



# Westdale News

October 2016

## From the Principal...

Volume 1, Issue 1

It has been a great start to the school year! The teachers have been focusing on teaching procedures and routines and building relationships since the first day of school. The work is paying off and has allowed us to have a smooth start.

The purpose of this newsletter is to help you get to know the Westdale staff better. You will find pictures of staff and information about us in the newsletter.

My name is Karen Volk and I am the principal at Westdale. Before I became a principal, I taught for the Bay City Public School System. I have two canine children (Gracie and Schembechler). I love sports! In my free time I like to run, exercise, and work in my yard.

Karen Volk, Westdale Elementary Principal

### Upcoming Dates:

- 10/14: Popcorn Sale
- 10/17: Fundraiser Packets and money due
- 10/19: PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
- 10/26: Early Dismissal 10:55a.m.
- 10/27: Late Start 11:30 a.m.
- 10/26 & 27 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 10/26; Halloween Walk thru
- 10/28 Popcorn Sale
- 10/31: Early Dismissal 10:55 a.m.
- 11/11; Early Dismissal 10:55 p.m.
- 11/16: Fundraiser Pick Up

### Halloween Walk Through

The annual Westdale Halloween Walk Through is Wednesday, October 26th from 6– 7 p.m. This is a chance for students to dress up in their Halloween Costumes and trick or treat in a safe environment. This event is run by the Westdale staff . Look for more information to come

### Box Tops/Campbell Soup Labels

We are collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels again this year. Collection sheets are sent home each month. Last year we were able to raise over \$2000 for our school.

## From the PTO

Last week the fundraiser packets went home with students. The order forms and money are due back on Monday, October 17th. This year, we are fundraising to buy new playground equipment . Our playground is in bad need of an upgrade. Currently we are getting quotes for the cost of new equipment and we are finding out they are not cheap! If you do not wish to participate in the fundraiser but would like to make a donation towards the new playground equipment, you can write a check out to the Westdale PTO.

Our next PTO meeting is October 19th at 6 p.m. Childcare is provided and we hope to see you there!

## Meet Our Staff!



### Mrs Walsh

Hello Westdale Families and Students! My name is Tina Walsh and this is my fifth year as Westdale's secretary. I love seeing your smiling faces in the 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

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. I also have a beautiful granddaughter, Elizabeth that is two. This is my nineteenth year of teaching. I am beginning my seventh year at Westdale. I am very excited to teach Young Fives for my third year. In the past I have taught kindergarten, first, and second grade at Westdale, 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. I am a kindergarten teacher and this is my 7th 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! This is an exciting year for Mr. Torres and I. We celebrated our 2 year anniversary and we are expecting Baby Torres this November. In my spare time, I love to travel and try new things too. This summer we were able to go to Cherry Festival in Traverse City and we even had the chance to visit Disney World too. It was quite the adventure! I am excited to be back at school and start a new adventure with all of you! I can't wait to spend this year learning and growing with all of my kindergarten students! It's going to be a fantastic year!

Hello Westdale Families, My name is Kellie Wolpert and I am so excited to be teaching Kindergarten at Westdale this year! I have taught 1st grade the last 4 years at Clare Primary School and am happy to be back in my hometown of Saginaw. I graduated from Central Michigan University in 2012, earning my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a Language Arts and Child Development concentration. Currently, I am working on obtaining my Master's Degree in Integrating Technology. Outside of teaching, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Kyle and our daughter, Kennedy. I also like relaxing with family and friends, doing yoga, and being outdoors. I look forward to getting to know all of you and feel so grateful to officially be a Westdale Wolf!



Hello, My name is Autumn Romain. I have been teaching Kindergarten for seventeen years. My teaching career began at Hemmeter, where I taught for ten years. I then moved over to Westdale seven years ago. I have three children of my own: My oldest son Avery is in 7th grade at White Pine Middle School. I also have twins, Jack and Sophia who are in 2nd grade at Hemmeter. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, going up north, doing yard work, and enjoy floating around in my pool at my new house.



