

September 2008

WASHINGTON NEWS

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON – FROM MRS. TOOMEY, WASHINGTON PRINCIPAL



Parents & Guardians,

The 2008-2009 school year is off to a great start and we are pleased to have your child at Washington. The staff and I are looking forward to an exciting and productive year with your child! This will be a year of many changes for your child – more challenges, more freedom, more responsibilities! As your child adjusts to these major social and academic changes, he/she may become anxious – this is normal until he/she makes those adjustments. If this anxiety lasts over a few weeks, please let us know so we can address the problem. As one parents stated last year – “Fifth grade is a lot harder for me than it is for my child, he has adapted a lot better than I have to all the changes.”

To ensure success, parents, students and teachers must work to-

gether to help all students reach their fullest potential.

Since you are the expert on your child, we welcome any information you can provide to help us get to know your child and provide the best education possible. Any time you would like to schedule a meeting, please call Washington at 332-1875.

The staff and I would like to invite you to visit our classrooms to view the instruction and learning activities taking place at Washington. We are very proud of the high quality instruction provided by a well-qualified teaching staff. You may have questions about instructional programs or activities, please ask us about them! Every program or instructional strategy we use at Washington has a strong research base and we would like to share that information with you.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support! We will work diligently to ensure success for every child attending Washington School.

WASHINGTON WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are very pleased to have the following teachers join our teaching staff this year:

- Michael McCambridge, Physical Education
- Amanda Hufferd, 5th Grade Teacher Math & Science
- Sharon Simwinga, 5th Grade Teacher Reading & Science

Mark Your Calendar

- September 1st—Labor Day, No School
- September 11th—Washington Orientation, 6:00 pm in the gym
- September 12th—School Pictures
- October 1st—Parent / Teacher Conferences
- October 7th—Parent / Teacher Conferences

LUNCH ROOM REMINDERS

- When writing a check for your child's meals, please include your child's name and/or PIN number on your check. This practice will ensure credit to the proper lunch account.
- The Kansas State Department of Education recently passed a requirement affecting our students' sack lunches. The ruling reads as follows:

The foods of minimal nutritional value may not be served as part of a reimbursable meal. This also includes sack lunch meals. The foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by the USDA regulations include carbonated soft drinks, water ices, chewing gum and certain candies.

- Carbonated drinks cannot be sold, given away or consumed during mealtime. Non-

carbonated drinks should be included as a drink with student sack lunches. Milk may also be purchased for 35 cents as a mealtime beverage. Carbonated drinks and/or candy may not be served as a treat before or after mealtime. We appreciate your cooperation and support in providing our children with nutritious meals.

VOLUNTEERING – THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

Most of us believe education is very important. We know that our children's future success and happiness depend on the education they receive today. That's why we are asking for your help. You can help children learn – as a volunteer.

Why should you volunteer?
There are many reasons.

1. **Your children will benefit.** Even if you are not in their classroom, your children will know you are in school. They'll see that you think learning is important.
2. **You'll get to know your children's teachers.** Knowing the teacher makes it easier to ask for help when your child needs it. When students, par-

ents and teachers work together kids learn more!

3. **The school will benefit.** The time you spend in school will allow the Washington School staff to do more things for more kids. You will be able to share our successes and help us solve our problems. That means better learning for all children.
4. **The community will benefit.** You'll learn more about our school, and you'll be able to share what you know with your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
5. **Volunteering is satisfying.** You'll meet other parents. You may learn new skills. You'll get a good feeling from knowing you've done something important.

HOMWORKKANSAS WEBSITE AVAILABLE

Tutors are available 7 days a week from 4:00—11:00 pm at www.homeworkkansas.org

Spanish-speaking tutors are available Sunday—Thursday.

Volunteering is easy. We'll be glad to train you for your job. There are jobs you can do at home, in the classroom or in school. We have jobs/projects that take 30 minutes, an hour or a day. So please help us help your kids. Be a person who makes a difference. Be a volunteer.

It's easy to get started. Just call the school at 332-1875 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm and let us know you are interested.

We look forward to working with you!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

MORNING ARRIVAL

For the safety and security of our children, students should not arrive before 7:00 a.m. Breakfast begins at 7:10 each morning. Since adult supervision is not provided and the school doors are not opened before 7:00, students should not plan on being on school grounds before that time.

