



# Westdale News

## From the Principal

Dear Westdale Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another school year. May and June are jammed packed with activities and events!

Wednesday, May 13th is our annual Special Person Breakfast. Not only will students get to have muffins and juice with their special person but they will also have an opportunity to share some of the writing they have been working on all year.

We would like to congratulate our own Mrs. Torres. She has been nominated for a BLOCK award. Winners will be announced this Thursday night at the Saginaw Country Club. Ticket information can be found on the STCS website.

This week your child will be bringing home an information and pledge sheet for our Run-raiser. This event will take place on the afternoon of Friday, May 29th. Students will run/walk a grade level specific number of laps around a course we will have set up on the playground. All the money raised from this event will go to purchasing books for classroom libraries. If each student in the building was able to raise \$20 in pledges, we would have \$7,360 to buy books. That is a lot of books!

We have many field trips happening right now. Please make sure that you return signed permission slips to the school. If you are volunteering as a chaperone, please make sure that you have completed the background check form. If you are not sure if you have completed one, please check with the Westdale office.

Field Day and the Westdale Picnic are June 9th. We need many volunteers to make Field Day successful and run smoothly. A sign up sheet will be sent home within the next week. If you are able to volunteer, please complete the form and return it to school.

June 10th is the last day of school. It is a half day of school. Dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m. Report cards will be sent home on the last day of school with students. We will also attach a recommended supply list for the next school year. Report cards will not be mailed home.

Karen M Volk  
Westdale Principal

### May 2015

#### Important Dates

- May 13th Special Person's Breakfast
- May 14th : BLOCK Awards
- May 15th : First Grade Field Trip
- May 15th 2nd Grade Field Trip (Mike & Goidosik)
- May 19th: 2nd Grade trip to Arrowwood
- May 20th: PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
- May 21st: Super Summer Readers 6 p.m.
- May 22nd: Kindergarten Field Trip
- May 25th: No School
- May 29th: Kindergarten Field Trip
- May 29th: Run-raiser
- June 1st: Kindergarten Music Program
- June 5th: 2nd Grade Celebration
- June 9th: Field Day and Picnic
- June 10th Last Day,

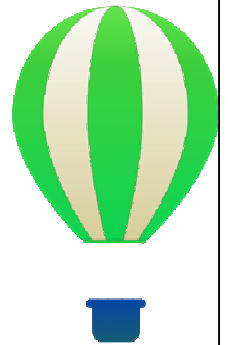
## Young Fives

Our Young Fives Students have learned so much and are very excited for Kindergarten in the fall. Over the summer, it is very important to read daily with your child. Your child should also practice reading the small white books that were sent home every week. He or she should also review numbers to twenty, counting, letters, initial sounds, and high frequency words. It is also important to continue to give your child many opportunities to draw and write over the summer. Above all, remember to give your child lots of time to socialize with friends and get plenty of exercise daily. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

## Kindergarten

### **DON'T LET ALL THAT YOU LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN SLIP AWAY!**

- Make sure your child is reading 15-20 minutes each day
- Ask your child to retell the story they read (Their retelling should include the names of the characters, setting, beginning/middle/end)
- Review letters/sounds, rhyming, say to your child what word would I have if I put these sounds together? Ex: /t/ /ake/ take /c/ /a/ /t/ cat
- Make sure your child is writing. Have them write and draw about what they are doing over their summer break each day. Our students should know to use spaces in between their words, remembering to start each sentence with a capital letter, put an end mark at the end of each sentence. Illustrations should have great detail. Writing should go along with their picture and make sense.
- Don't forget to practice all of the math concepts we learned this year (numbers, counting on, patterning, sorting, counting, addition/subtraction, shapes/solids, I have 3 how many more to make 10?...



## Music News...

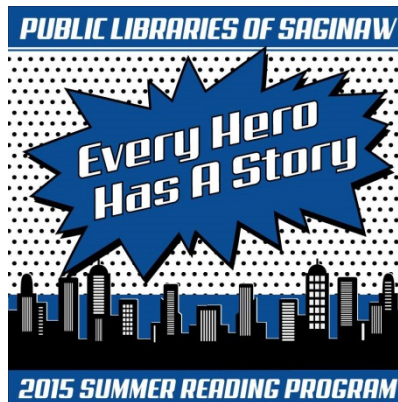
Hello from the music room. The kindergarten students are hard at work, memorizing notes and words and putting fun movements to their songs for their upcoming Kindergarten music celebration. The program is scheduled for Monday, June 1st at 6:30 in the evening. Kindergarten-ers will be performing the program at Arrowwood School Theater. Students are asked to wear their nicest dress clothes for the performance. We hope to see you all there. In both first and second grades we have been learning about instrument families. Ask your child to tell you about the different families of instruments and how different instruments are played. They might surprise you with their knowledge! Have a great spring and if you have time, try to hear a music concert at White Pine Middle School or Heritage High School – there are many coming up in the next few weeks. Consults the STCS website for additional information. -Mrs. Casler

