

**WALTHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010-11**

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

It is hard to imagine that we are writing the newsletter for February and March already. We must be having a lot of fun at school because people always say “time flies when you are having fun” and this year has been flying by! It has been a great year! We have been fortunate to not have the large amounts of snow like last year. Our students are working hard in their academic areas and enjoying our extra-curricular activities.

A “thank you” goes out to our parents. They have been doing a great job of getting their children to school on time, even when it was snowy and bitter cold. Attendance is such an important part of your child’s educational progress, so thanks again for making the effort to bring them to school on time.

Take time to thank our custodians when you get a chance. They stay late and show up early at school on those snowy and icy days to provide a safer area for our students and staff. I really appreciate their efforts.

February and March may bring about some more inclement weather. Continue to watch Channel 4, 9, or 14 for any cancellation, early dismissal or late starts

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for February 10 from 3:00- 7:00. It is important to attend and show your child how much you support them. Continue the open line of communication with our staff to increase your child’s opportunities for academic success. Don’t forget to check out our school website to experience more about what our students have accomplished throughout the school year. The school website is <http://walthweb.esu1.org>

Thanks again to our community for your continual support of the school. Marian Wright Edelman once said “You really can change the world if you care enough.” We can change this world by caring for our children!!

Sincerely,

Ed Stansberry

Our Students!

Mrs. Kramer's Kindergarten class will have a very special visitor for the rest of the school year. Miss Tabetha Hawk will be student teaching in Mrs. Kramer's room. Miss Hawk is from Rosalie and went to college at Wayne State. The students are very excited about this experience!

In our classroom, we have been doing a lot of reading and writing our own stories. We have been counting money in Math and the students are GREAT at it!



Music News

The fourth grade will be attending a special concert for fourth grade by the Sioux City Symphony. They will attend with classes from all over the area in the beautiful Orpheum Theatre on Feb. 10. They will study the families of the orchestra and the music of "Peter and the Wolf" in preparation for our trip. Third grade is studying "The Carnival of the Animals". Grades 5 and 6 are exploring rhythms and creating their own compositions in class with classroom instruments.

BUILDING A PERSONAL COMPUTER

During January Tom Ball, under the direction of Dar Bales, Technology Coordinator, is building a personal computer in Mrs. JoAnn Schmedding's advanced computer class.

The project idea came about when Tom asked Mrs. Schmedding if there was an old computer around school that he could take apart and put together again. Mrs. Schmedding asked Mr. Bales if that was possible and he said "How about ordering a couple of pc kits that could be used in school?" Mr. Bales then had it approved through administration.



The pc kit is a generic brand and costs approximately \$200 less than buying a name brand model assembled for use. Tom is learning about the placement of each internal part of the computer and its function. He is also installing the operating system and software on the computer. The computer will be set up in the business computer lab when it is completed. Tom will build a second computer to reinforce and test his knowledge of the construction process.



Some K-5 artwork was entered into an art show at the Art Center in Sioux City, the results have not been determined, but what a great accomplishment!

Feb. 26th is our Conference Art Exhibit; K-12 artwork will be displayed, feel free to stop by and take a look at our great artists!



The boys' basketball season is in full swing right now. We just won two games in a row against Santee and Allen. That brings our season record to 3-11. We have been really competitive in all our games since the second semester has begun. We have our conference tournament next week and sub districts three weeks from now in Wisner. Thanks to everyone that has come to the games and supported our team throughout the season.

Go Blujays!



Another basketball season is coming to an end. This year's varsity girls team has experienced a lot of success. So far the team has won five games. They placed 2nd in the Mead Holiday Tournament. Four of the team's losses were by 10 points or less.

Off the court, these ladies also participate in one-act play, cheerleading, student council, and other activities. Many have helped sell concessions/baked goods before and after their games. A couple girls have kept busy decorating the gym with posters and banners.

The Lady Jays are also excelling in the classroom. Most of them have expressed the desire to go to college and some want to play ball. The team is led by four seniors, but the younger players are starting to step up and make an impact.

The Lady Jays are Mimi, Selena, Taylor, Sonjra, X'oawinn, Jalise, Lupe, Chelsea, Marcell, Brook, HopeAnn. Congratulate them for what they do on and off court.

