



Waterman Elementary School September 2010 Update



Celebrating our Rural Background with a Prairie, Agricultural, and “Wild W.E.S.t” Building-Wide Theme

As part of our ongoing effort to promote the idea that learning can be both fun and challenging at W.E.S., we have adopted another building-wide theme for this school year. Our 2010-11 theme is a celebration of the American frontier, our agricultural heritage, and the Wild West, which we have affectionately re-spelled “W.E.S.t.” As you visit the school, you will see an array of rural, agricultural, and western-themed displays and decorations. As articulated by the great historian Frederick Jackson Turner, the American frontier experience was the single most important factor in shaping the unique character of the United States. It provided generations with new hopes for a better tomorrow as they continually pushed westward in search of new economic opportunities. In the process they were faced with the harsh challenges of nature, armed conflict, and the overall uncertainty of what tomorrow would bring. The settlement of the frontier took courage, vision, hard work, and, above all, perseverance. The result for our nation was that we became populated by an exceptional society of unprecedented character—one that was befittingly labeled as a nation of “*rugged individuals*.” Rugged individualism has allowed our nation to outshine, out-produce, and outdistance all others. Similarly, public education, like the American frontier, is open to all who strive for opportunity by persevering to overcome academic and social-emotional challenges through hard work and devotion. It is this American spirit of undying effort, determination, and the drive to succeed, which can only be molded by conquering difficult challenges, that we hope to ignite in

all W.E.S. students through a variety of educational experiences designed around high standards and great expectations. Load the wagons and saddle up- we are heading for learning adventures!

Thank You Waterman Lion’s Club

Thank you to the Waterman Lions for again hosting another wonderful back-to-school picnic for the families of W.E.S. It was a beautiful night in Lion’s Park and everyone had a good time. Any adults interested in joining the Waterman Lions should contact Craig Rice at 815-264-3521.

Waterman Warriors 4-H Club

The Waterman Warriors 4-H Club is getting ready to start out a new 4-H year and will have their first meeting on **Wednesday, September 1st** starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Waterman Community Building.

4-H is for all youth between the ages of 8-18 as of September 1, 2010. In 4-H, youth elect officers, do community service work, and select 4-H projects that are of interest to them. To learn more about 4-H consider attending Wednesday night’s meeting. 4-H leaders are Mandy and Jamie Erlenbach.



Early Dismissal

We will have an early (1:45 p.m.) dismissal on **Tuesday, Sept. 14** due to School Improvement meetings.

Clinton Township Public Library News

Once again this year we will be having the after school program called “What’s up Wednesday?” More information will be in the October Update.

Girl Scout Fall Registration

Girl Scout registration will be held on **Tuesday, September 14, 2010**, at the Waterman Community Building. Parents and girls can come register any time **between 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

We are still looking for a volunteer Daisy (kinder/1st) leader and co-leader. If you are not able to make registration or are interested in being the Daisy leader or co-leader, call Amy Wackerlin at 630-675-9337.

Cub Scout Roundup

Cub Scout Roundup will be held on **Wednesday, September 15**, at Lions Park starting at 6:30 p.m.



A Note from the Kids' Klub Program:

Come join an after-school club that's all about fun and friendship! Beginning **Wednesday, September 22, 2010**, Kids' Klub starts another year of fun for all children, grades K-8. Kids' Klub is a non-denominational Bible club which meets every Wednesday after school until 5:00 p.m. at Carol Vaupel's home, 320 N Hickory in Waterman. The club follows Indian Creek's school calendar, canceling any Wednesday when school is shortened because of bad weather, does not meet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and ends in early April '11. If you would like more information or have any questions please contact Marcia Dempsey at 815-264-3651. Come join in the fun while singing songs, hearing Bible stories, playing games, and having treats with great friends.

Student Handbook Return Form

The Parent/Student Discipline Return Form (page 43 in Student Handbook) needs to be signed and turned in to classroom teachers by **Friday, September 10th**. **Handbooks were handed out to parents who attended Open House or the oldest child in family the week of August 30th**.

School Pictures

WES Picture Day is Thursday, **September 23, 2010**, starting at 8:35 a.m. Picture forms will be sent home the week of September 13th. Please return the picture form with the correct amount of money enclosed if you choose to purchase pictures. **Students must have the envelope with them at the time their picture is taken.**



Fall MAP Testing is Coming Soon!

All WES students will again participate in a series of computerized assessments known as MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). Through the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association), over three million students participate annually in these assessments. **Beginning September 13th and continuing through September 24th**, all students will participate in these tests. For students who have taken these tests in a previous grade (most recently last fall and spring), we will be able to obtain *comparative data* regarding individual knowledge and skill application during this same time frame one year ago. Such data allows our school to better respond to individual and grade-level needs. As testing times draw nearer, please ask your child(ren) about their class's testing schedule beginning September 13th. As usual, during periods of all-school testing, we discourage non-emergency doctor or dental appointments or absences from the building for any reason other than illness or family emergency. We appreciate the cooperation of WES families in this regard. If you would like more information about NWEA or MAP, including tips about helping your child do his or her best, please feel free to download the *Parent Toolkit* found at www.nwea.org.

Hot Lunch Reminder

Student lunches cost \$2.25

Cold milk costs 30¢

Please pay for hot lunches on the first day of the week.

