

# West Ward Elementary School **April** Newsletter

## We are MiBLSi School!



Harry P. Dalm, Principal

Laurie Visser, Secretary

Dear Parents:

Sometimes, I stand back, smile and have to utter that one syllable word- "WOW".

Let me share some "Wow" moments that have occurred here recently at West Ward.



- 1) The wonderful Spring concert held on March 29<sup>th</sup>! Pirates, song, and an auditorium full of family members made for a "treasure" of an evening for our West Ward family!
- 2) Students donated more than \$2500.00 to several charities over the school year. We all know times are tough, yet our students found it in their hearts to try and make things just a bit better for the less fortunate.
- 3) Watching our Kindergarten, First and Second graders during reading instruction. More to come on what makes a "wow" moment during reading instruction soon! Isn't Rewiring awesome?
- 4) The day-to-day hard work our staff and parent volunteers put in to make sure our kids are learning and feeling safe.
- 5) Our most recent MEAP scores!
- 6) Our March Reading Month Activities! Thank you so much to our Title I teaching team!
- 7) Our highly successful Literacy Night! Over 150 students and adults attended! Books, games, and literacy were the stars of the evening!

Good things are happening at West Ward! Behind all of the "WOW" moments are the great students, dedicated staff, volunteers, parents, and friends of West Ward. May there be many more "Wow" moments this school year!

Mr. Dalm ☺

**IMPORTANT ELECTION INFO:** On May 8, 2012, the district will be placing two ballot issues before the voting public. Proposal #1 is a renewal of the 18 mills of non-homestead property tax (on businesses, second homes, etc.). Proposal #2 is a bonding issue to raise \$18.5 million to improve facilities, technology, and health & safety district-wide. If you are not currently registered to vote, you have until Monday, April 9, 2012 to do so. Contact your township clerk or the Michigan Secretary of State office. Due to a change in state law, election of school board members will now take place in November of even numbered years.

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, political belief, disability or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity, or in employment, through the Allegan Public Schools. Any questions pertaining to nondiscrimination should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools at 550 Fifth Street, Allegan MI, (269) 673-5431



### **Talent Show Info**

West Ward talented performers are invited to audition for our annual Talent Show. Auditions will be held after school on April 19th, 2012. All students who want to audition must have a signed parent permission slip turned in before April 15th to Mrs. Seymour's office mailbox. A limited number of acts will be selected from the auditions to perform in the show on Friday, May 25th at 1:00 p.m. Participants will be notified by April 27th.

### **Year End Dates to Remember:**

#### **APRIL**

- 10 Kindergarten Registration 9:30 a.m. GYM  
5<sup>th</sup> grade band sign up MS 6-8 p.m.
- 12 Kindergarten Registration 5-7 p.m. HS Media Center  
PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 16 5<sup>th</sup> grade Chicago Trip
- 19 Talent Show try-outs 3-5 p.m. Music room  
Release time Bible Class 9:30 -11:00 (last one)  
1<sup>st</sup> grade Field Trip Meijer Gardens
- 23 new 5 wk. session of *Mad Science* begins
- 30** No School for Students – Prof. Dev. for Staff

#### **MAY**

- 3 4<sup>th</sup> grade Lansing Trip
- 4 3<sup>rd</sup> grade GR Public Museum Trip
- 7 5<sup>th</sup> grade Track/Field
- 8 Muffins for Mom 7-8 a.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> grade Track/Field  
**Remember to Vote!**
- 9 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Track/Field
- 10 Track/Field make up day  
West Ward “End of Year” Fun Night at HS Pool
- 11 Track/field make up day  
Track/Field make up day
- 14 Track/Field make up day
- 15 Art Show grades 1-12 AHS
- 18 Career Day  
Girls on the Run 5K @ AHS track in p.m.
- 23 Kindergarten Field Trip 8:20-2:10 p.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> grade to MS orientation 12:45-2:10 p.m.
- 24 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Field Trip Kazoo Nature Center  
Allegan High School Graduation 7:45 p.m.
- 25 AR Store/Book Sale in a.m.  
Talent Show 1pm GYM
- 27 No School
- 28 5<sup>th</sup> grades to PAC practice in p.m. for Salute  
5<sup>th</sup> grade Salute at H.S. in p.m.
- 29 5<sup>th</sup> grade vs. Staff softball game
- 31 **Last Day of School** for Students

### **I-Pods, Gameboys, PSP Consoles, Video, Audio, and Electronic Devices or Games**

Parents are asked to help their children keep such devices at home and not brought to school. These items are often stolen, traded, broken, mis-used, lost, or become a distraction in class.

