



Waltham Territory Newsletter

Waltham Elementary
School District 185

Waltham Territory Newsletter
March 2011

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESKMR. ROBERT ABNEY

The financial concerns of the State of Illinois are impacting Waltham Elementary District #185. With deficit spending, borrowing to pay their bills, and the reality of the financial insecurity of the economy, the States' financial woes are causing Waltham Elementary #185 to assess the educational experience for their students.

Mandated categorical funding from the state provides partial reimbursement for nine categorical programs required by the State. The major concern is the lateness and/or future availability of funds to cover mandated categoricals (including Special Education Personnel, Special Education Transportation, and Regular Transportation) and other major categorical payments (Reading Improvement, Early Childhood, Standards, Assessment and Accountability, and Alternative Learning).

The impact of pro-rating or delaying these categorical payments means our District could be owed money at the end of this fiscal year as was the case at the end of the last fiscal year. At this point in time the state is behind in Transportation and Special Ed funding to our District. If these delays and pro-ratings continue we may be forced to use fund reserves, make necessary cuts in student services, release staff, create larger class sections, and reduce educational and extracurricular programs.

The Illinois Constitution states "the State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education." However, local property tax revenue primarily funds programs. Several sources have reported that the State is considering forced consolidation of districts and reduction of the transportation payment to as low as zero dollars to 50 cents on the dollar.

We believe that we operate a very efficient educational experience for the students in our District. We are aware of the fiscal responsibilities to the citizens of the District and will continue to make every effort to maximize the use of their tax dollars.

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HISTORY FAIR

The 2011 History Fair was held at Waltham North on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. We had 39 separate projects representing 50 students from 7th and 8th grade. There were 4 media presentations and 35 exhibits. Amanda Bigelow, a History professor from IVCC, brought 20 of her students to act as our team of judges. The following students received a Superior rating on the project making them eligible for the Regional History Fair in DeKalb on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

- Madison Anderson: Radium Girls, Hidden Danger
- Brandon Bryan: Walter Payton
- Maggie Durdan: Rockford Peaches
- Tiara Golgin and Hannah Simcich: The Founding of Brookfield Zoo
- Micah Johnson and Alena Laws: The Hegler-Carus Gymnasium
- Christine Perona: St. Bede Academy
- Samantha Whalen: Nancy Brinker, One Person Can Make Difference
- Kaleigh Cox, Mariah Gibson, Amber Sharp: Utica Tornado
- Olivia Graham, Gabbi McCabe: John Deere, Inventor and Innovator
- Aaron Kamke: Erico Fermi
- Taylor Moriarity: LaSalle-Peru High School
- Adam Schwartz: Traditional Potawatomi Homes
- Frank Senica: Senica's Towing
- Max Senica: Senica's Market
- Kyle Small: Small/Wylie School
- Melanie Wilson: The Rise and Fall of the Blackball Mines
- Kendra Yade: Westclox

We would like to congratulate the following students who will be going to State with their History Fair projects:

Madison Anderson, Brandon Bryan, Aaron Kamke, Christine Perona, Kyle Small, Samantha Whalen, Kendra Yade. Congratulations, and Best of Luck on May 5th!!!!



WALTHAM SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

The Waltham PTCC Pancake Breakfast and Raffle is fast approaching.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011 FROM 8 A.M. UNTIL 12:30 p.m. at the Waltham North gym.

Breakfast will include: PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, AND BEVERAGES.

Tickets are \$6 for adults - \$3.00 for children 4-13 years of age- Free for those 3 yrs. or under.

Tickets may be purchased from a Waltham student, at the school, or at the door the day of the breakfast..

