



Westdale News

Westdale Elementary, 705 S Center Road
797-1827

Volume I, Issue I

Upcoming Dates

- September 8th:
School Fundraiser Begins
- September 8th Box Top Collection Contest
- September 16th:
School Pictures
- September 17th:
Kid Run the Nation begins (2nd grade)
- September 17th:
PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
- September 22nd:
Fundraiser Orders Due
- October 3rd:
Homecoming

From the Principal...

Welcome back! We have one week of school under our belts and it has been a successful week. The purpose of this newsletter is for our staff to introduce themselves to you so you can be better acquainted with them.

My name is Karen Volk. I have been the principal at Westdale for eight years now. Before I became a principal I taught for the Bay City Public School system. I have two dogs (Gracie and Schembechler). In my free time I love to run and have run several half marathons. This summer I have been training to run my first marathon. It's a lot of hard work! I will be running the Chicago Marathon on October 12th.

Once again, we will be collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels. Last year we earned \$3000 with Box Tops. Our goal this year is to earn \$5000 with Box Tops

Looking forward to a great year!

Karen Volk

Emergency Forms

On the first day of school, Emergency Forms were sent home with the students. If you have not returned one yet, please do so. In case of an emergency we need to know how to contact you. On the back is a list of alternate contact numbers in case we can't reach you. Those numbers should be someone local. Also listed on the back are people who may pick your child up.

Student Handbook

Student handbooks will be sent home this week. Please take some time to read them through and sign the back page and return it to school.

PTO/Boosters

Our first PTO Meeting is September 16th at 6 p.m. in Music Room. Free child care is provided.

Picture Day

Picture Day is September 16th. There are extra packets in the office or you may order online at mylifetouch.com. Our ID is LM534306Y0. On picture day, please send your child dressed in what you would like them to wear for pictures and with money for pictures. The office will not be able to make change for you.

Westdale News

Our Secretary, Mrs. Walsh

Hello Westdale Families and Students! My name is Tina Walsh and this is my third year as Westdale's secretary. I love seeing your smiling faces in the morning morning and look forward to a great year!

I am originally from Germany but now live in Saginaw Township with my family. In my spare time I enjoy playing the hammered dulcimer, reading, writing, sewing and knitting. I love my job at Westdale because I get to meet so many awesome kids and get to work with fantastic people!



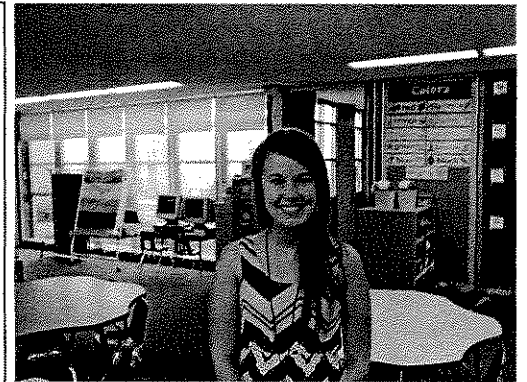
Young Fives and Kindergarten Staff



Mrs. Watz

My name is Mrs. Jeanne Watz. I am married to Eric Watz. We have three children, Kayleen, Brendon, and Matthew, along with a son-in-law, Luke. This is my seventeenth year of teaching. I am beginning my fifth year at Westdale. I am very excited to teach Young Fives this year. In the past I have taught kindergarten, first, and second grade at Plainfield and Weiss. In 2006 I received my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from SVSU. Some of my favorite things to do are spend time with my family, travel, read, and play with my dog, Daisy.

Hi! My name is Mrs. Torres, but most of the students at Westdale know me as Miss Jones. I am a kindergarten teacher and this is my 5th year at Westdale Elementary. I graduated from SVSU and I am working on getting my Master's in Early Childhood. Kindergarten is my favorite grade to teach! I love all of the exploring, learning, and fun we get to have! Summer is my favorite time of the year and this was the most adventurous summer that I have ever had. I got married in June and I am now Mrs. Torres! After the wedding, we went on a cruise to Jamaica and the Grand Cayman Islands since I love warm weather, traveling, and being on the beach. We rode on a Jamaican bobsled, went snorkeling, and we even climbed a waterfall! It was an amazing vacation! When we returned from our trip, we ended the summer by moving into a beautiful new home. With all of these new changes this year, I am excited to be back at school. I can't wait to spend the next year learning and growing with all of my kindergarten students! It's going to be a wonderful year!



