

# September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Aug. 26 Day 1 First Day of school for K-9	Aug. 27 Day 2	Aug. 28 Day 3 Open House for Grades K-5,	Aug. 29 Day 4 2:45 PM Ribbon cutting ceremony for rock	Aug. 30
1 <b>Labor Day Holiday- NO SCHOOL</b>	2 Day 5	3 Day 1 Instrument assembly gr.3-5 2:00 PM	4 Day 2 CSA Walk-a-Thon Fundraising Drive 9/4-19	5 Day 3	6	
7	8 Day 4 CSA mtg. 7:00 PM	9 Day 5	10 Day 1	11 Day 2 Odyssey of the Mind mtg. 7:00 PM in the LGI.	12 Day 3 First Walk at School (8:15)	13
14	15 Day 4	16 Day 5	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19 Day 3 CSA Walk-a-Thon	20
21	22 Day 4	23 Day 5	24 Day 1	25 Day 2 KHZ Kick Off 7:00 PM Walk-a-Thon rain date	26 <b>NO SCHOOL- In-Service</b>	27
28	29 Day 3	30 Day 4				

## August/September Family Newsletter

# J. Henry Cochran Elementary

1500 Cherry Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: 322-9731 Fax: 322-9733

Find us on the web @ [www.wasd.org](http://www.wasd.org)

### PRINCIPAL'S POINTS

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to J. Henry Cochran Elementary School and the beginning of another expected super school year. It is my hope that you, like me, took time with your families and loved ones to relax and recharge in preparation for the 2008-09 Cochran Senator campaign. (This won't get political, I promise.)

It is with great confidence that I share my belief that this year will be the best one yet in Cochran's 89-year history. With many new additions to our staff, our building and our community, J. Henry Cochran is poised to provide the very best educational experience for every child we serve. Academic growth is obviously our No. 1 priority. Still, the dedicated staff strives to make sure we provide all the educational experiences necessary in developing the whole child.

J. Henry Cochran is a great school, because our staff and our parents/guardians work together to build the future -- one child and one day at a time. Once again, I invite you to connect with our community by setting an appointment to visit your child's classroom, eating lunch with your child (no reservations required), and becoming an active member in the Cochran School Association (CSA). Together, we can make history.

Once again, welcome to J. Henry Cochran. I look forward to seeing all of you on August 28<sup>th</sup> at our annual Open House, which will begin at 6 p.m. In the meantime, if you have questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**David J. Michaels**  
Principal

### Office Personnel

**David J. Michaels**  
Principal  
[djmichae@wasd.org](mailto:djmichae@wasd.org)

**Michele L. Brobst**  
Assistant Principal  
[mbrobst@wasd.org](mailto:mbrobst@wasd.org)

**Denny Logan**  
IST Teacher  
[dlogan@wasd.org](mailto:dlogan@wasd.org)

**Nel Stoudt**  
Administrative Support  
[nstoudt@wasd.org](mailto:nstoudt@wasd.org)

**Kim Cillo**  
Administrative Support  
[kcillo@wasd.org](mailto:kcillo@wasd.org)

# JCH

**Connect with the Cochran Community!**

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**MS. BROBST**

Welcome back to another great school year! I'm thrilled to be back this year and look forward to another successful school year. It has been a short summer, but that has not hampered the enthusiasm of our incredible staff. They have already been working preparing lessons, materials, and classrooms. Their dedication and willingness to do "whatever it takes" to make sure that each child succeeds is inspiring. Of course, being a parent is the most important role anyone can have. You are your child's first and most crucial teacher. If education is a priority for you, it will also be for your child.

It is important for me to be a visible presence in the school building and to be an advocate for students, staff and parents. I do believe in a disciplined learning environment and feel that I am firm, but fair and caring. Children work best when expectations for learning and behavior are clear and consistent.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to another great school year!

Ms. Michele Brobst

### ODYSSEY OF THE MIND INFORMATION

**Attention Teachers, Parents, and Students!!** Would you like to enhance your creative problem solving abilities while having a lot of fun in the process? Being part of Odyssey of the Mind can help you to do so!

Beginning in August 2008, the Elementary Gifted Support program would like to help anyone interested in participating in Odyssey of the Mind. Our goal for 2008-09 school year will be to help create at least one team per elementary school building in the Williamsport Area School District. We are willing to help you in participation by offering the following support:

- Coordinating informational parent meetings
- Keeping updates on our web sites
- Giving each team coach a mentor they can contact. (This person would have already experienced OM as a former coach or judge.)
- Help coaches fill out necessary paperwork and provide training
- Suggest children for a team of 5 to 7 students
- Supply practice problems to all teams and pay team fees

Even if you are new to Odyssey of the Mind, consider giving it a try. If you, your child, or someone you know is interested in participating, please email Mrs. Bower, the intermediate Gifted Support teacher at: [pabower@wasd.org](mailto:pabower@wasd.org).