## First Grade

**First grade teachers say..."If you don't use it, you lose it,"**

### Ideas for summer reading fun

Make sure kids have something to read during the summer — put books into children's hands. Visit your local public library to sign kids up for summer reading program. This Summers Reading Program will start June 8<sup>th</sup> . Your public library is part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, this year's theme;



You can also be part of; Barnes & Noble Imagination Destination challenge, your child can earn a free book after reading eight books and keeping track of them in a reading log. Reading Logs for this program will be sent home the last week of school!

Read at least 20 minutes a day with your child! Read environmental print while driving, bike riding, etc. Read! Read! READ!!!!

### Ideas for Writing

Keep a Summer journal/diary with drawing, pictures, writing about the weather, trips you took, everyday life activities! Focus on the correct letter and number formation when writing!

### Ideas for math practice!

Addition and Subtraction Flash cards can be purchased at the Dollar Store or you can use index cards to make your own! Practice doubles, practice double digit addition! Practice for speed and accuracy! Practice, Practice, PRATICE!

A deck of playing cards and dice can also be purchased from the Dollar Store. The math games are endless with these two items! Greater than, Less than (with cards). Roll and Add (with dice).

**HAVE FUN! BE SAFE SUPER SECOND GRADERS!**



## SECOND GRADE

Second graders are going to be busy little bees this spring. Each class is taking a trip to Chippewa Nature Center where they will learn about life cycles as they explore a pond, swamp, and forest. They will also be participating in a virtual field trip called "Wonderful Worms." Students will take a close look into a composting bin and see how red worms decompose trash into soil. Some of the other activities planned are a "Mosquito" presentation, walking field trip to Arrowwood, Second Grade Celebration, and Field Day. We are going to finish the year strong!

## P.E. NEWS

During the month of April, Westdale students participated in the In School Bowling Program sponsored by Bowling Proprietors' Association of America during Physical Education class. The program provides bowling equipment such as pins, bowling balls, and numbered carpeted lanes for our students' use. The program also provides information about the history of bowling, bowling basics, scoring, and etiquette and safety.

The students had a month of fun and excitement with this bowling program. It is a wonderful program, which assists students with coordination, timing, and concentration. Bowling is a great sport for all students to find athletic success.



## Hot Summer Reading Tips



Summer is fast approaching, so here are some tips for Summer Reading.

- Read aloud together with your child every day and discuss your favorite parts.
- Read outside on a blanket, read under a tree, at a park, on the beach.... Discover different places to read.
- Set a good example by reading yourself.
- Use books on tape/CD for long car rides. (Some are available at the library)
- Sign up for the Summer Reading Program at the library ~ You can earn cool prizes and choose neat books to read.
- Have your child have a special journal to write and draw about what they read.
- Research a favorite vacation place or a place you long to visit. Find as many books as you can and compare.
- Above all, have fun!! Enjoy your summer reading adventure together!!



## Ways to Build Math Skills This Summer

Children typically forget some of what they learned during the school year if they don't engage in learning activities over the summer. This is particularly true in math. A study by researchers at the University of Missouri shows that on average, students lost about 2.6 months of math learning over the summer. Here are some simple math activities that your child can do over the summer to keep their skills sharp.

- Increase your child's awareness of numbers by looking around the house to find examples: the kitchen clock, the calendar, a cereal box, a TV dial, a stamp or inside her shoe.
- Estimation is one way to increase a child's number sense. Before you put a stack of folded towels on a shelf or fill a bowl with cereal, ask your child to estimate how many will fit. Then count afterward to compare the actual number to the estimate.
- Understanding the concept of 100 is difficult for young children, even if they can count that far. Suggest that your child start making collections of 100 things - rubber bands, watermelon seeds, pebbles or buttons. Practice counting by 10's, 5's and 2's.
- The supermarket is an ideal place to use math skills, particularly for older children. Point out that yogurt is \$2.59 a six-pack. Ask how much it would cost to buy 3? Your child can round up to \$2.60 or \$3.00 and figure this out.
- Many families record the height of their child on a door or wall chart. If you do the same for everyone in the family, your child can join in the measuring and see how the heights compare.
- Give your child an assortment of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. Put a piece of fruit on the table and tell them it costs 45 cents. Tell him he needs to find five coin combinations that equal 45 cents.
- Continue to practice addition and subtraction facts.