MANY NICE RAFFLE ITEMS TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

KEN HARMON MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

Family and friends of Ken Harmon are organizing a blood drive in memory of our neighbor. The Red Cross Blood Drive will be on **Saturday, April 16, 2011, at the Utica Community Hall from 8:00 to 12:00 noon.**

Ken received many units of blood when he was ill and we would like to try to replace as many as we can. Please consider becoming a blood donor for the first time or if you have donated blood in the past, please consider coming and donating on April 16th. There are few requirements, you must be 18 years of age or 17 with a parent's consent and you may not have donated blood in the past 8 weeks. Please join us in this worthy endeavor. **For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Jean Jones at 1-815-638-2834.**

Thank you, Mrs. Jane Wilson



YOU BE THE CHEMIST CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Aaron Kamke and Maggie Durdan for being the school winners of the *You Be The Chemist Challenge*. Aaron Kamke was the school winner and will receive a laptop computer. Maggie Durdan was the runner-up and will receive a \$50 electronics gift certificate. Jeremy Merdian was the alternate this year. Aaron and Maggie competed in the Illinois Valley Challenge (Regional Competition) held at Seneca Grade School, February 14th. Aaron placed second and will advance to the State competition. One Illinois winner will advance to the national competition, which is held in Philadelphia, PA.

The local coordinator is Patricia Neff of Morris and the local sponsors are: Air Products and Chemicals, Carus Corporation, PQ Corporation, Flint Hills Resources, Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry, Lyondell Basell Industries, Aux Sable Liquids, Dow Chemical—Wilmington, Exelon-Dresden Station and LaSalle stations. The state sponsors and local challenge is supported by the Illinois Chemical Education Foundation, and the Chemical Education Foundation is the national organizer.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Kindergarten registration for the 2011-2012 school year was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

Please call 815-667-4790 and speak to Susan Hewitt to set up an appointment to bring in your child for a brief skills assessment if you were not seen on that day.

Children must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2011 to start Kindergarten. Please bring birth certificate and social security number to registration with you.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST

The results of the Elks Hoop Shoot Contest held at Waltham North are as follows:

Girls 8-9	Jolene Flynn—Winner None—Runner Up
Boys 8-9	Ryan Skoog—Winner Joe Baker—Runner Up
Girls 10-11	Hannah Turigliatti—Winner ZomNyet Webster—Runner Up
Boys 10-11	Billy George—Winner Robbie Linn—Runner Up
Girls 12-13	Melanie Wilson—Winner Olivia Graham—Runner Up
Boys 12-13	Brody Frig—Winner Jace Hardy—Runner Up

Ryan Skoog took first place at IVCC for Boys 8-9, he advanced to the Northwest District Contest in Freeport. We are very proud of him!!!



SPELLING BEE—A word from Miss St. Germain

The following Junior High students were the classroom winners and participated in the Waltham Spelling Bee on Friday, January 21st.

Miss St. Germain 6th grade: Joe Jansen, Andrew Kim

Mrs. Wasilewski 6th grade: Cole Bokus, Owen Stoneking

7th grade: Fred Becker, Anna Low

8th grade: Joe Kim, Jeremy Merdian

Congratulations to all of our participants!

The winner of the 2011 Spelling Bee was Owen Stoneking from 6th grade. The runner-up was Joe Jansen, from 6th grade. Owen competed in the LaSalle County Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at Ottawa High School. Owen was one of only two 6th graders at the Spelling Bee and he placed 7th overall. Congratulations Owen!!



HONOR ROLL STUDENTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER GRADING PERIOD AND FIRST SEMESTER

Second Quarter Grading Period

High Honor Roll: Eighth Grade: Madison Anderson, Maggie Durdan, Joe Kim, Chris Moshage, Rachel Senica, Samantha Whalen

Seventh Grade: Garrett Andreatta, Fred Becker, Olivia Graham, Aaron Kamke, Madeline Luce, Gabrielle McCabe, Max Senica, Melanie Wilson

Sixth Grade: Nic Bollis, Julia Browning, Katie Corcoran, Emily Ficek, Jace Hardy, Kathryn Henry, Bryanna Hoskins, Andrew Kim, Allison Laws, Chase Ludford, Carly Ramirez, Owen Stoneking

Second Quarter Grading Period

Honor Roll: Eighth Grade: Breann Aubry, Brandon Bryan, Taylor Cimei, Dyllan Farrell, Cody Flynn, Brody Frig, Tiara Golgin, Cierra Johnson, Micah Johnson, Dylan Krager, Alena Laws, Jeremy Merdian, Christine Perona, Aly Plankenhorn, Erica Pode, Hannah Sheth, Hannah Simcich, Jonathon Simcich