My name is Miss Watt. I became a Westdale Wolf 9 years ago and this will be my fourth year teaching Kindergarten. The theme of my classroom is Dr. Seuss because I LOVE books. My house is full of books, both for me to read to my class and read to myself. I also enjoy sewing, swimming, traveling, and baking. I was recently awarded a grant from the STCS Foundation and am excited to use what I learned to help my students draw during writing time. My favorite thing about Kindergarten is seeing my students start the year learning letters and end the year reading and writing.

## First Grade



My name is Nicole Hartwick and I teach First Grade here at Westdale. This will be my 20th year of teaching. I am married and have 2 beautiful daughters. Both girls attend Heritage High School. Hard to imagine but Allison is a senior and graduating in June. Emily is a sophomore and will start driver's training soon. Time sure flies by! I hope you and your family love Westdale as much as I do.

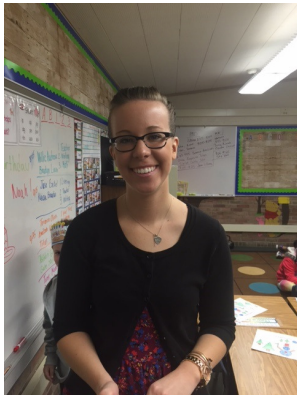
Hi my name is Amanda Rendon. I'm so excited to work at Westdale Elementary!

I received my teaching degree from The University of Michigan State. I am reading recovery certified and am slowly working toward my masters. I have taught first grade for 8 years and spent one year in second grade. First grade is where my heart is!

I am recently married and have no children. We just moved out to Durand with our two dogs and cat. I love country living!



Hi! I'm Anne Kowalski, a first grade teacher here at Westdale. This is my eighteenth year in the classroom. My husband Tom and I live in Saginaw Township. We have three little boys, Carson (8), Porter (6) and Hudson (3). With two of our boys in sports, we are a pretty busy family. We love watching our little guys play soccer and baseball, as well as watching them ride their snowmobiles and dirt bikes! In our spare time, we enjoy spending time together, up north at Higgins Lake. It is so relaxing up there, especially sitting on the boat and reading! I am so excited for this new school year! We are off to a great start and are going to have an awesome year in first grade!!



Hello. My name is Heather Depcinski. I am from Ubly - a very small town in the thumb. I was raised on a farm and loved to work with pigs and cattle. I graduated from Ubly High School in 2009, received my Bachelor's from CMU in 2013, and just finished my masters degree from SVSU in 2015. This is my third year of teaching and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of such a great school family!

**Second Grade**

My name is Kelly Garant and my family recently moved here from Valparaiso, Indiana. My husband and I have two little boys, Charlie and Elliott, and a rambunctious Brittany Spaniel named Reilly. I love to read, knit, bake, and keep active with my little ones.



Mrs. Goidosik ~ 2nd Grade

Welcome back to school! We are well on our way to a great year. This is my 12th year of teaching. I am an alumna of CMU and SVSU. I spent the summer camping up north with my family. We had the chance to read and play at the beach and swim in the lake. I have two boys Hunter (5) and Austin (2) who keep me quite busy. In my free time, I love to read. My favorite stories are fiction books. I hope this year, my students will also learn to love reading as much as I do.



Hello, hello!! I am Sara Miller. I live with my wonderful husband, two peppy sons (Grayson-7 and Bennett-3). We have a dog named Colie and a cat named Macy. Our pets are very special to us! This is my 11th year teaching. My favorite subject to teach is math. In my spare time I enjoy spending time at the lake with my family, reading, exercising, and always being around people! I am looking forward to a fantastic year!



Hello, my name is Mr. H and I will be working alongside Mrs. Miller this year as her student teacher! I currently attend SVSU and I will be graduating this December with my Elementary Education (Teaching) Degree. My favorite subject to teach is science. I am excited to be a part of the Westdale Staff, and I know it is going to be a great experience!





