November 2018

Winans Communicator

Helene McNeilly, Principal
Christopher Smith, Assistant Principal

Deb Hoxie, Secretary
Sandy Forgrave, Assistant Secretary
Winans Office 517-321-2371

Instructional Time: 8:25 – 3:25
Half Day: 8:25 – 11:40
Late Start: 10:25 – 3:25

Parent Partnership

Thanks to so many of you for connecting with our teachers during recent parent/teacher conferences. Strong student achievement takes a healthy collaboration between home and school and our Winans staff is grateful for your partnership on behalf of our kids. If somehow we missed you, or if there is anything we can help you with regarding your child's progress, please let us know. If you are unsure of an email address, here is the link to the district's page and the staff directory.
https://www.waverlycommunityschools.net/staff-directory/

We also appreciate the families who joined us for our recent title one parent night. WKAR brought some fun literacy activities for the kids while Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Bensinger provided parents with information and strategies to support kids at home.

If you're looking for another way to join the conversations, please consider attending our next PTO meeting at Winans set for Tuesday, November 13 at 6:00 p.m. in our east project area. We so appreciate the terrific participation in the fall fundraiser (Yankee Candle sales)! PTO plans to provide student support throughout the year and you are most welcome to participate. ☺

PBIS Connections: Safe, Respectful, Responsible (SRR)

One of the ways we communicate with each other is physically. A high five or a fist bump, a hand shake or a hug, these are all ways we interact with each other every day. These are physical contacts that we can easily decline or welcome, depending on our mood or the situation. One of our SRR behavior expectations across all areas of our school is "stay in your own space." This is a crucial safety expectation for all students, no matter where they are at school. Kids are not always safe in their physical responses to frustrating situations and too often use physical contact inappropriately. As a staff, we work with students every day to learn other ways to communicate their needs, to use their words first or to seek help from a nearby adult instead of reacting with physical aggression. We encourage the conversations at home as well to help kids continue to recognize the importance of staying safe at school and working on problems safely when they arise.

Academic Activities: Math Fluency Support

One of the things students need to be successful math students is fact fluency. Whether your child is a first grader or a fourth

grader, fact fluency and number sense are fundamental building blocks to learning math skills. In addition to reading to/with your child a little every night, we depend on fluency practice at home. If your child is not yet able to rattle off number facts (addition and subtraction for the younger grades, multiplication and division for the older kids), then practice at home is a key component to their success at school. Whether you go about it traditionally with flash cards or use digital options from your child's teacher, we thank you for providing the consistent practice time at home for your child.

Great Goings-On:

Every Friday we do Champs ticket drawings across the grade levels for those students earning them during the week. Tickets that are not drawn go into grade level baskets as we watch them fill up. We are pleased to congratulate the first graders for being the first grade level to fill their Champs Tickets basket! Tickets are earned in recognition of following our SRR behavior expectations and successfully implementing those expected behaviors. First graders will enjoy a grade level celebration this week – congratulations to our youngest Winans Warriors! ☺

A Little Help from Home

Just a reminder that toys and other distracting items like Pokemon cards should not be brought to school. We've had problems with students arguing over them, trading/taking them and then becoming upset over the end result – all problems that distract from learning. If you would work with your child at home to be sure none of these things come to school, they will have fewer distractions from the learning focus.

In addition, the wrist phones have also been problematic in both distraction and inappropriate use by some students. As is our cell phone policy, wrist phones should also not be worn during the day, but should be off and hidden in back packs to limit distractions. Thank you for supporting your child's effort to remain focused on student learning during the school day. For review, here are the paragraphs from our student/parent Winans handbook on these topics:

Student Valuables

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as electronic equipment, specifically cell phones, iPods, or other expensive items like jewelry, expensive clothing, or even trading cards and similar distracting items, are tempting targets for theft and/or extortion. The school cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

Cell phones/Distracting/Dangerous Items

Students should not bring dangerous and/or distracting items to school. Such items will be held by the teacher or principal until the close of the school day or until a parent comes to claim them. Cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, toys, trading cards and electronic games and equipment are not appropriate in school.

Arrangements may be made with individual teachers to bring unusual items to school for use during special times or projects. Otherwise, they should remain at home.

During the school day, students have access to building telephones through their classroom teacher and the main office. Hence, students do not need cell phones here at school. For use after hours; please contact

your child's teacher or the office to make arrangements. Any and all cell phones found in school will be kept in the office for safe keeping and to prevent disruptions to instructional time.

