
Wakefield School News

Volume 14 Issue 7

April 2008

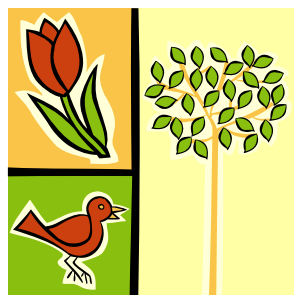
FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

CALENDAR CHANGES

School year extended

Last day for students May 20

Spring officially arrived March 20. There were numerous unplanned adjustments to



the school calendar this year. The school that was missed in October and November (thank you Trojan Football team) was much more

welcome than the disruptions caused by Mother Nature.

The following list displays the dates when the school calendar was changed this year:

October 24 – 2:30 Dismissal (FB vs. Louisville)

November 5 – 2:30 Dismissal (FB @ Elmwood-Murdoch)

November 16 – No School (FB state championship)

December 6 - 9:30 Dismissal

December 7 - 2 Hr Late Start

December 11 - 2 Hr Late Start

January 21- No School

January 22- 2 Hr Late Start

January 23 - 12:00 Dismissal

January 29 - No School

February 6 - 2 Hr Late Start

February 12 - 2 Hr Late Start

February 14 - 12:00 Dismissal

February 15 - 2 Hr Late Start

The total changes this year are:

1. No school – 3
2. Early Dismissal – 2 @ 2:30pm; 2 @ noon; 1 @ 9:30am
3. Late starts – 6

There were approximately forty-nine hours of instructional time with students that was missed due to unplanned schedule changes. The original last day for school (with students) was scheduled to be May 15. Students will make-up three days of school in May (21 instructional hours). Unless we have

***School's out for the Summer
May 20 – 2:00 p.m.***

another snow/ice storm this spring that causes school to be cancelled, the last day of school for students will be Tuesday, May 20. Students will be dismissed at 2:00pm on the last day of school.

Board approves priority list of facility issues, projects

At the March Wakefield Community School Board meeting, the Board discussed a list of facility issues and projects. The priority list includes:

1. Air movement in main gym/lunch room
2. Track
3. 15- passenger van replacement
4. Safety and security of facilities
5. Main gym floor replacement
6. Bus barn

Projects were determined by district needs, community input, legislation, size of project and availability of funding. After discussion on each project the consensus of the board was to approve the priority list as outlined. The heating/cooling project in the main gym and lunchroom will begin once the engineers provide specifications. Bids will be received and a contractor selected by the Board of Education. The project should be completed in time for the start of the next school year.



The track project will continue to develop. The first step is to work with the architectural firm of Carlson-West-Povondra to develop a plan that will update the previous designs of the track facility. There are many details yet to be worked out.

The district has sufficient funds to begin these projects. The Board is not funding the project with a bond issue because money has been budgeted specifically for facility projects over a number of years. The track project is estimated at between \$500,000 and \$650,000. The estimate includes site preparation, an eight-lane all-weather track plus space for field events. Inside the track will be a football practice field, which is crowned for proper drainage. We also plan to include infrastructure for utilities, such as water, sewer and electrical. By next fall proposals and cost estimates should be completed. Prior to finalizing any plans, additional information will be provided to the community concerning the project. The planned facility will be used for physical education classes, track and field athletes, and football practice, as well as available to the community.



These projects will enhance the physical facility of the Wakefield School district and provide a better educational environment for our students.

Bill Heimann, Superintendent

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Final quarter of school year always BUSY

We are well into the 4th quarter of the school year, and this time of year is always a busy time for students and teachers. In April (and May) on any given day, there could be a track meet, golf meet, FCCLA activity, FBLA activity, music contest, art show...just to name a few.

It is important to remember that if students are attending school-sponsored activities they are required to make arrangements with their teachers for the

6th graders and parents encouraged to attend orientation on April 24

Current 6th grade students, and their parents, are invited to an orientation in the multi-purpose room at 7:00 p.m. on April 24. This will allow us to share some important information about the transition from elementary to junior high. All current 6th graders and their parents are encouraged to attend.

school work they will miss, and get their “yellow sheets” signed before they leave for the activity. This requires some organization on the part of the students, but it will benefit them more than they realize. Parents, some of you will be seeing several “yellow sheets” in the next few weeks. These are for you to sign, to make sure you are aware that your child will be out of the building for school activities. Thank you for your patience during this busy time.

Mark your calendar!



- PROM is April 5, with the Grand March beginning at 5:00 in the main gym
- We have 2-hour late-starts scheduled for April 7 and April 21

There will be a separate SPRING CONCERT for JUNIOR HIGH ONLY on April 7 at 7:30 p.m. The regularly scheduled SPRING CONCERT for HIGH SCHOOL ONLY will be on April 14 at 7:30 p.m.



From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

Young authors share stories

The Young Author's Assembly was held on March 12 in the gymnasium. Students in grades 1-6 submitted a writing selection to their classroom teachers. Classroom teachers then selected a winner from their classroom. Three judges read the classroom winner's writing selections and chose an overall winner from grades 2-3 and 4-6. An alternate was also chosen for each grade level tier. The overall winners will attend the Young Author's Assembly at Wayne State College on April 5. These students will have an opportunity to listen to children's author John Coy. The American Legion Women's Auxiliary donated Wakefield Dollars to the winners. The following students participated in the competition: Solomon Peitz, Dylon Harder, Ben Chase, Emmalee Pommer, Dylan Davis, Cole Magnuson, Danielle Gilliland, Josephine Peitz, Alex Conley, Ryan Bodlak, Seth Malcolm, and Evan Nicholson.



