



# Waltham News

Waltham Elementary  
School

September 2011

## FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT.....MR. ROBERT ABNEY

For the second year in a row we are excited to report that the Waltham School District was awarded the Bright Star Award for educational excellence! Our school district is one of only 79 Illinois School Districts (out of 868 school districts) honored with the 2011 Bright Star Award. We are also excited to present the 2011-12 School Report Card. As you know, this is an annual report to the community that includes data and updates about our school district. You may view these accomplishments on our district web site: <http://wesd185.org>.

We really enjoy preparing the school report card for the community because we have so many positive stories to share about the Waltham Community School District. Our academic data is very good. Although we have some areas for growth, in most of the reporting groups, our students consistently outperform students from the region and across the state. The School Report Card & Bright Star Award demonstrates a remarkable year of excellence from our students and staff.

We want to recognize the entire Waltham staff for their commitment to make our schools a safe and nurturing environment for students. We also want to thank our parents and community members who support our schools to make the Waltham Community School District one of the finest school districts in Illinois. What a great way to start out the year!

## A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL.....MR. MICHAEL OLSON

**The school year is off to a great start!!** Here are some of the highlights so far:

Our Girls basketball season is under way and our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls captured **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** at the Holy Family Tournament and our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade earned **4<sup>th</sup> place**. These girls played extremely hard and represented Waltham very well. I am so proud of the team and their coaches- Angie Hartman and Larry Laio.

All of our students have been assessed with AIMS WEB and Discovery Education Think Link. These assessments tell us exactly where each student is at and what their academic strength and weaknesses are. This helps us plan interventions to help increase their skills.

Many of our students are busy completing community service hours for our **National Junior High Honor Society and Gold Cord Community Service Club**.

Our VIP lunches went off very well, and anytime you would like to eat lunch with your child, please contact the school. You are always welcome.

School pictures went well and should be ready for distribution soon.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be attending a presentation by **MWAH**, (messages that are hopeful) on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:00 at Ottawa Wallace grade school. This performing-arts based group will provide messages that are positive and will encourage students to make good choices.

The website is up and running and we are in the process of adding all the important information.

Looking ahead the Book Fair is set for October 12<sup>th</sup> -October 21<sup>st</sup>. More details will be sent home soon.

Parent Teacher Conferences are set for Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, and Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I highly encourage you to attend and communicate the progress of your child. Remember if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me, and you are always welcome to visit your child's school.

**IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE AT WALTHAM!!**



## A Word From Mrs. Wilson

Welcome Back! We are off to a terrific start in Junior High! In all our Social Studies classes, we are starting with a review of the Five Themes of Geography and the basics of longitude and latitude. In Illinois History and 7<sup>th</sup> grade United States History, we are learning about early Native Americans. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade United States History, we are studying the 1860's to 1900.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have started discussing the Class Trip and fund-raising. We know that we will be selling Bergner's Community Day certificates for \$5.00 each. They contain a \$10.00 gift certificate (with much fewer restrictions) and coupons good on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 12, 2011. Please contact an 8<sup>th</sup> grader to purchase them or send a note with your student and we will get them to you. Our class trip is scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2012.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will also be selling \$1.00 candy bars in October. I am looking forward to a great year and we are on our way. Class of 2012, graduation will be here before you know it!

**The 8<sup>th</sup> grade has elected their class officers for the 2011-2012 school year. They are:**

- Adam Schwartz-President**
- Matt Cummings-Vice President**
- Amber Sharp-Secretary**
- Kyle Small-Treasurer**

## Thank You From Mrs. Mitchell

I would like to thank all the volunteers that have come to help so far this year. We have had help with the library and center time! Thank you to all who have helped so far and to those who soon will!

## A Word From Mrs. Smythe

The music classes at the South building are celebrating "Mad Hatter Day" Thursday, October 6. If the students have a silly hat they wish to wear, which is school appropriate, they can wear it that day, or they can make a hat during music class.

## Mobile Dentist at Waltham

We are hosting Mobile Dentists at Waltham School once again. The date is set for Wednesday, December 7, 2011. This is an easy way for your child to receive their dental screening, cleanings, and fluoride treatments at school! Children with Medicaid are welcomed and encouraged to join us. Every student who participates will receive a shiny smile and a new toothbrush.

## Golf Outing

Golf Outing Sponsors: Thank you for supporting local schools and the youth of our community through your generous donation to our golf outing. Your sponsorship of the PTCC golf outing enabled us to have a successful event.