Hello! My name is Kris Mikoleizik and I am excited to begin my 22nd year of teaching! My husband and I live in Saginaw with our two children, Andrew and Sarah. We also have a dog named Pudge. When I'm not at school, I enjoy playing soccer, volleyball, softball, golf, and running. I also like to watch football, read, and play cards with my friends and family. Even though I do not want this warm weather to end, I am already looking forward to Christmas because my niece and two nephews will be visiting from England.

## Special Services

Mrs. Smith. This is my 14 year teaching and my third year at Westdale! I love teaching and love teaching at Westdale!

When I am not at school, I love to spend time with my family, my husband Curt, son Evan and daughter Addison.

I like to run, and attend sporting events such as baseball, hockey and football. I also am learning about farm animals, and reading lots of books about chickens and horses.

It is going to be a great year this year at Westdale!



Mrs. Loeffler

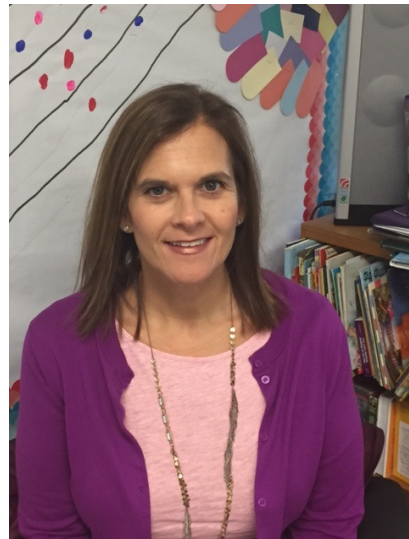
My name is Mrs. Loeffler. This is my 17th year teaching in the Special Services Department at Westdale Elementary School! It's always exciting to learn about my students, and sometimes students like to learn things about their teachers as well...

Outside of school, Mr. Loeffler and I are usually busy attending soccer practice, soccer games or Boy Scout events 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!

It's exciting getting back into the school routine so we can have great learning experiences here at Westdale!

## Special Areas

Hello! My name is Mary Casler, and I teach music to most of the children at Westdale. I have been teaching music for over twenty years! I grew up in Sandusky, MI and am a graduate of MSU, SVSU and CMU! In my free time I enjoy swimming, reading, working out at the YMCA, taking family vacations, and spending time with friends and family. My husband, Jeff and I just celebrated the birth of our first grandchild this summer- Louise Gail! I am a grandma! I can't wait for another fun, music filled year at school .



My name is Emerald Joiner. I'm a student music teacher from Saginaw Valley State University hosted by Mary Casler. I will graduate this December! I sing with Saginaw Choral Society, teach private piano lessons, and I am also starting my second year as the Co-Director of the Major Chords for Minors youth choir. I grew up in Saginaw and attended Arthur Hill and SASA where I was a student of the Voice/Keyboard department. I am very much looking forward to working with your students, getting to know them, and making great music with them!



Hello! My name is Mrs. Bordeaux. I am the Physical Education teacher at Westdale Elementary School. This is my seventeenth year of teaching Physical Education in Saginaw Township Community Schools. I have a Bachelor's of Science from Aquinas College and a Masters in Health Promotion and Program Management from Central Michigan University. I enjoy teaching elementary students the importance of living a healthy and physically fit life style.

In my free time I love spending time with my family. My husband and son, Cooper, enjoy boating, fishing, and attending sporting events, especially hockey! I love to stay physically active by running, weight lifting, cycling, and kickboxing.

I am looking forward to a fun filled, action packed year with all my Westdale students.

Hi there! My name is Emily Rupp, and I am the other music teacher at Westdale. This is my 3rd year teaching at Arrowwood & Westdale. I am from Saginaw, and love teaching here. I got married last November, and my husband Derek and I spent the summer renovating our NEW home! I love elephants, Pure Barre, Reese's PB cups, Michigan State, and Fixer Upper! I absolutely love teaching music, and am so excited to be able to come to Westdale for a couple classes!