My name is Kari Keith. This will be my 12th year teaching in Saginaw Township. Four of those years have been right here at Westdale. Prior to coming to STCS I taught preschool for many years. I live here in Saginaw Township with my husband, our two children ages 5 and 8 and our dog Blue. We like to spend lots of time outside and spent many hours kayaking and fishing this summer! I'm looking forward to a fun filled year with my kindergartners!





Hello, my name is Autumn Romain. This is the start of my fifteenth year teaching Kindergarten. My first ten years I taught at Hemmeter. I am now beginning my fifth year teaching Kindergarten here at Westdale. I attended Central Michigan University for my Bachelor's Degree and Saginaw Valley State University, where I received my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am married to my husband Jim and blessed to have three amazing kids: My son Avery is starting 5th grade at Hemmeter. I also have five year old twins Sophia and Jack, who are starting Kindergarten. My son Jack will be at Hemmeter and my daughter Sophia will be here at Westdale! In my spare time, I love to search for more ways to help teach my students. When I am not working on school stuff, I enjoy watching my boys play hockey (as well as other sports) and watch my daughter dance. I am looking forward to another great school year!

Miss Alicia Watt, I have been teaching for 13 years and became a Westdale Wolf seven years ago. I have an endorsement in Early Childhood education and a master's degree in Reading instruction.

When I am not at school I love to read, walk, sew, and travel. I have traveled all over the United States and to 5 other countries. My house is filled with books, including many by my favorite author Chris VanAllsburg.



First Grade



My name is Nicole Hartwick and I teach first grade. This is my 18th year of teaching. I couldn't imagine having any other job than working with children every day.

I am married and have 2 daughters. Hard to believe that my oldest is a sophomore at Heritage High School and my youngest is an 8th grader at White Pine Middle School.

I love traveling with my family and spending time on our boat in the summer.

I am proud to be a STCS teacher as well as a mom.

Ashley Boger- I am Ashley Boger, a SVSU student teacher in Mrs. Kowalski's first grade class this semester. I am originally from Kalkaska, Mi., but I live here in Saginaw with my husband Darrell. I enjoy winter activities such as hunting, ice fishing, cross country skiing, and in the early spring making maple syrup. I am looking forward to being part of the Westdale community.



I'm Anne Kowalski and I teach first grade. This is my sixteenth year in the classroom. My husband Tom and I live in Saginaw Township. We have three little boys, Carson (6), Porter (4) and Hudson (19 months). In our spare time, we enjoy spending time up north at Higgins Lake. I also enjoy watching my boys play sports and of course, I love to read! I am so excited for this school year! We are going to have an awesome





My name is Renee Clarey. I have been a teacher for 12 years and look forward to many more! My family currently resides in Saginaw Township. My husband, Dr. Tim Clarey, is a professor of Geology. I have two daughters; Ashley, a Fifth grade teacher at Hemmeter Elementary School. Hailey, a veteran of the United States Air Force. Together we have established strong ties to this community through our church, family, and friends.

Hello! My name is Jami Sala. This is my first year at Westdale teaching first grade, and I'm so excited to be here! Before teaching here in Saginaw, I lived in Hawaii where I taught Spanish lessons and tutored elementary students. I received my bachelor's degree in Spanish from SVSU, and my master's degree in education from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In my free time I love to exercise, read, and spend time outside with my dog, Oscar!