Seventh Grade: Kaleigh Cox, Matthew Cummings, Tyler Curl, Mariah Gibson, Logan Guerrero, Nevada Halm, Anna Low, Taylor Moriarity, Roberta Rehor, Adam Schwartz, Frank Senica, Amber Sharp, Kalli Steele, Kendra Yade

Sixth Grade: Matthew Adams, Cole Bokus, Levi Bottomley, Adam Claggett, Cody Corneglio, Paige Foster, Carter Funfsinn, Joe Jansen, Nicholas McTee, Keegan Miller, Sydney Miller, Devin Oberjat, Adam Payne, Ryan Pijanowski, Brendan Pode, Payton Rietgraf, Brendon Sebastian, Conner Wheeler

8th GRADE CLASS OFFICERS

The 8th grade class has elected their class officers for the 2010-2011 school year.

- President—Chris Moshage
- Vice President—Joe Kim
- Secretary—Taylor Cimei
- Treasurer—Zmonte Webster

First Semester High Honor Roll

Eighth Grade: Madison Anderson, Maggie Durdan, Joe Kim, Chris Moshage, Christine Perona, Rachel Senica, Samantha Whalen

Seventh Grade: Garrett Andreatta, Fred Becker, Olivia Graham, Aaron Kamke, Madeline Luce, Gabrielle McCabe, Max Senica, Melanie Wilson

Sixth Grade: Matthew Adams, Nic Bollis, Julia Browning, Katie Corcoran, Emily Ficek, Jace Hardy, Kathryn Henry, Bryanna Hoskins, Andrew Kim, Allison Laws, Chase Ludford, Keegan Miller, Ryan Pijanowski, Brendan Pode, Owen Stoneking

Semester Honor Roll

Eighth Grade: Breann Aubry, Brandon Bryan, Taylor Cimei, Dyllan Farrell, Cody Flynn, Tiara Golgin, Cierra Johnson, Micah Johnson, Dylan Krager, Alena Laws, Aly Plankenhorn, Erica Pode, Hannah Sheth, Hannah Simcich, Jonathon Simcich

Seventh Grade: Kaleigh Cox, Matthew Cummings, Mariah Gibson, Logan Guerrero, Nevada Halm, Anna Low, Taylor Moriarity, Roberta Rehor, Adam Schwartz, Frank Senica, Amber Sharp, Kalli Steele, Kendra Yade

Sixth Grade: Cole Bokus, Levi Bottomley, Adam Claggett, Cody Corneglio, Paige Foster, Carter Funfsinn, Joe Jansen, Nicholas McTee, Sydney Miller, Devin Oberjat, Adam Payne, Carly Ramirez, Payton Rietgraf, Brendon Sebastian, Conner Wheeler

ISAT REMINDER

Just a reminder that ISAT testing will begin Tuesday, March 8th thru March 18th. The date change is due to the three snow days at the beginning of February. Please remember that students will need a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast.

Attendance is very important!



WALTHAM'S NEWSLETTERS ARE GOING GREEN

In an effort to go green, Waltham's Newsletters for the 2011-2012 school year will only be mailed to you if you contact the school and ask to be put on our mailing list. We plan on sending the newsletter via e-mail through our AlertNow system. If you are a community member and would like the newsletter e-mailed to you, please let the school know of your current e-mail address. All parents will automatically have the newsletter e-mailed to them, so please let us know of any changes to your e-mail. The newsletter will also be posted on Waltham's website along with all of the monthly parent newsletters. Our web address is www.wesd185.org

PTCC OFFICERS for 2011-2012 School Year

Your children grow up fast. Wouldn't it be great to be involved in your child's school for a few short months? It's not too late to become a PTCC officer. Anyone who is interested in being a PTCC officer or knows of anyone who may be interested can contact the school office.

Tdap SHOTS

LaSalle County School Health Services will be here on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 9:45 a.m. to offer the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes the opportunity to receive their Tdap shot. **Tdap shots are required for admittance into high school.** The forms are on our website and can be filled out and sent to school with your child. The cost is \$10 and Medicaid will cover the cost. If you are interested in having your child vaccinated, please make sure you **return all 4 forms to school** along with the \$10 payment. Please make checks payable to LaSalle County Health Department. If you are unable to print the forms from our website, just call the school office and I will be happy to send the forms home with your child. All forms and payment should be returned to school by Friday, March 18th.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE 2010

The Geography Bee was held on Friday, January 7, 2011. Two contestants from 4th through 8th grade were chosen in classroom competitions.