### **Parent Messages to Our Students**

**Please call by 2:00 p.m.** If you have a message for your child that needs to be delivered by the office. Calls received after 2:00 p.m. become difficult to deliver because of many factors.

### **Bike Safety**

As warm weather approaches, more and more students will be riding bicycles to and from school. This can be a very enjoyable experience or it can be a very dangerous experience if proper safety procedures are not understood and followed. Students should be riding on the road and going with the flow of traffic. Those on bicycles are to cross the road at intersections following the normal safety procedures as if they were walkers. Students in grades 3-5 are allowed to ride bicycles to school as long as they use good, commonsense. Students in grades Kindergarten – Grade 2 should not plan on riding their bicycles to school unless the parent and principal grant special permission.

### **Severe Weather Policy**

The Allegan Public Schools Severe Weather Policy indicates that once school is in session, the school will not attempt to send students home early in the event of severe weather. To do so potentially creates many additional problems and ultimately increases the potential for danger. As in the past, parents may come to school at any time to pick their child up in the event of severe weather. Please stop by the office to sign your child out. West Ward continues to practice going to a safe place in the building if severe weather should occur.

### **Appropriate School Attire**

With warmer weather approaching, students will change from cold weather to warm weather clothing. We are asking that parents to help their child select clothing appropriate for the educational setting. Consideration should be given to the predicted temperature for the day. ***Items worn to school such as hats, skull caps, dew rags, short shorts, halter tops, midriff showing tops, tank tops (muscles shirts), or deliberately ripped or torn clothing may result in phone call home to a change of clothing.*** Students should also wear shoes that are appropriate for school. Thank you for your help!

### **Summer Buddies start Tuesday, June 12, 2012 – August 16, 2012**

Applications are now available for the Summer Buddies Program. Summer Buddies is a program for your child built around the academic needs you indicate as area of concern. Lessons are theme based and address the areas of Math, Reading, and Social Studies, and Science. More information is available with the application or you can contact the program Directors, Sara Phillips (673-8406) or Susan Busfield (521-6621) or Pine Trails Elementary (673-5379)

### **Outstanding People for Education Award**

April 1st is the deadline to nominate individuals for the "Outstanding People for Education" Award. The purpose of the recognition is to honor people in public education who are excelling in their field or making an impact in the quality of education in Allegan County. Forms are still available in the form caddy by the library.

### **Arriving at School Early**

Parents, please remember that students should not arrive at school before 7:35 a.m. This is when supervision becomes available for students outside. Students should remain outside until 8:00 a.m. unless weather makes it necessary to go inside early. Exceptions include those students accompanied by adults, those coming in for breakfast, or those students with an emergency situation.

### **K-8 Scholarship Information**

The Allegan Education Association (AEA) through its Scholarship Foundation has elected to award scholarships towards academic and fine arts enrichment opportunities for Allegan Public School students in grades K-8. The awards will be presented by representatives of the AEA Scholarship Foundation at the annual awards programs held in each elementary building the last week of school year 2012.

**The deadline for filing a completed scholarship application is May 4, 2012.** Awards will be available by June 7, 2012. The awards will be limited to one scholarship per student and are not renewable. Applications are available at each of the Allegan Public Schools elementary building and the middle school Counseling Office. Scholarships will be awarded to Allegan Public School students in grades K-8. Awards will be based on the merit of the individual applications, the number of students submitting applications and the availability of funds. Students whose parents serve on the AEA Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors will be excluded from consideration.

### **The Giving Tree**

Thank you so much to the individuals who have taken request cards from our "Giving Tree". The items you have provided are truly appreciated. Your kindness and generosity will not be forgotten. Parents, if you haven't seen our "Giving Tree", stop by the West Ward main lobby and look over the request cards.

### **PTO News!**

The BIG YEAR END EVENT (May 10<sup>th</sup>) is coming! PTO is asking for those interested in helping on May 10th to contact the West Ward office to let us know if you can attend a planning meeting or would like to volunteer the night of the big swimming fun night. The swimming night is a new idea and will be a great family event but we need parent involvement to make it happen!