

Intermediate Insights

Woodland Intermediate School Woodland School District #50
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WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE WEST

Dr. Kent Ashton, Principal
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SPECIAL ED. SUPERVISOR

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WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE EAST

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Dr. Tim Tyrell, Assistant Principal

A Note from the Principals... FEBRUARY, 2007

Your child, like most children, will probably not sail through his or her entire school life without encountering at least a few rough waters along the way. Sometimes it's a classmate who's causing problems, a disagreement with a teacher, a misunderstanding, or a problem that your child is having. The National Association of Elementary School Principals recommends some tips to help you help your child navigate those inevitable challenges.

- *Start with the teacher.* The best first step is to call or meet with your child's teacher. Only if the problem is still unresolved should you take it to the next level.
- *Don't hesitate.* Educators are adults just like you who are interested in your child's education and eager to make the situation better. Leaving problems unresolved can be more problematic.
- *Think positively.* A positive attitude makes it easier for everyone to calmly discuss the issues and find solutions.
- *Get the facts from both sides.* Sit down with your child and write down his or her version of the situation. Go through the issues with the teacher and then listen to his or her perspective. It's hard to hear a teacher say that your child is having issues in class, but the situation won't improve unless you understand the teacher's point of view as well.
- *Decide on a solution together and follow through.* Work with your child's teacher to develop a plan to resolve the situation. Just as you would expect the teacher to, follow up on commitments from your end as well.
- *Be realistic.* Not every school year will be perfect, but by calmly dealing with situations and focusing on solutions, rather than problems, you'll be making the best of the year for you and your child.

Ultimately, children learn many of their communication and problem solving skills from the adults in their lives. Together, we can be positive role models for all of our students.

Dr. Kent Ashton & Mrs. Melissa K. Passehl

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Please make a note of these important testing dates and help to ensure your child's good attendance.

- ✓ March 12 – 16: ISAT Testing
- ✓ April 9 – 13: Spring MAP Testing (Math)
- ✓ April 16 – 20: Spring MAP Testing (Reading)



PLEASE NOTE! Fourth grade spring choir concerts are listed incorrectly in the PTA calendar. All spring concert dates are as follows:

- ✓ May 3: 4th Gr. **WEST** Choir Concerts (B/P 6:00; R/G 7:30)
- ✓ May 8: 4th Gr. **EAST** Choir Concerts (B/P 6:00; R/G 7:30)
- ✓ May 9: 5th Gr. B/P Band Concerts (Bach 6:00; Sousa 6:45; Beethoven 7:30)
- ✓ May 10: 5th Gr. R/G Band Concerts (Copland 6:00; Mozart 6:45; Haydn 7:30)
- ✓ May 14: 5th Gr. Choir Concerts (West 6:00; East 7:30)



YOU'RE INVITED... to register for **SPECIAL DELIVERY!**



- ✓ Parents and community members are encouraged to register for Woodland's Special Delivery on our website (www.dist50.net). By doing so, you'll receive important email bulletins about school closings, district/school events, and other Woodland news.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As reported in the October edition of Intermediate Insights, literacy is a key area of focus for our school improvement efforts at the Intermediate School. If you walk through our hallways and into our classrooms and offices, you may notice yellow flip charts on display. These handy resources highlight the monthly reading strategies being emphasized with students in order to improve literacy skills. Classroom activities, cross-curricular lessons, monthly benchmark assessments, and ongoing support from our reading specialists reinforce predicting, connecting, questioning, visualizing, inferring, and determining importance, all of which promote students' comprehension across the curriculum. You can help too! The next time you read with your child, ask him or her to visualize a passage or make a connection from the text to his/her own life. When used consistently, these strategies succeed in doing one thing – making our children stronger readers.



SCHOOL RULES! Please help us preserve a positive and safe learning environment for all of our students. Remind your child that bringing electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, CD/MP3 players, hand-held games, etc.) is **HIGHLY** discouraged. If they do bring such items to school, they must remain turned off and in his/her backpack during school hours, and on the way to his/her bus. In addition, students may not wear "heely" shoes to school. These can be a safety issue and can cause damage to our floors. Our school does not take responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged items. In all cases, if a student violates this guideline, the items may be confiscated and returned by an administrator to a parent. Thank you for your assistance in these important matters.