Evan Nicholson – 6th



Overall Winners

Emmalee Pommer – 2nd
Ryan Bodlak – 5th

Alternates

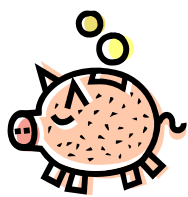
Dylan Davis – 3rd
Alex Connely – 5th

Class Winners

Solomon Peitz – 1st
Dylon Harder – 1st
Emmalee Pommer – 2nd
Dylan Davis – 3rd
Josephine Peitz – 4th
Ryan Bodlak – 5th

Students Jump Rope for Heart

Wakefield Elementary students participated in Jump Rope for Heart on March 18 for the 24th consecutive year. Fifty students attended this charity event. Students were able to raise \$3,274.41, which will be donated to The American Heart Association. The mission of The American Heart Association is to build healthier lives, free from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. On behalf of Wakefield Community School, we would like to thank family, friends, and the community for their generosity.



Collecting spare change for Wakefield swimming pool



The Elementary Student Council is sponsoring a project to raise money for the Wakefield Swimming Pool. Students are welcome to bring any “spare” change they would like to donate to this project. A container will be placed in each classroom to collect donations. The project will run from March 31-April 18. We would like to thank you in advance for your generosity and support for our community.

Looking forward to junior high

Meeting designed to help students prepare for 7th grade

An orientation meeting for next year’s 7th graders and their parents will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 pm in the multi-purpose room.

Topics for the meeting will include student schedules, the grading system, and school expectations. Time will be allotted for any questions. Plan to meet in the multi-purpose room for a brief overview of the evening and then participants will be traveling to the different sessions. A letter is being sent

home that will have more information about session groupings. In addition to the orientation meetings, the 6th grade students have had an opportunity to shadow students in the junior high school for half a day.

The students have commented on the numerous benefits of this experience and the opportunity it gave them to get a feel for a day in the life of a junior high student. We look forward to seeing you on April 24.

What: 7th Grade Orientation

When: April 24, 2007

Where: Multi-Purpose Room

Important dates

Friday, April 4: Kindergarten Round-up

March 31 – April 4: 4th Grade TerraNova Testing

Friday, April 25: Arbor Day Program @ 2:45 pm

Monday, April 28: Elementary Spring Concert @ 7 pm



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

The financial aid award letter you received from your college indicates the loans you qualify to borrow. They may include loans you borrow directly from the school (Perkins), from a lender (Stafford Loans), or from the federal government (Direct Loans). In addition, your parents may qualify for the PLUS loan. Your college will provide borrowing procedures.

Before you borrow, estimate your future monthly loan payments using our *Student Loan Repayment Calculator* at www.educationquest.org/calc.asp.

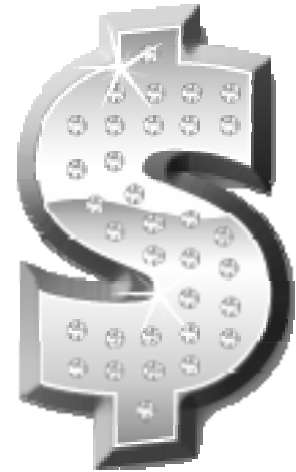
The key is to borrow WISELY. Think about how debt may affect your future lifestyle. Here are some tips:

- Carefully research the college you plan to attend to make sure it's a good fit. Some students transfer to three different schools, which added additional years of school and loan debt.
- Estimate your future salary and compare it to the amount of student loans you think you will need.
- Work while you go to college and use that money to pay living expenses.
- Use your student loan money *only* for tuition, books and fees.
- Keep track of your student loan debt. Some students say that they didn't pay attention to their debt accumulation until their junior year, and then said, "It was a shock!"

Summertime is planning time for juniors

Juniors...summer is the time for serious college planning. Here are your assignments:

- Start narrowing your college choices. Tour a few schools this summer. Visit EducationQuest and search the Internet for information about colleges that interest you.



(continued on next page)

- Update your [Activities Resume](#) on the EducationQuest web site. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time jobs.
- Identify teachers and coaches who will write letters of recommendation for you—you'll need them for admission and scholarship applications.
- Look for scholarships. Free resources include your guidance counselor and *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org, which has over 1,500 local and statewide scholarships. Pay attention to the scholarships seniors are earning.
- Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses. Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May 'to do' list for seniors

- ❖ Apply for student loans, if necessary
- ❖ Register for freshmen orientation
- ❖ Start a list of dorm room essentials

PARENT QUIZ

Are you balancing freedom and responsibility?



Teens need both freedom and responsibilities. And it's not easy for parents to strike the right balance. This quiz will help.

Give yourself five points for something you always do, zero points for something you never do – or any score in between.

1. **I talk** with my teen about the responsibilities that come with freedom.
2. **I allow** my teen to have more freedom when he is responsible.
3. **I review** household rules and adjust them when appropriate.

4. **I give** my teen responsibilities he can handle, such as shopping for clothes within a budget.
5. **If necessary**, my teen and I write down our agreements about rights and responsibilities.

How did you score? *Twenty or above is good. Fifteen to 19 is average. Below 15? Try some of the ideas in the quiz.*

Life doesn't require that we do the best – only that we try our best.