes	Bus	Assemblies	Rest Rooms	Office
Be responsible.	Walk in a single line facing forward. Follow the set procedures.	Use equipment properly. Don't litter. Tell an adult when someone is hurt or there is a conflict.	Take all needed belongings to lunch. Clean up after yourself. Keep your food on your tray.	Be prepared. Bring supplies. Stay on task. Follow the directions of the teacher.	Be at the stop on time. Remember your school materials. Stay in your seat.	Listen attentively to the speaker. Stay seated. Follow adult directions.	Flush the toilet. Wash and dry hands. Keep the rest rooms dry and clean.	Introduce yourself. Tell the staff your reason for coming to the office.
Everyone deserves respect.	Respect personal space. Be courteous. Be considerate of the other classes.	Take turns. Include everyone. Listen to the person in charge.	Use table manners. Listen to the person in charge.	Raise your hand to ask questions. No name calling. Listen to the speaker.	Listen to the driver. Respect personal space.	Clap at appropriate times. Respect personal space.	Privacy, please. Observe quiet zone.	Be polite. Wait your turn.
Safety counts.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Walk on the right side away from the wall.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Use equipment properly. When whistle is blown, stop, look, and listen.	Eat your own food. Raise your hand before leaving your seat. Walk.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Use equipment properly. Dress appropriately.	Stay seated. Get on and off the bus in single line. Follow the bus rules.	Keep feet, hands, and objects to yourself. Walk on the bleachers.	Use one pump of soap. No school supplies in the rest room. Report unsafe conditions.	Walk on the right side away from the wall when coming to and from the office.
Talk appropriately.	Observe quiet zone.	No put downs or name-calling. Be quiet in line. Use kind words.	Use an inside, restaurant voice—6" voice. Be quiet in the serving line.	Use kind words. Use the right voice for the activity. Speak when called upon.	Talk softly. Use inside, 6" voices.	Be quiet during the presentation. Speak when called upon.	Observe quiet zone.	Quietly wait your turn. Say please and thank you.