

The Castle Crier

News from the Black/Smith multiage classroom

<http://TeacherWeb.com/MI/WylieElementary/MsBlackackandMrSmith/>

Vol. 14, No. 1

September 9, 2009

WELCOME BACK!

OUR FIRST DAY BACK WAS GREAT! Now we're prepared to begin the important work that's ahead. We'll spend the next few days at school getting to know our new third graders, catching up with returning fourth graders, and doing some important community building. **If you are reading this newsletter you are a part of our learning community too!** We will work hard to keep you up-to-date about all of the events and activities which will occur during your child's time at school. We'll publish this newsletter every other week, and send it to you via email*. We'll keep our website current with all of the latest calendars, assignments and announcements. We'll send important reminders by email whenever they are needed. In return **we ask that you take the time to stay informed about events and activities** at school, and help your child establish routines that promote his or her success in school. Our doors are open to you, should you wish to volunteer or visit. By working together we will ensure that your child has an outstanding year!

***Help us build our class data base!** Send us a email and we'll add you to our "contacts" lists. **Families who do not have email and/or internet access**, please send a note stating that you would like to receive hard copies of all notes from school.

Announcements

- **Making our new third graders (and fourth graders) comfortable is our first task.** As noted above, we'll spend quite a bit of time on community-building activities, including our annual class name project, teacher led playground games and a whole class tug-of-war. Each new third grader has a fourth grade "mentor" who is helping his or her younger partner get adjusted to our classroom routines and Wylie in general. Ask your child about his or her new learning partner!
- **There is a packet of forms in your child's backpack today.** It includes an emergency card, several permission slips, a school picture order form, and various calendars, schedules, etc. Please take the time to go through it tonight. Ideally we'd like to have all the necessary forms back at school by this Friday, September 11.
- **Be sure to check out our classroom website.** It includes current assignments, teacher bios, links to neat educational websites, and FAQs. **We have also posted a student questionnaire that lets you tell us a little about your child.** We'd appreciate it if all of our new families would take a few minutes to complete one of these and send it in to school. The website address is listed at the top of this newsletter, but the easiest way to find us is to go to the DCS website, then click on "Wylie" and "Staff Web Pages".
- **We are a nut free classroom again this year!** Please do not send your child to school with food items made with peanuts or tree nuts if they will be eaten in the classroom. Children **MAY** bring such items for lunch, but these can only be eaten in the (over)

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cafeteria, NOT in the classroom at snack time or during classroom celebrations such as birthdays, parties, etc.

- **Snacks and birthday treats are always important topics for third and fourth graders.** We schedule a block of time each morning for snacks. We encourage children to bring a healthy snack each day to eat at this time. Snack milk/juice is also offered through food service. Children who are celebrating a birthday are welcome to bring healthy treats to share with their own home room classmates (26 kids). Please let us know about birthdays in advance so that we can plan accordingly (**Remember: NO NUTS**).
- **This Friday every child will bring home a Speaking and Listening assignment sheet, along with a schedule of assigned speaking dates.** Be sure to post the calendar in a convenient place, and encourage your child to begin looking for a local current event that is of interest to him or her. We will send another "reminder" assignment sheet home to each student the week before his/her scheduled date.
- **We've posted our Special Area Classes schedules below (and on our website).** Students need to wear athletic shoes on their P.E. day, return borrowed books on Library day, and avoid wearing favorite outfits on Art day. **Please note that youngers and olders will be participating in grade-based lessons this year,** so the special schedule is a bit more complicated than usual.
- **We've purchased "heavy duty" "go home" folders this year!** Please help your child get in the habit of carrying his/her "go home" folder back and forth to school every day. Every child at Wylie has one of these, and it is one of the tools that we are using to teach important organizational skills. It's also a great way that families can keep up with what's happening in the classroom. **We've included a cover sheet that describes how this folder should be used,** along with pages in the folder where children will take a few minutes each afternoon to write important reminders to themselves and their parents. **We are asking that parents initial these each day.**

	SPECIAL AREA CLASSES		
	SMITH	BLACK	TIME
MONDAY	World Cultures	Physical Education	11:05
TUESDAY	Art (all 3rd graders)	Music (all 4th graders)	11:05
WEDNESDAY	Music (all 3rd graders)	Art (all 4th graders)	11:05
THURSDAY	Physical Education	Library	11:05
FRIDAY	Library	World Cultures	11:05

LUNCH: 12:30 - 1:00