Nut Free School Zone Reminder

Another very important reminder relates to the health and safety of our students with severe nut allergies. Please remember that Winans is a nut free zone. This includes lunch, snacks, and even birthday surprises. Please read labels carefully before bringing food items into our school. We've had to decline a couple of birthday treats due to the ingredients and of course that is difficult for the child in honor of the day. Please also check to see if the product was manufactured in a plant or with machinery that processes nuts. We truly appreciate your help in keeping all our kids safe!

As a footnote to the birthday connections, please be sure and check with your child's teacher ahead of time if you want to bring something in to celebrate your child's birthday at school. Anything that becomes a distraction (balloons, flower arrangements, etc) are difficult in managing student excitement and refocusing back to learning time. Some families have opted to skip the treat and instead donate a book to the classroom library in their child's name, a truly wonderful idea! Again, thank you for working with your child's teacher ahead of time and keeping the acknowledgement to a minimum distraction level during our learning time. ☺

Social Skills and Academics

One of our goals as a staff this year is to support our kids in learning more social skills and self-regulation strategies to help them be successful learners. A student's social thinking ability has an important effect on his or her relationships and success in school. It affects the person's social skills, perspective taking, self-awareness, self-regulation, critical thinking, social problem solving, play skills, reading comprehension, written expression, ability to learn and work in a group, organizational skills, etc. While we teach kids strategies for comprehension or math problems, we aren't always as specific in teaching them how to relate more effectively with others. Now in our second year with these lessons, our school social worker, Mr. Chuck Tolhurst, teaches Social Emotional Learning lessons to all classes throughout the year. He will be using resources from www.socialthinking.com including "You Are a Social Detective," "Superflex," and "Zones of Regulation." We invite all parents to visit the website for more information.

Sign-In / Sign-Out Students

TARDIES: Whenever students arrive at school late (after the 8:25 a.m. bell), parents should sign them in at the office. Students will receive a blue tardy pass to give to the teacher. Be sure to let Mrs. Hoxie know before 9:00 if your child is to be added to the lunch count. If your child will be arriving after 9:00, please call ahead on Winans' attendance line (321-2371, option 2) to order a school lunch either option A or B or SBJ. If no lunch order is received by 9:00 a.m. your student will receive a SBJ sandwich.

APPOINTMENTS: For the safety of the children, whenever a student is going to leave for an appointment, a parent must sign the student out (and back in) at the office. Prior notification is always helpful. Also, students are permitted to check out to have lunch with their parents if they follow the above procedure.

Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 4: Daylight savings ends
Nov. 6: Election Day
Nov. 8: Mobile Dentist
Nov. 13: Delayed start day
10:20 am start time
Picture retake day
PTO meeting 6 p.m.
Nov. 16: Silver Bells in the City
Nov. 21-23:No School
Nov. 27: Delayed start day
10:20 am start time

Mark Your Calendars!

Dec. 4-8 Winans Book Fair
Dec. 11 Delayed start day
10:20 a.m. start time
PTO meeting 6:00
Dec. 21 Winter Break begins
at end of school day
Jan. 7 School Resumes

Thank you Winans PTO & Families

We would like to thank the PTO and Winans Families for providing the delicious food during parent-teacher conference week! It was great not to worry about meals during those busy days.

We truly enjoyed the meals and your thoughtfulness.

Please call in absences & tardies

The absence reporting number 321-2371 (choose option 2) is available at all times to take your report. Please call this number as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent or tardy. Please speak slowly and clearly. State your child's name, reason for absence, date of absence, grade level, and teacher's name. If your child is going to be late and would like to order a school lunch, please indicate A or B or SBJ sandwich. Lunch orders must be received before 9:00 a.m. If no order is received by 9:00 a.m. your student will receive a SBJ sandwich. Please post this number in a convenient place for your future use.

STUDENTS ARE TO BE PICKED UP PROMPTLY AT DISMISSAL TIME, 3:25.
Stop in the office first!

Before volunteering or visiting a classroom, please fill out a volunteer form, make arrangements with the classroom teacher, and then stop in the office to CHECK WITH MRS. HOXIE, SIGN-IN AND GET A VISITORS STICKER. Thank you!

Medication reminder

1. The State of Michigan Department of Education outlines the following procedures for dispensing medications in school:
2. Medication should be brought to school by the parent/guardian.
3. Medication should arrive in the original labeled container as prepared by a pharmacy. The container must be labeled with dosage and frequency of administration. (No envelopes, baggies, etc., accepted!) Dosage and frequency on container will be followed. If dosage or frequency changes a new container with the new dosage and frequency must be brought to school
4. Parent/guardians must complete a new Student Medication Request form each year and obtain the physician's signature for prescription and OTC medication before medication can be administered at school. Any change in dosage must be made in writing and must be authorized with your physician's signature.

REMINDER. . . REMINDER. . .

