

WILDCAT WATCH

Volume 13
March 31, 2009

Mr. Hunsinger's Wildcat Wisdom

Happy Spring !

Well, we are slowly getting into warmer weather and sunny days. It is hard to believe we have less than 50 days of school remaining in this 2008-2009 school year. The MSA testing is behind us, and we are back to our normal schedules. It seems like just a few days ago we were getting started and here we are finishing up the month of March.

I am happy to say that all second grade classes will be back in the main building when we return from spring break. The only relocatable to be used on a regular basis will be our newest one which will be a vocal music room. This is just outside the exit doors and is closest to the main building of all our relocatables.

Make sure you follow the school calendar closely in what will be a somewhat different few weeks. We have an early dismissal on Friday, April 3, at 1 o'clock. Staff development will be held on April 6 and 7 for the entire staff. Students will not be in school on those days. We then begin our spring break on April 8 and will not return until April 14.

Please keep in mind that our kindergarten registration will be on the first Friday in May. If you have any questions, be sure to call the Wakefield office and speak with Mrs. Coates.

Every year I remind parents that we cannot assign students to classes based on a specific teacher request. There may be a request for many different reasons; however, keep in mind we must look at the grouping very carefully and a lot of time and effort goes into student placement. Another factor to keep in mind especially in a large school such as this is that staff often changes over the summer and in some cases there are cuts in certain grade levels made by central office based on budget needs. As we have always done in the past, the groups will be set over the summer and class placements for 2009-2010 will go home at the end of July. If there is a specific thought or question about your child's placement, you can send a note to me and it will be looked at carefully.

Next year for the first time, the first day of school will be on Thursday August 27, rather than on a Monday as in past years.

We have an increased number of parents in the Wakefield lobby waiting to pick up children from dismissal. Please do not block the hallways so students can pass through as they are dismissed from their classrooms and head to their buses. Remember we cannot have parents going to the classrooms to pick up their children without checking in the office first.

FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT:

Congratulations to Ellen V, Elisabeth G, Matthew Y, Kailey O'C, and Newton N for representing Wakefield at the last County Wide Artshow for this school year. Great work, talented art students!

They Say It's Your Birthday... The Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School Media Centers would like to welcome the newest Birthday Book Club Members for the month of March. The following people had birthdays recently and their parents purchased books for the libraries in their honor. The books they selected display a special plate with their names on the inside cover. Happy Birthday and a big Birthday Book Club welcome to the following students:

Grade K: Tommy B, Jacob D, Sabrina F, Kayla I, Emma M

Grade 1: Adam A

Grade 2: Will A, Heather B, Hailee B (February), Austin E, Ana H

Grade 3: Olivia B, Jamie E, Nick F, Teresa L, Brianna MacC
(February), Brooke M, Isaiah S

Grade 4: Brandon L

Grade 5: Emma B, Jacob V

If your birthday is in April, NOW is your chance to join the Birthday Book Club. May will be the last Birthday Book Club of the 2008-09 school year. Ask your teacher or school librarians (Homestead Building: Mrs. Walker; Wakefield Building: Mrs. Miller) for an application today!

FALLSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Fallston Middle School is having **their *Jump Start To Success*** program for 5th grade students and their parents on Thursday, April 16th. The schedule will be as follows:

6:15 - 6:40 Teachers, books and projects will be available in the gym for parents and students to view.

6:40 - 6:45 Announcements by the Principal

6:50 - 7:30 First Parent Session and First Student Session

7:40 - 8:15 Second Parent Session and Second Student Session

The school asks that no siblings of students attend due to the large number of participants expected. Please watch for a flyer to be brought home by your 5th grader.

Brenna Sullivan, school counselor

From the Music Room at Wakefield:

March was "Music In Our Schools Month". HWES kindergarten students, first graders and second graders participated in The World's Largest Concert during their music class on March 11, 12, 16 and 17. Our school has participated since 1999.