The 10 finalists were:

4th grade: Jack Senica and Mary Claire Tomminello

5th grade: Jack Mertes and Hannah Turigliatti

6th grade: Andrew Kim and Carter Funfsinn

7th Grade: Olivia Graham and Gabrielle McCabe

8th grade: Dyllan Farrell and Samantha Whalen

The School winner was Samantha Whalen—8th grade

The School alternate was Olivia Graham—7th grade

Samantha will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition in Washington D.C.

MUSIC NEWS FROM MRS. SMYTHE

IESA Solo and Ensemble Contest is Saturday, March 26 at Kewanee Wethersfield.

The Jr. High Band had a wonderful time at the L-P Band Festival! Thank you to all the parents who drove students to and from this event.

FREE PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

Free Preschool vision, hearing, speech, language, and general development screenings will be held on March 16th at Lincoln School in Oglesby during regular school hours. Registration is February 28 thru March 11th. For an appointment, please call 815-883-9137. The screenings are sponsored by L.E.A.S.E. Preschool Program and the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. For more information you may contact The L.E.A.S.E. Preschool Program at 815-433-6433.



Magic Waters Books for Fun Program

Forty-three Waltham students participated in Magic Waters' **Books for Fun Earn Waves of Fun** Reading Program sponsored by Applebee's and the Rockford Park District. Students read 6 or more hours (not including homework) to be eligible. Each will receive a FREE day admission pass to Magic Waters Waterpark valid during the 2011 summer season and a FREE kid's meal from Applebee's which will be distributed in April. The following students completed 6 hours or more of reading or being read to:

Kindergarten

Brett Aimone
Michael George
Jack Gillen
Philip Guglielmetti
Tommy Hartman
Billy Mini
Abby Reed

First Grade

AnnMarie Depenbrock
Logan Humpage
McKenzie Lewis
Renn Ludford
Joe Ovanic

Second Grade

Maverick Andrews
Tyler Hartman
Alyssa Heitz
Reese Kurtz
Sydney Link
Reese Ludford
Samantha May
Savanna Rietgraf
Devin Schrader
Joe Tomminello

Third Grade

Evan Hardy
Emma Mertes
Jacob Ovanic
Jarrett Reed

Fourth Grade

Madison Aimone
A.J. Bollis
Jalen Depenbrock
Meygan Echols
Billy George
Zachary Hartman
Lynsay Humpage
Sophie Kurtz
James Luce
Seth Ludford
Abbie May
MaryClaire Tomminello

Fifth Grade

Annabelle Heitz
Abigail Kamke
Jordan Ovanic

Sixth Grade

Nic Bollis
Jace Hardy
Chase Ludford

WALTHAM TRIVIA NIGHT SUCCESS!

Waltham's Trivia Night was a huge success. Profit from this PTCC fundraiser was over \$8,400. Thanks to everyone who donated to and/or attended this event. It was a fantastic evening!!

Trivia winners were 1st place –Barb Lukancic's team, 2nd place – Sandy Bubb's team and 3rd place – Vicki Munson's team. The Lukancic team generously donated back their winnings. Bill Terry won the XBOX 360 Kinnect system and Lisa Lasik won the 50/50 drawing. Combined there were over 30 raffle baskets and/or silent auction items. The winners were thrilled!

Information and tickets for our Waltham Pancake Breakfast to be held March 20, 2011 will be coming home very soon. Your continued support of Waltham School District 185 is much appreciated!

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 7** No School Casimir Pulaski Day
- March 8** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South
- March 8-18** ISAT Tests (Grades 3-8)
- March 14 PTCC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- March 15** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South
- March 16 Board of Ed Meeting at 6:00 p.m. @ S
- March 16 Hot Lunch Day
- March 18** 11:40 Dismissal North
- March 18** 11:55 Dismissal South
- March 19 Academic Team Tournament @S
- March 20 Pancake Breakfast 8:00-12:00 @ N
- March 22** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South
- March 24-25 VIP Lunch (3rd & 7th grade)
- March 25 Report Cards Distributed
- March 29** 2:05 Dismissal N, 2:20 South