Second Grade

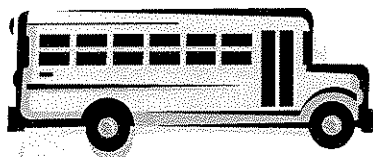


Welcome Back! I am Mrs. Goidosik; and I teach second grade. This is my 10th year in the classroom. I am looking forward to many new and exciting learning experiences to take place this year. When I am not in school, I like to spend time hanging out with my boys (Hunter, 3yrs and Austin, 5mo). We love to play outside and take trips to the zoo. I can't wait to see what this year holds in store.

I'm Mrs. Carlisle. I live here in Saginaw Township and am very proud to be a teacher at one of the best schools in our district.....Westdale!

I am married and the mother of two sons. I enjoy camping, fishing, gardening, home projects, spending time with my family, and reading (of course).

I am looking to another great school year with "our" children. Happy New School Year!



Hello! My name is Kris Mikoleizik and I am excited to begin my 20th year of teaching. I live in Saginaw with my husband, two children, and my dog named Pudge. My son and daughter both attend Heritage High School. When I'm not at school, I enjoy playing soccer, tennis, softball, golf, and running. I also like to read and play card games with my friends and family. I am looking forward to another exciting year here at Westdale.



Woo Hoo!! Welcome back to school. I am Mrs. Miller and I couldn't be more excited to be with your child this year. We are going to learn a TON and have lots of fun too. :) I received my Master's degree in education from Saginaw Valley State University. This is my 10th year teaching. I spent 5 years teaching 1st grade and have been teaching 2nd grade ever since. I live in Saginaw Township with my husband, our two children (Grayson-5 and Bennett-almost 2), and our dog and cat. In my spare time I enjoy going to Higgins and Hubbard Lake, reading, and exercising.

Hi, my name is Shalynne Barron. I am a senior at Saginaw Valley State University (Go Cards!!!), where I am studying elementary education. Currently I am student teaching at Westdale in Mrs. Miller's 2nd grade class. I am so excited to work with such a great teacher and school. In my spare time I stay busy by planning my wedding and keeping up with the Detroit Red Wings. I also enjoy reading here and there when I get the opportunity. This December I will graduate with my bachelors degree, and hopefully soon after find myself a job and classroom of my own.



Special Services



My name is Amanda Smith. I am excited to be at Westdale this year. This is my 12th year teaching and I am excited to be the new resource room teacher at Westdale. When I'm not at school, I love spending time with my family. I have two children Evan 6, Addison 4.

We like to go watch the Detroit Tigers, ride bikes and swim.

Thank you for the wonderful welcome to the Westdale family. Go Wolves!



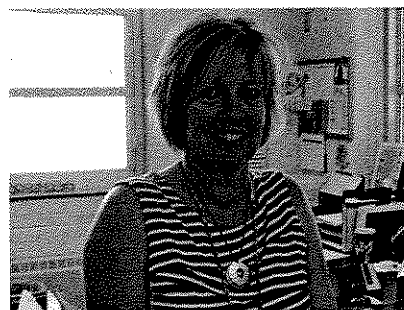
My name is Mrs. Loeffler. This is my 15th year teaching in the Special Services Department at Westdale Elementary School! It's always exciting to learn about my students, and sometimes students like to learn things about their teachers as well...

Outside of school, Mr. Loeffler and I are usually busy attending soccer practice or soccer games for our two sons, Matthew and Jacob. We also have two dogs that entertain us! We love to go camping and hanging out with our family up north. Personally, I love to read, my favorite color is purple, and I LOVE chocolate!

I am looking forward to getting back into the school routine so we can have great learning experiences here at Westdale!



Mrs. Tomlinson, Instructional Assistant in Mrs. Loeffler's room.



Mrs. Myczkowiak, Speech

Special Areas



Hello! My name is Mary Casler, and I teach music to the children at Westdale. I have been teaching for twenty years! It seems like a long time, but I have enjoyed each one. I grew up in Sandusky, MI and went to MSU for my bachelors of music degree. I have a masters of music from CMU. In my free time I enjoy swimming, reading, biking, taking family vacations, and spending time with friends and family. I have a wonderful husband, Jeff, and four children, Andy, Amanda, Elizabeth and Doug. Our family wouldn't be complete without our super service dog, Twingo and our cat, Daisy.