Coach Singer



**Our
Beautiful
Cheerleaders!**

Taylor, Marcell, and Chelsea



The Walthill Junior High boys basketball team recently completed the 2010-2011 season with a 5-2 record. The losses were to Winnebagao and Bancroft-Rosalie. Their victories were against Emerson-Hubbard, Santee, and Omaha Nation. The Jays won the Homer Invite defeating Homer, then Emerson-Hubbard in the Championship game!

Team members included 7th graders Trey Brown, Kaycee Porter, DeAndre Bass, Mario Aldrich, Hiram Lovejoy, Dwight Parker, and Ashton McCauley, 8th graders were Sheldon Sheridan, and Jamal Yacub. The team was coached by Glenn Randol.



Junior High Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Junior High girls for completing another season of basketball! This year the girls competed against Omaha Nation, Winnebagao, Santee, Bancroft-Rosalie, and Emerson-Hubbard.

Throughout the season, the girls learned about the basic skills of basketball, being a good sport, and playing as a team. Junior High Girls Basketball players are Shani Parker, Alex Tyndall, LeAndra DeLaRosa, Maura Morris-Moniz, Alexis Grant, Shanna Merrick, and Nessa Hundley.



Circulation Is Up and the Winter Book Fair is Coming In

Wow! Walthill School readers are exceeding expectations again. As of the end of December, students checked out 356 more books in the 2010-2011 school year than the 2009-2010 school year. Give the students you see a high five, and let's keep breaking those records!

Our next Book Fair begins Monday, Feb. 7th and ends Monday Feb. 14th. The fair will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the school day. On Feb. 10th, during Parent Teacher Conferences, we will stay open until 7:00. Students who attend with their families will have the opportunity select a free book I obtained from the Read Aloud Nebraska Program. The supply is limited so come early. As always, there will also be books for \$1.00 and under plus food and prizes. See you on Thursday, Feb. 10th.

***Wazhinga Ti Zhinga Early Childhood Center
Keeping Children Safe***

Correct Use of Child Safety Seats

Infant-only restraints (birth to 18-22 lbs.)

- Rear-facing only
- Infants should stay rear-facing until reaching the maximum weight for the child safety seat and until baby's head is 1 inch from the top of the shell
- Recline seat at the correct angle; may need to use a rolled up towel or fun noodle
- Infants tend to outgrow the rear facing weight and height limits of this seat. A seat with greater weight limits in the rear-facing position should be obtained
- One-finger test at the shoulder or can't pinch webbing together to check harness fit
- Harness at or below child's shoulders
- Harness retainer clip at armpit level and threaded correctly
- Harness double threaded back through adjuster slides
- Carrying handle in the correct position as specified by manufacturer when in use in vehicle
- No more than one-inch of movement of seat at belt path

Never place a rear-facing infant or convertible seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger side air bag!

Convertible restraints (birth to 20-35 lbs. rear-facing and up to 40 lbs. forward-facing)

- Stay rear-facing until reaching the maximum weight for the child safety seat and child's head is one inch from the top of the child safety seat shell
- Use correct belt path for rear-facing and forward-facing (no more than inch of movement at belt path)
- Rear-facing harness straps at or below shoulders. Forward-facing at or above shoulders, read manufacturers instructions for correct placement
- Use until middle of child's ears reach the top of the seat back or shoulders get too broad
- Move recline adjustment to upright position for forward facing
- Fasten harness retainer clip at armpit level
- One-finger test at the shoulders or can't pinch webbing together to check harness fit

Booster Seats (40 lbs. and to about 80-100 lbs.)

3 Types- belt positioning, high back belt positioning and shield booster

No back

- Boosters (high back or no back) help assist correct fit and use of the vehicle lap and shoulder belt. Lap belt over the child's upper thighs and shoulder belt over center of shoulder
- Often children are moved directly from a convertible to vehicle safety belts. They should go from a convertible to a booster
- Shield booster goes to 40 lbs. with shield in place and to a higher weight if the shield is removable. Not recommended because of the lack of upper body protection
- Belt positioning booster improves the fit of the lap and shoulder belt

- High back with five point harness - use with harness until 40 lbs., remove harness and use as a belt positioning booster to 80-100 lbs.: provides whiplash protection for children whose ears are above the vehicle seat

Lap/Shoulder Belt (5 step test) Must answer yes to all questions to safely fit in seatbelt system

- Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
- Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
- Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
- Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
- Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

Shoulder Belt Adjusters

These devices are not child restraints. They are designed to help adjust the fit of the shoulder belts to make them more comfortable for children and short adults. These devices are also referred to as "after market products". The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does not recommend the use of "after market products" because they are not crash tested and no safety standard exists.