My name is Ashley Stelter and I am beyond honored to be given the opportunity to teach Physical Education at Westdale Elementary. My goal is to promote a positive and fun learning environment that meets the needs and abilities of ALL students and encourages them to maintain physically active lifestyles. It is my passion to engage with kids while also educating them in a fun and exciting way. I believe that all children can benefit from positive physical activity in their educational environment. Teaching your child is a tremendous responsibility and I will do my best to ensure that each student has a safe and motivating learning experience in this upcoming year.

Miss Mulford, Art

I have been teaching art at Westdale for the last 13 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.





Hello! My name is Diane Ellis. I am the librarian here at Westdale, although occasionally you will see me working in the office. This is my 9th year here and I really enjoy my work. I am an avid reader and I love sharing books with your students in the hope that they will become one, too! My favorite part of the job is to look out at them as I read to them. Their faces are just full of smiles and wonder and awe. I hope these expressions continue their whole lives.

Mrs. Mayer...Hi! I am the specials teacher for Mrs. Watz's young fives class. We sing songs, create art, dance, and move together. This is my first year teaching at Westdale and I am excited to be here with Mrs. Watz and the young fives!

## Literacy and Math Support 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, writing and math are my favorite subjects and I get to teach all three. My family and I live in Midland. My twins, Alex and Katie, are 4th graders. My baby, Megan, is in second grade. My family and I love the Green Bay Packers, to read, to play soccer, to go to the beach, and to tell jokes. I am ALWAYS with children... at work and at home!

Hi, I'm Michelle Sprague. This is my 13th year in the district. I'm currently one of the numeracy/literacy specialists at Westdale. I enjoy working with many students throughout the day. I am a graduate of CMU (fire up Chips!) and received my masters from Concordia University in Administration. In my free time I keep very busy with my two children, Jack and Katie, who are involved in many sports. I also enjoy traveling, boating and fishing. I'm looking forward to working with former students and all the new faces at Westdale.



Hello Westdale parents and students! My name is Kim Mize. I am an Instructional Assistant here at Westdale. This is my fifth year working at Westdale. I work with all grade levels, kindergarten through second grade. I have two children. My daughter, Allison, is a fourth grader at Arrowwood. My son, Nate, is a seventh grader at White Pine. My husband is a fourth grade teacher at Arrowwood. My family and I love camping, going to the beach and riding our bikes.

I am looking forward to having a great year with our wonderful Westdale students!

Hello Westdale parents. My name is Sandra Byas. I am a proud mother of five grown children, and a grandparent of seven grandchildren. I have served at Westdale Elementary for five years as an Instructional Assistant. It's an honor and a privilege to assist in your child's education. Also, it's a joy to have volunteered at Heartland Nursing Home for the last 14 years. Thanks for choosing Westdale Elementary School.



## Support Staff



**Mrs. Kreger, Special Services Social Worker**



**Ms. Drago, Social Worker**



**Mrs. Myczkowiak, Speech**

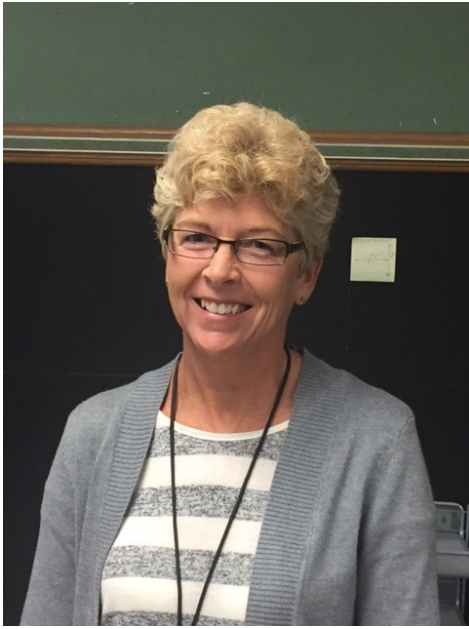


**Mary Lou Hirschman, Nutrition Services**



**Matt Dyer, Custodian**





**Mrs. Bremer**



**Miss Jackie**



**Mrs. Mathias**



**Mrs. Woodbridge**



**Noon Hour Staff: Mr. Jeremiah, Miss Erin, Miss Exie, and Miss Courtney**