

WOODCREST NEWS



A Newsletter of Woodcrest Elementary School

September 2016

Welcome Back!

We are off to a great start in our new school year! Students are getting reacquainted with old friends and beginning to make new ones in class and on the playground. Teachers have returned from summer rested and ready with new ideas and teaching strategies.

There is always an adjustment period as students settle into their new classroom with a new teacher. The curriculum is more difficult in their new grade and the teacher expectations are a little higher each year. It is not unusual for there to be a less than positive reaction at first, but if you are patient and encouraging, nearly 100% of students will quickly bond to their teacher and classmates and have a wonderful year! Your reaction as the parent, both verbally and non-verbally, can have a huge impact on your child's view of the teacher and the year ahead.

If you ever have a question or a concern about your child's learning environment, I encourage you to talk to the classroom teacher first. That is the person who truly knows what is happening in the classroom and can answer all of your questions. Sometimes statements or events when explained by your child are missing some details. The teacher will be able to fill in the blanks for you.

Parents, students, and teachers working together is what will make our year successful and produce the best results for your children.

"Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students, and enthusiastic parents with high expectations."

- Bob Beauprez



Walking School Bus

With the long line of traffic every morning and afternoon trying to get into our parking lot and the surrounding streets, maybe we could consider starting our own "Walking School Bus"! What exactly is a walking school bus?

"A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. That may sound simple, and that is part of the appeal. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or as structured as a planned route with meeting points, a timetable and a schedule of trained volunteers." (From Safe Routes to School Guide)

If you are interested in helping to organize this endeavor or in having your children participate once it gets going, please speak with Mrs. Prescott or with Holly Dullas, PTA President.



Keep Calm and Run 100 Miles!

We have started our 100 Mile Club for the new school year. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning before school, students can go to the field and run laps for 20 minutes or so. Their laps will be tallied by a team of parent volunteers toward a goal of running 100 miles in the course of the year.

Impossible? Not at all! Besides the morning runs, teachers are also able to take their students out to run during PE and those laps will be counted as well. We are working toward possibly adding an after school run once a week if we have enough volunteers. In addition, you can visit <http://100mileclub.com> for a calendar of events where more miles can be earned.

For every 25 miles a student runs, an incentive is earned including a t-shirt for the first 25 miles, a membership card, golden pencil, and bracelet for other milestones. Those students who complete 100 miles or more will be honored with a 100 Mile Club medal at the end of the year!

Come any Tuesday or Thursday morning, sign up and begin running! There is a small fee of \$10 to help with the cost of the incentives. You can still run and earn miles without the fee. You just won't receive the prizes.

If you are a parent interested in volunteering to help tally the laps and award the incentive prizes, please contact Jennifer Mason at 100mileclub@woodcrestpta.org.



Coming Events

- Sept 13** PTA Volunteer MTG
@8:30 am in the MPR
- Sept 15** Fundraiser Kick-Off
- Sept 16** Family Movie Night
@7:00 pm on the field
- Sept 19** PTA Meeting
- Sept 23** Picture Day (Smile!)

Lunch With Your
Child (Grades 1-6)
- Sept 27** ELAC Meeting
@2:45 in the MPR
- Sept 29** Fundraiser forms due
- Sept 30** Awards Assembly



When I spoke with the students at our Behavior Expectations Assembly, I implored them to "Work hard and be kind". In our world today, too often we see examples of people who forget to be kind.

I would like our Woodcrest community of students, parents, and staff member to embrace the concept of being kind to each other. Watch for more information about "The Great Kindness Challenge" coming soon!