

WOLFTRACKS

The Wheatlands Elementary School
November 18, 2016



Notes from Principal Gerard:

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and I wanted to take the time to share how truly thankful I am for our amazing students, incredible staff and our supportive Wheatlands community –thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Mr. Gerard



Calendar Notifications:

NOVEMBER

- 23- No School
- 24- No School
- 25- No School
- 28- Culver's Night- 5th Grade Serving

DECEMBER

- 2- Holiday Shoppe
- 8- McBride's Night
- 9- PTO Meeting 10:00
- 14- Papa Saverio's Night
- 21- Winter Parties (K- 10:00-11:00) (1st-5th 11:30- 12:30)
- 21- 4 Hour Attendance- Students Dismissed at 12:45

- A full calendar can be found here: [CALENDAR](#) The calendar is subject to change. The most recent information will be available in the Wolftracks newsletter e-mailed out every Friday.



CC/SEL ACTIVITIES:

- The Wheatlands is proud to provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons, as well as character education to our student. This year the following activities and educational lessons are being used at The Wheatlands.
- Second Step:
Second Step is an evidence-based SEL curriculum that is taught in every classroom at The Wheatlands once a week for 30 minutes. The curriculum focuses on skills for learning (appropriate classroom behavior), empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. Children are engaged through colorful picture cards, DVD lessons, worksheets, partner practice, and puppet characters (for younger grades).
- Social Thinking:
Social Thinking is a series of books and curriculum that focus on social self-awareness, perspective taking, self-regulation, executive functioning, and social

skills. At The Wheatlands we are using concepts from this program to complement our Wheatlands Way philosophy.

- When addressing students' behavior, The Wheatlands staff often use the terms "expected" or "unexpected" behavior. Expected behaviors are when we display appropriate behaviors for the setting we are in (i.e. walking in the hallway, being quiet when the teacher is talking, sharing with friends, etc.). When we do what is expected, people tend to have good thoughts about us and the overall climate of the school building is enhanced.
- Unexpected behaviors are when someone is not displaying appropriate behaviors for the setting they are in (i.e. running in the hallway, talking when the teacher is talking, saying mean words to friends). When we display unexpected behavior, people tend to have not so good thoughts about us and this can lead to social and behavioral challenges.
- Character Counts:
- Character Counts is a well established philosophy that the Oswego School District adopted over fifteen years ago. It focused on six pillars of character, Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
- Throughout the school year many events and activities will take place to encourage students to demonstrate good character at The Wheatlands. We began the year with a Character Counts week in which students and staff dressed up and learned about the different ways to show character in the school, their homes, and the community. In addition, the students participated in an assembly entitled "Show Some Respect". The show was funded by our TW PTO. At the assembly two incentive programs were introduced to students, E-tickets and our Wall of Fame program. These two programs will begin in November.
- E-Tickets are mini tickets students can earn when showing expected behaviors. Students then fill out the ticket and turn it into our Character Counts jars. Names will be drawn weekly and announced to the school.
- The Wall of Fame program is a way to recognize students in the classroom that have gone above and beyond demonstrating the pillar of the month. One student from each class will be chosen. Winners will receive a certificate, and will be invited for a pizza celebration later in the school year.



The Wheatlands Birthday Book Club:

- "A book is a present you can open again and again"
- Happy Birthday from The Wheatlands LRC! Thank you for your kind donation. The students are so excited to see the special book you selected for the LRC
- NOVEMBER Birthdays: Violet Albery, Vladyslav Synychak, Emily Loftus, Michelle Fanjoy
- MAY (1/2) Birthdays: Luke Morris, Aidan Arredondo, Owen Bales, Michael Moch



Spirit Wear:

- Please visit our Spirit Wear Store to buy shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants for your student and your family...we have both youth and adult sizes available!

