



Woodland Middle School

Paw Prints...

1st Quarter

September 25, 2009



Upcoming Events

September

25 Midterm 1st Quarter
28 Yom Kippur
- No School

October

9 Teacher Institute
- No School
12 Columbus Day Observed
- No School
14 PTA Meetings
(9:30 AM & 7:00 PM)
19 Picture Retakes
19-23 PTA Book Fair
30 End 1st Quarter

November

6 1st Quarter Report
Cards Sent Home
11 Veterans Day
- No School
17 PTA Meeting 9:30 AM
18 PTA Meeting 7:00 PM
23-24 S/P/T Conferences
-10:40 Dismissal
25 S/P/T Conferences
- No School
26 Thanksgiving Break
27 Thanksgiving Break

R.O.A.R.ing Into a New School Year

Woodland Middle School is beginning its second year utilizing a program called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to recognize and encourage appropriate behavior on the part of our students. PBIS is a proactive approach for creating and maintaining safe, effective learning environments in schools. The foundation of PBIS emphasizes teaching students the behaviors that we expect, reminding them to use those behaviors, acknowledging them when they do, and correcting them when they do not.

As was the case last year, the first full day of school in August was spent teaching students our expectations of them. To assist students and staff in learning these expectations, we make use of the acronym R.O.A.R. which stands for *Be Respectful, Take Ownership, Be Accepting* and *Be Ready*. Students have been presented with lessons on what R.O.A.R. means and looks like throughout our school – in classrooms, in the hallways, in the cafeterias, in the LRC, in the restrooms, in the gyms, in the locker rooms, on the school busses and during emergency drills. Posters depicting the expectations have been prominently posted in each location. Each week throughout the school year, students will be presented with new R.O.A.R. lessons during advisory (or during band or choir for students in those programs). If a particular team or grade level begins to see a pattern of poor student choices developing, lessons will be re-taught, or a new R.O.A.R. lesson will be developed, as needed.

As stated previously, a key component of PBIS is acknowledging positive behaviors on the part of our students. Students can be awarded R.O.A.R. cards by any WMS staff member for any behavior they feel demonstrates any of the tenets of R.O.A.R.

WMS Students Perform Well on ISAT

We recently received our performance report for the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests that our students took last spring. The percentage of WMS students meeting or exceeding state standards exceeded the state averages on every test but one (8th grade writing). The accompanying chart displays our school-wide results. Students who took the ISAT test last spring will bring their individual score report home with their 1st Quarter report cards.

ISAT Test	Grade Level	WMS % Meeting or Exceeding Standards	State Average
Reading	6	86.3	79.9
	7	81.5	77.5
	8	86.8	83.6
Math	6	91.8	82.4
	7	90.0	82.8
	8	89.9	81.7
Science	7	86.6	79.5
Writing	6	76.5	69.2
Writing	8	63.4	65.6

R.O.A.R. (cont'd)

Students then can enter their R.O.A.R. cards into raffles for weekly, monthly, and quarterly prize drawings. To date, we have received several donations from local individuals and businesses of prizes for these drawings. Should you or your place of employment like to make a donation, you may do so by contacting our Associate Principal, Mr. Witkowski, at mwitkowski@dist50.net.

To learn more about PBIS, you can visit www.pbis.org and www.pbisillinois.org.

Submit your recipes to the *Woodland Family Cookbook* at www.typensave.com.

Login: wptacookbook Password: g5cnf
Recipes are Due October 1st.

Woodland Middle School

7000 W. Washington St.
Gurnee, IL 60031

Phone:
(847) 856-3400

Activities Hotline:
(847) 856-3547

Fax: (847) 856-1306

• • •

Scott Snyder
Principal

Michael Witkowski
Associate Principal

Assistant Principals

Tiffany Drake
Jaguar House

Vicki Marble
Lynx House

Sean Murphy
Puma House

Bill Schufreider
Cougar House

Dr. Joe Vaal
Nancy Waggoner
Special Education Supervisors



We're on the Web

Visit us at:
www.dist50.net/middle

School Emergency Drills Prepare Students & Staff

Each school year, schools across Illinois are required to conduct a number of emergency drills in order to prepare students and staff in the event of an emergency during the school day. WMS will be conducting at least three fire drills, a severe weather drill, and two code red lockdown drills during the course of the school year. These drills generally last no more than 15 minutes. In many instances, our local fire and police departments are on site working with us in conducting and evaluating these drills. The majority of these drills are not announced to students or staff in order for us to be able to accurately evaluate the drill and make changes for improvement as necessary. For the same reasons, *everyone* in our school participates in these drills. Should you be visiting our school during one of these drills, you will be expected to evacuate (fire) or take cover (weather or lockdown) with us. If you arrive during a lockdown drill, our doors will be locked. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about these drills, please contact us.

Our school's main office is a busy place. This is especially true at the beginning and end of each school day. You can help us better assist you by making use of this information and procedures:

OFFICE HOURS

The Middle School Office is open 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

STUDENT PICK-UP

When picking your child up during the school day, please send a note in advance noting the time you will be picking him/her up. Students should bring the note to the office in order to receive a pass to leave class at the appropriate time. Parents must sign students out in the main office.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child will not be coming to school, please report the absence by calling our attendance clerks no later than 9:00 AM the day of the absence.

(847) 856-3401

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

On a typical school day roughly three to five percent of our students are absent. That's between 75 and 125 students a day in a school of over 2400. As such, we ask that students and parents rely upon the Homework Hotlines maintained by each of our teachers for absences ranging from one to two days. For longer absences, parents may request homework by calling the Woodland Middle School attendance office (856-3666 or 855-3432) by 9:00 AM. Homework will be sent down to the office for pick-up by 2:30 PM.

LOST & FOUND

The Middle School Office maintains a Lost & Found. Students and parents are encouraged to check here for any belongings that may have been lost or misplaced. These items will also be on display outside the main office during Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences at the end of the month. Please make certain that your child's personal belongings are labeled with permanent marker. Labeled items are much easier to return to their owner.

WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

Parents and students can access information regarding school holidays, student activities, concerts, athletic events, etcetera on the school calendar maintained on the Woodland Middle School website, <http://www.dist50.net/middle>. Click on the "School Calendar" link. Information on this calendar is updated regularly and is maintained for the entire school year.

SIGN-UP FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY

Community members who sign up for *Special Delivery* will receive email communications about school closings, district/school events, and other Woodland news. To sign up go to www.dist50.net.