All About Mrs. Bordeaux: Physical Education

Hi! My name is Mrs. Bordeaux. I am the Physical Education teacher here at Westdale! I love teaching kids all about the importance of living a healthy life style. In my free time I enjoy boating, fishing, reading, running, and spending time with my family. My family consists of my husband, my seven-year old son, Cooper, and our spoiled dog, Dooger. I look forward to a fun and healthy year with your child.



Miss Mulford, Art

I have been teaching art at Westdale for the last 11 years. My favorite artist is Claude Monet, who the 1st graders will learn about later this year. In my spare time I love to garden and walk my dog, Iris.



Mrs. Ellis, Media. Welcome to the Westdale Library/Media Center. We believe the library is an important part of your child's education here at Westdale because reading and research skills are necessary for lifelong learning.

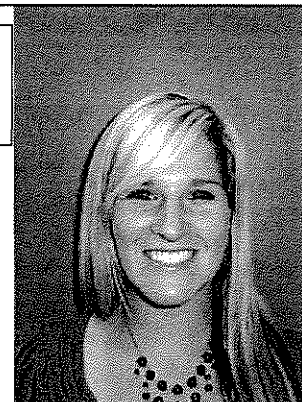
Students visit the library/media center at least once a week. They are able to select books for pleasure reading and assignments or projects. Our titles are easily accessed through our automated system. Books are checked out for a one week period, but may always be renewed if the student wishes to. Overdue notices are sent to students once a book is 3 weeks overdue. We do not charge fines for late materials, however, if the book is lost or damaged, we will bill the student the cost of the damaged item. That item is then replaced. We ask that parents help their child in caring for books and materials and in returning them on time.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Emily Simmermacker, Music for Mrs. Mikoleizik's and Mrs. Miller's class.

Ashley Stetler, Physical Education for Mrs. Mikoleizik's and Mrs. Miller's class.



Title I Staff



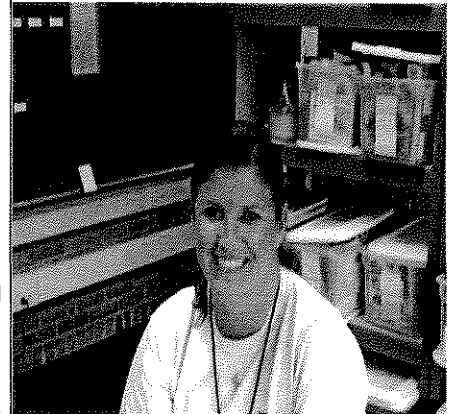
My name is Sandy Vauhkonen and I am a Literacy & Numeracy Specialist. My job is awesome because I get to work with almost every student at Westdale in classrooms, small groups, or individually. Reading and math are my favorite subjects and I get to teach both. Personally, I am married and live in Midland. My twins, Alex and Katie, are second graders. My baby, Megan, is beginning Kindergarten. You could say I am always working with and enjoying children... at work and at home!



Mrs. Byas, Title I Learning Assistant

Mrs. Sprague. I am so excited to be entering my eleventh school year with Saginaw Township Schools. This will be my fifth year at Westdale. This year I am looking forward to having a new position as one of the Literacy/Numeracy Specialist. I am able to work with all students in Kindergarten, First and Second grade.

Outside school my family keeps me very busy. I have two children, my son Jack is a fourth grader and my daughter Katie is in first grade. I love to watch them play at all their sporting events. We love to go fishing, swimming and take lots of vacations together. Looking forward to another great school year at Westdale!