### Beverage Cart Sponsors:

American Federation of Teachers Local #604  
Dr. Edward Monroe, For a Lifetime of Smiles

### Golf Cart Sponsors

Central Illinois Trucks  
Pioneer

### Hole Sponsors

Burgess Funeral Home  
Canal Port II  
Cetwinski Construction  
Christiansen Insurance Agency  
Citizens First National Bank  
First State Bank  
IDEAL Environmental Engineering, Inc.  
Illinois Urologic Health Surgeons  
Jason & Angelique Depenbrock  
LaSalle State Bank  
Mark A. Henry DDS MS  
Paul & Rene Kim Family  
State's Attorney Brian Towne  
Steve Ludford, DDS  
Unimin Corporation—Utica/Troy Grove  
Wells Fargo Advisors

### Flag Sponsors

Chamlin & Associates, Inc.  
Eye Care Professionals-Dave Ludford  
IDEAL Environmental Engineering, Inc.  
Northern Partners Cooperative  
Ramza Insurance Group

### Prize & Gift Donors

1st Farm Credit Services  
August Hill Winery  
Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar  
Butterfly Landing Medi-Spa  
Financial Plus Credit Union  
Flipo Group, Ltd.  
Fulmer's Towing & Service Center  
HyVee  
Illinois Valley Fence & Pool, Inc.  
Jimmy John's—Utica  
Kroger  
McDonald's Ottawa/Utica  
Marty Chiropractic Clinic  
Pappas Family—McDonald's of Peru  
Prescott Brothers, Inc.  
Schimmer Ford  
Senica's Oak Ridge Golf Course  
St. Margaret's Foundation  
TJ Templeton  
Utica Public Library  
Weber Family  
Waltham Elementary School Parents & Teachers



## Explore Placement Tests

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, at 7:45 A.M. The Explore Placement Test will be administered to all eighth grade students who will attend LaSalle-Peru High School next fall.

St. Bede's placement test will be Saturday, November 12, 2011 for any students planning on attending St. Bede in the fall.

## Welcome from Waltham PTCC!

Thanks to all who have signed up to volunteer their time and talents for the various PTCC Committees and Room Parents/Helpers.

Officers for the 2011-2012 school year are:  
Prudence Wheeler – President, Amy Weber – Vice President, Rhonda Aimone – Treasurer, Cinnamon Bosnich and Jennifer Cetwinski—Co-Secretaries

We encourage all to attend our monthly meetings to discuss the mission and progress of our various activities held throughout the year. A meeting agenda is sent home a few days before each PTCC meeting for your review. We understand the busy schedules of Waltham parents and their children, therefore, it is the goal of the PTCC Officers to keep the meeting length at or under 1 hour.

Our next meeting is Monday, October 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Waltham South. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the PTCC Officers. The Waltham website [www.wesd185.org](http://www.wesd185.org) is a great resource as well. We are looking forward to a great year!!

### **PTCC is seeking the following:**

Market Day committee members  
Pancake Breakfast Chairperson

## Fall Festival

The Annual Fall Festival will be held on Friday, October 21st from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the South building. It is a night of family fun for all. There are games for children of all ages, a cake walk, refreshments and music. The book fair will also be at the South building during the Fall Festival, so come out and join the fun.

## Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels

We have a good start on Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels already this year. Keep them coming to the schools.

## STORE CERTIFICATES

Please support our store certificate program. Every penny of our profit is paid to us by the participating stores. It costs you nothing extra to use certificates and/or cards at the register. Use gift cards from Wal-Mart, HyVee, Jewel, Kohl's, Thornton Gas Station, Steak & Shake, and Bella's Pizza. If you are interested in purchasing a gift card, please contact Waltham North School at 815-667-4417.

Store Certificate Committee:

Renee Kim  
Tiffany Lewis

## October Calendar of Events

- 4 Early Dismissal (North 2:05) South(2:20)
- 6 Hot Lunch Day (Pizza Hut)
- 7 No School County Institute
- 10 No School, Columbus Day
- 11 Early Dismissal (North 2:05) South(2:20)
- 11 Market Day @ South 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- 12-21 Book Fair
- 13-14 VIP Lunch—Kindergarten (South) 5th (North)
- 17 PTCC Meeting 6:30 p.m. @ South
- 18 Early Dismissal 2:05 North, 2:20 South
- 19 Board of Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.-North
- 21 PTCC Fall Festival, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (South)
- 21 Costume Parade downtown Utica (South) 2:00 p.m.
- 21 2:30 Halloween Activities for K-3rd grades (South)
- 21 2:15 Halloween Activities for 4th-5th grades (North)
- 25 Early Dismissal 2:05 North, 2:20 South
- 25 Hot Lunch Day (chicken strips)
- 27 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 pm
- Nov. 1 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.