If you have concerns, questions or just need to share information with the school, please feel free to call (332-1875) or stop by and visit with your child's teacher or with Mrs. Toomey, Washington's principal. We look forward to visiting with you.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Medications, prescription and

non-prescription drugs, are not allowed at school unless a medical release form is completed by the doctor and the parent or guardian. Medical Release Form are available at most doctor's offices and at all district schools. If your child should need to take medications at school please follow these guidelines:

- Medications must arrive at school in their original container with original label with the child's name.
- Medications should be taken directly to the school clinic or office upon arrival to school.
- Medical Release Forms must be on file **before** medications will be given to students.

Questions concerning medical or medication issues should be directed to Kathy Raub, district school nurse and/or our nurse's aide, Jennifer Ward.

Thank you for helping the Washington staff keep your child safe!

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES ARE COMING!

PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING THE WASHINGTON STAFF ON:

OCTOBER 1st 1:00 – 6:30 pm
OCTOBER 7th 4:00 – 8:00 PM

CONFERENCE DETAILS WILL BE COMING HOME WITH YOUR CHILD DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22ND

Successful Students Read as Much as They Watch TV

It is very important that your child read for at least 20 minutes each evening as part of his/her reading homework. Please join your child's teacher in encouraging your child to read each evening!

Research shows that children who spend more than 90 minutes a day in front of the television do not read as well as

those students whose parents set TV limits. These steps will help you encourage your child to spend more time reading:

- Track the amount of time your child spends watching TV.
- Be a reading model – read with your child.
- Challenge your child to read at least as much as he/she watches TV.

- Help your child find interesting books on topics that interest him/her.
- Talk with your child about the books he/she has read.

1ST QUARTER BINGO CARD DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 16TH

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR CHILD'S ASSIGNMENT LOG EVERY DAY

If your child's assignment log is filled out correctly and completely it:

- allows you to see what concepts were taught in school that day
- tells you and your child what work needs to be completed as homework
- helps your child develop organizational skills
- provides an opportunity for you to communicate about assignments via the assignment log with the teacher
- It is part of your child's work skills grade.

WASHINGTON CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are a wonderful security tool for today's children. Cell phones may be brought to school as long as check-in procedures are followed. Cell phones are to be checked into the office first thing each morning and picked up at dismissal. Phones should be turned off upon check-in. Phones will be taken from students and turned into the office for safe-keeping if students choose not to follow morning check-in procedures.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Attendance is vitally important to the academic success of students. Educational research has shown a very strong link between regular school attendance and high academic achievement.

When illness prevents your child from attending school, please be aware that your child will probably need to stay after school to receive the instruction from the teacher that was missed during the absence. Since many of our classes use hands-on activities or projects to help students understand the concepts or information, your child may need to make up those missed activities after school as well. Some parents have requested that make-up instruction be done during school hours – especially during recess. This request is very difficult to grant since teachers are busy with class instruction during school hours and our recess period is only 20 minutes in length, which is not long enough to provide instruction for 5 different content areas. Our teachers work diligently to help students get caught up once they return to school and are very willing to work parents on scheduling make-up instruction, please share your ideas and concerns with them.

Don't forget

- **to call the school or send a note stating the reason for your child's absence or tardy.**
- make-up assignments may be requested through the office during school hours. The assignments will be ready after 3:45 that day. Assignments may also be obtained directly from the teacher after school.

Letting your child know that you care about his/her education and that good attendance is important to you, as well as, to him/her can make a big difference. We truly appreciate your support and cooperation!

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Homeroom classes voted for their student council representatives. Congratulations and honors to the following students:

Mrs. Baxter's Class

Eleni McCaffery
Michael Kirchoff

Mr. DeLong's Class

Kennedy Froebe
Tommy Woods

Mrs. Flatt's Class

Tina Bradshaw
Dalson Hamlin

Mrs. Hufferd's Class

Emma Ingram
Michael Lopez

Mrs. Mann's Class

Jessikah Fowler
Lucas Dunn

Mrs. Simwinga's Class

Moriah Yates
Caleb Johnson

Mrs. Winkleman's Class

Faith Ruggles
Nathan Hogge

*******WANTED*******

Students who would be interested in being on our Washington newsletter staff.

The student journalists would meet with Mrs.

Toomey once a week—every Thursday after

school—to create articles for our building newsletter.

If you are interested please see Mrs. Toomey.