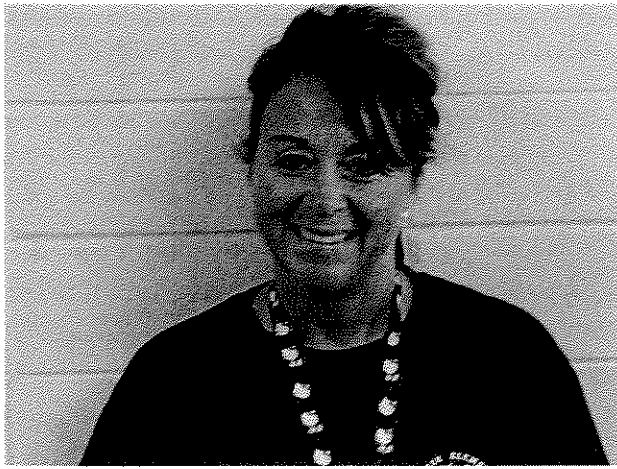
Welcome back to school! My name is Mrs. Mize. I am an instructional Assistant here at Westdale. I've been working here for three years and I absolutely love it! My daughter, Allison, is a second grader at Westdale. I also have a son, Nate, who is in 5th grade at Arrowwood. Not only does my son go to Arrowwood, but my husband is a fourth grade teacher there. I look forward to getting to your students and working with them! Have a great year!

Support Staff



Holly Kreger, School Social Worker

I have been a School Social Worker now for 14 years and love my Westdale students and families! I work with students on many different levels to help them behaviorally, socially and emotionally. I am looking forward to a great 2014-2015 school year!



My name is Mrs. Dana Schmidt. The kids call me Ms. Dana. I have been at Westdale 6 years now. I work with many of the staff and children. I am the buildings parapro. I love to sparkle and shine! I just know its going to be a great school year!

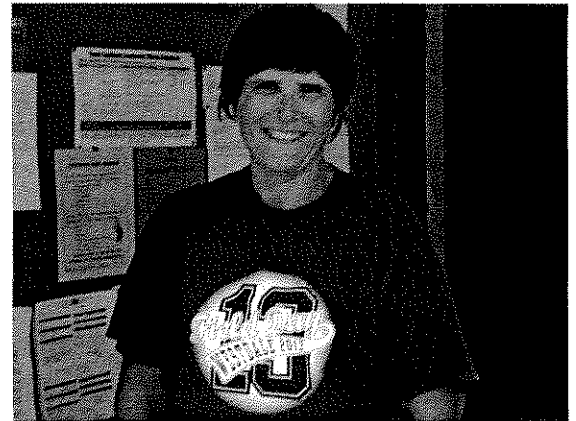
Lisa Streeter

Hello! My name is Lisa Streeter and I am the director for the After School Activities Club here at Westdale Elementary! This is my 2nd year here at Westdale and my 13th year of working with children in the child care field. I am very excited about this year, and look forward to all of the fun and amazing projects we will be doing in the after school activities club!



Marcia Weems

My name is Ms. M and I work in the After School Activities Club. This is my 7th year working for STCS! Before coming to Westdale I worked at Arrowwood in the After School Activities Club. I look forward to an amazing year with the students here at Westdale!



Mrs. Mary Lou, Food Service



Mr. Matt, School Custodian

Back To School Box Tops Drive

Help us reach our goal of 5,000 Box Tops!

You've been saving them all summer, it's time to send them in. If everyone works together you will get a sweet reward!

If we meet our goal, Westdale PTO will provide a school wide popsicle/recess party!

Box Tops collection starts now and ends September 26th.

Westdale Reminders

*Breakfast and Before the Bell Programs begin at 7:10 a.m. each day. Students who are dropped off before 7:30 need to go to the gym. Hallway supervision begins at 7:30 a.m. each morning.

*Attendance Procedures: When your child is absent from school be sure to call the school office (797-1827) and report the absent before 8:30 a.m. School begins at 7:45 a.m. Students who are not in their classrooms at 7:45 are considered tardy or absent. If the student arrives before 8:05, the student is marked "tardy." If the student arrives after 8:05, the student is marked absent for a half day.

School ends at 2:35. Students who are removed from class before 2:35 are recorded as LE (Left Early) or half day absent. If the student leaves within 20 minutes of dismissal, it is considered "LE". If the student leaves earlier than 20 minutes before dismissal, attendance is marked as "absent" for a half day.