Do not use the bus loop in front of the school for drop-off or pick-up. This is for busses only. Thank you!

Dress warm for cold weather!

With cold weather upon us, please be sure your child is dressed properly with warm coats, hats, boots and mittens. All students will go outside every day for classroom and lunch recess unless we have written authorization from a doctor.

Please be sure to label all clothing, mittens, boots, book bags, lunch boxes, etc. with your

child's name. It is so much easier to return! If your child has lost something, please feel free to check the "Lost and Found" located in the hall outside of the office.

Winans website calendar

To access the Winans calendar:

1. Go to http://www.waverlycommunityschools.net
2. Select Winans (on black toolbar at top of page)
3. Choose View the Building Calendar (bottom left side of page)
4. Go to the month you wish to see

If you need assistance with the calendar please call the school office at 517-321-371.

Water Bottles

Brains need water!! So do our bodies!! Your children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school so they can have water when they need it. Please send bottles that have a snap-shut versus a twist-on top. Please label bottles with your student's name.

Two hour delay procedures

Besides closing school due to inclement weather, it is possible that the Waverly Community Schools may need to use a two (2) hour delay in order to address specific short term weather problems. These problems are likely to be very, very dense fog or ice that is sure to be gone within a short period of time. Therefore, should the district announce on the TV and radio stations that it will institute a **two-hour delay**, you should be aware that schools will begin **exactly two hours later** than their normally scheduled time. Parents should have a plan in place if this should happen so students will be ready to go to school two hours later.

On the mornings of a two-hour delay, Child Care will also start 2 hours later.

For information on school delays and cancellations, listen to the local radio stations, local TV stations and check the Waverly Community Schools website www.waverlycommunityschools.net.

Thank you for all that you do! Winans families and PTO are the best!!

Head lice-Parent handout

What are head lice?

• Head lice are small tan to grayish white insects, about the size of a sesame seed and have six legs.

• Lice don't usually carry disease.

• Lice can live up to 30 days on a person's head and lay from 50-150 eggs.

• Lice need to feed on blood every 3-6 hours.

• If lice falls off a person, it dies within 2 days.

How did my child get head lice?

• Children get head lice from other children.

• Lice crawl from child to child anytime they are close together or by sharing combs, brushed, hair fasteners, hats, caps, coat, scarves, and even cell phones.

• Children get head lice almost as often as they get the common cold.

• If left behind, lice can attach to your child while sitting on carpets or furniture.

• Lice can attach themselves to stuffed toys.

• Lice cannot hop, jump or fly.

• When live lice move from one child's head to another, they begin laying eggs immediately.

How do I know if my child has head lice?

• Itching is the first sign of lice.

• Check the entire head and scalp, especially behind the ears and near the neckline at the back of the neck when scratching begins.

• Lice eggs (NITS) may be found before you see lice because each lice can lay up to 150 eggs at a time.

• Nits are very tiny; about the size of a knot of thread and shaped like a long football.

• Nits are yellow to white in color and may be mistaken for dandruff or hair spray droplets.

• Nits attach to hair with a waterproof, cement-like substance and are difficult to remove.

How can I get rid of head lice?

• Treatment must be done with a shampoo or cream rinse approved by the FDA.

• Treatments can be purchased without a prescription at stores that carry drug store products.

• Follow treatment instructions closely.

• After treatment you will need to thoroughly comb and pick out the nits.

• All products recommend a second treatment 7-10 days after the first treatment in order to kill any remaining or newly hatched lice.

• Soak combs and brushes in lice shampoo for 1 hour in very hot water.

• Wash sheets, blankets and bedding in the hottest setting possible.

• Dry clean non-washable items or seal them in a plastic bag for 1 week.

• Vacuum furniture, carpet, car sets, and mattresses thoroughly.

• Discard vacuum debris.

Myths and truths about head lice treatment:

• Using liquids like gasoline, kerosene, paint thinner or insect repellant may harm your child more than it would the lice. Chemicals should be used unless they are approved by the FDA for specific treatment of head lice.

• Do not use hair dryers to kill lice or their eggs. The temperature would have to be turned up so high it could easily cause serious burns on the scalp.

• Hair gels, hairspray, oils or other non-medicated hair products will not kill lice or prevent eggs from hatching or sticking to the hair. The nits will hatch and your child will be infested with lice again.

• Vinegar rinses or mayonnaise do not kill nits or detach them from hair.

• Cutting your child's hair or shaving their head to get rid of lice won't keep lice away. Lice stick to short and just "grown in" hair too.

• Pets and other animals don't carry head lice and can't contract head lice from people.

http://www.ccisd.net/docs/health-services-docs/headlice.pdf?sfvrsn=0