- Shoulder belt adjusters or pads may help with shoulder belt comfort but may put too much slack in the shoulder belt or pull the lap belt up onto the abdomen, which can cause serious internal injuries in a crash.
- The use of a safety seat or belt-positioning booster is recommended because they are designed to distribute crash forces to the hips and shoulders.
- Many of these devices are advertised to improve belt fit for adults and children but are not covered by government standards.

**Boosters are a better solution for children who fit them.*

Air Bags

- Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger side airbag. Back seat is safest for children.
- Air bags deploy at 160mph.
- Children 12 and under should ride in the back seat away from airbags; children tend to lean forward and get out of position putting them in the path of a deploying airbag.
- Airbags are territorial. They are designed to deploy and then catch the passenger.
- In instances when a child must sit in the front, they should use the seat belts and/or child restraint appropriate for their weight or size and sit against the back of the vehicle seat. The vehicle seat should be moved as far back from the air bag as practical.

For more information on child safety seats visit these web sites:

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

www.carseat.org

www.safekids.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>JHGBB home vs. Emerson at 2:30</i>	2	3 <i>Grades 7-12 Variety Assembly at 1:00</i>	4	5
6	7	8 <i>VGBB & VBBB at Gayville at 6:00 & 7:30</i>	9	10 <i>Early Dismissal at 1:30. P/T Conferences from 3:00-7:00</i>	11 <i>VGBB & VBBB at Emerson at 6:15 & 8:00</i> No School	12
13	14 <i>VGBB Subdistricts</i>	15 <i>VGBB Subdistricts</i>	16	17 <i>VGBB Subdistricts</i>	18	19
20	21 <i>VBBB Subdistricts</i>	22 <i>VBBB Subdistricts</i>	23	24 <i>VBBB Subdistricts</i>	25 <i>VGBB District Final</i>	26
27	28					

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>VBBB District Final</i>	2	3 <i>VGBB State Tourney</i>	4 <i>VGBB State Tourney</i>	5 <i>VGBB State Tourney</i>
6	7	8	9	10 <i>Early Dismissal at 1:30 End of 3rd Qt VGBB St Tourney</i>	11 No School <i>VGBB State Tourney</i>	12 <i>VGBB State Tourney</i>
13	14 <i>No School Advanced Ed Work Day</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Immunization Requirement Changes for the 2011-2012 School Year

Beginning July 1, 2011 and thereafter, ALL students enrolled in school in the state of Nebraska will need 2 doses of varicella vaccine. The second vaccine is needed BEFORE your child(ren) begins the 2011-2012 school year.

Please check with your child's physician or school nurse if you are unsure if your child has received the 2nd varicella vaccine. Please plan accordingly to arrange for your child to receive vaccine prior to the start of the 2011-2012 school year. Students will need the second vaccine before the first day of school in August 2011.

If your child has had the chickenpox disease, documentation of chickenpox disease by parent or physician is needed if not already on file at school.

If you have any questions please contact your child's school nurse.

T-Shirts for Sale

Walthill Blujays

HIGH EXPECTATIONS
IN A
SAFE ENVIRONMENT

White Shirt with Blue and Orange Lettering

Youth Small-Adult XL	\$10.00
Adult XXL	\$11.00
Adult XXXL	\$12.00

Available in the Elementary Office



Once again Walthill Public Schools will be participating in **Hy-Vee's** school cents this year. How this program works is when you shop at Hy-Vee for groceries, flowers or prescriptions save your receipts. ***This year Hy-Vee is not accepting gas receipts.*** Please turn the receipts into the school. For every

\$100.00 turned into the school, we will earn one dollar. It is important to know that even if you use food stamps the receipts still can earn the school money. The school does not check to see what you bought with your receipts or how you paid your bill, all we want is the receipt so that we can earn money for our school. If you have any questions at all, please call me at 846-5432.

Mrs. Rodasky

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED

**December and January
Calendars for Activities, lunch
And Project are enclosed**

Important Dates to remember



Feb. 10 1:30 Dismissal
Feb. 11 NO SCHOOL
March 10 1:30 Dismissal
March 11 NO SCHOOL
March 14 NO SCHOOL

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