- We have current Spirit Wear items as well as discounted Spirit Wear from past school year available!
- Inventory can be purchased online and will be sent home with your student!
- Thank you for supporting The Wheatlands with your Spirit Wear items!!
- Click here to see everything: [SPIRIT WEAR STORE](#)
- Please contact Kelly with questions: -kschwartz1031@comcast.net



PTO Membership:

- If you haven't joined yet, it's not too late.
- PTO membership helps support school activities and events. A family membership for the year is only \$10!
- Being a member includes admission for your family to certain PTO events including the Daddy/Daughter Dance, Game Night, STEM Night and more!
- Access to the online PTO Website. This includes the directory, which contains class lists and member contact information, the most updated calendar of events, information on volunteer opportunities, school newsletters, flyers, important emails directly from the PTO and much more.
- You can join by clicking here: [JOIN PTO](#) The password is twwolves1617.
- Once you join and pay \$10, you will have access to the PTO Website.
- In the past years, the PTO has been able to provide laptops and iPads for our school!



Text Reminders:

- To receive text message reminders from the PTO, text @wolvesPTO to 81010.



Volunteer Opportunities:

- We are looking for volunteers for the Fun Fair Planning Committee.
- There will be many opportunities throughout the year to volunteer at The Wheatlands. Some of them even allow you to help from home.
- All volunteer opportunities will be posted on the PTO website.
- To access the volunteer section of the site, please click here: [PTO Volunteer](#)
- If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please email us at thewheatlandspto@gmail.com. Volunteer opportunities to help at each event will be announced as each event approaches.



Board Members Needed 2017/18:

- The PTO will be looking to fill 2 positions on the board next year.
- Elections are held in April
- For details and additional information, please contact Julie Katrib: jkatrib@gmail.com.



Holiday Shoppe:

- Registration is now open for Holiday Shoppe!
- All items being sold must be \$10 or less.
- Registration forms & payment are due by Friday, November 11th!
- Contact Julie Katrib for questions: jkatrib@gmail.com



Notes from the LRC:

- We are on the lookout for library volunteers. The Wheatlands LRC is searching for volunteers to help check in/out books, organize shelves, and assist with large projects like the Fall Scholastic Book Fair.
- If you are interested, please email Jessica Seiple, LRC Director at jseiple@sd308.org



Yearbooks:

- Here is the link to order yearbooks: [ORDER YEARBOOK](#)
- If you have problems or questions, please contact JoJo Goduto at <mailto:jgoduto@sbcglobal.net>
- Yearbook can only be purchased online this year.
- Yearbooks purchased before January 1, 2017 cost \$20.00 each. Yearbooks purchased after January 1, 2017 cost \$25.00 each.
- Lifetouch Website - [LIFETOUCH](#)
- Enter Yearbook ID Code: 9467317
- The deadline for ordering yearbooks is March 24, 2017.



Follow us on Facebook:

- For security purposes, we removed our Facebook page, and have formed a closed group. To join, send a request to: The Wheatlands PTO Closed Group for important updates and reminders. To help us approve you as member of the group, please message us your child's name & teacher. Thank you!



Important Procedure Reminders:

- Students that are dropped off at 8:15 a.m. may enter the building and wait in the gym, or have breakfast in the cafeteria. If your child is not having breakfast, please send a book for silent reading.
- Please do not drop off students in the bus lane. Parents should drop off in front of the school only.
- Children should only cross the street with the crossing guards. We care about their safety!
- Per Illinois state law, it is illegal to talk on a cell phone in a school zone. This includes the parent pick-up/drop-off line, as well as the streets around the school. We appreciate your efforts to keep your children safe!
- District 308 now requires ALL volunteers wishing to help at school (in the classroom, chaperone field trips, etc....) to be fingerprinted. Please contact the main office for more information. This only needs to be completed once.



PTO Board Members:

Board members can be reached at thewheatlandspato@gmail.com.

Tracy Gordon, President

Julie Katrib, Vice President

Karissa Gerrans, Vice President

JoJo Goduto, Treasurer

Kelly Schwartz, Corresponding Secretary

Sonya Daguinsin, Recording Secretary