### THE LITERACY COLLABORATIVE AT COCHRAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The history of J. Henry Cochran as a Literacy Collaborative School spans the past six years. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Literacy Collaborative - it is a comprehensive school reform project designed to improve the reading, writing and language skills of elementary children.

The cornerstone of this project is dynamic, long-term professional development for all teachers. School-based literacy coordinators are trained in research-based methods, provided with ongoing professional development as they continually implement research-based approaches in their own classrooms, and supported as they provide on-site training for the teachers in their schools. The goal of this comprehensive effort is to significantly raise the level of achievement for all students.

Our literacy coordinators, Mrs. Wendy Kelsey and Mrs. Debbie Goff, work together with your child's teacher to meet the standards of Literacy Collaborative. Our history of achievement speaks for itself and the success of the program. As we begin a new school year, we look forward to the component that supports all we do as an educational community - a strong parent partnership.

Let's put the 2008 - 2009 school year in the history book as the best ever!

### Giant A+ School Rewards

J. Henry Cochran will once again participate in Giant's A+ Rewards Program. Our participation allows community members to earn CASH for our school each time you shop at any GIANT store using your BONUSCARD. Even though we participated in the program last year, **re-designation is required for all BONUSCARD holders.** For more information, go to [www.giantaplus.com](http://www.giantaplus.com). **NOTE: Cochran earned over \$900 dollars last year through its participation in this program. Our School # is 00632!**

### Right On Target:

J. Henry Cochran welcomes Target to Williamsport and invites our community members to help us take advantage of their **Take Charge of Education** program. Check it out at [Target.com](http://Target.com) under the "Community" link. Our school code is 91761.

### Nondiscrimination Policy

The Williamsport Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990.

For more information regarding civil rights, grievance procedures, or services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped individuals, contact: Debbra J. Savage, Esq., Director of Human Resources, Williamsport Area School District, 201 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, telephone number (570) 327-5500 extension 3541.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The Williamsport Area School District **does not** provide medical or dental accident insurance for school related student accidents except for athletic programs.

Both "School Time" and "24-Hour" insurances are available for students in grades K-12 through American Management Advisors, Inc.. The premium for "School Time" coverage is \$28.00 for the school year. The "24 Hour" coverage carries a premium of \$124.00 for a full year (365 days). Acci-Dental Insurance is available at \$8.50 if purchased with the "School Time" or "24 -Hour" plan.

**Applications may be obtained at all school offices.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Afternoon announcements will begin at 3:20, walkers will be dismissed at 3:25, and car riders and bus riders will be dismissed at 3:30.**

**MEDICATION POLICY**

Mrs. Diane Demott-Thompson  
School Nurse

**Please do not send these items to school.**

Due to interpretation of the Nurse Practice Act by the Pennsylvania Sate Board of Nursing, over-the-counter non-prescription medication will not be administered in school unless specifically ordered by your child's doctor. This includes items such as Advil, cough syrups, cough drops, herbal supplements, alternative remedies, throat sprays, etc.

The school physician has instituted certain protocols for giving acetaminophen, Tums and applying calamine lotion. Unless certain conditions are met for administering these items and parents have given written permission for their administration, acetaminophen, Tums and Calamine will not be offered to students. As in the past, the school will continue to require a written doctor's order for the administration of all prescription medication to be given during the school day.



**HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT**

Attached is a cycle day (Days 1-5) calendar for August and September with days listed. If school is canceled due to inclement weather, please go to the next cycle day as follows.

**\*INFORMATION FROM THE CAFETERIA\***

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Welcome back to a new school year. Please review the new lunch menus with your child. There are several different choices each day to choose.

Fill out and return the free & reduced lunch application as soon as possible. Please remember also, that until your child (children) is approved for free/reduced meals, you are responsible for sending in money to pay for your child's meals.

Please call 322-1854 if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Cochran Cafeteria

Breakfast & lunch are available daily. On 2-hour delays – no breakfast will be served.

Costs: Payer, breakfast \$1.00/lunch \$1.80  
Reduced, breakfast .30/lunch .40  
Milk - .45

**"YOU CANNOT CHARGE MILK"**

You can charge lunch for three (3) days. Then you will receive a peanut-butter platter.  
"PLEASE DON'T TAKE CAF-CARDS HOME"

Please put your child's first and last name on his/her money envelope and send to the cafeteria in the morning. We accept cash, checks and money orders. We can send a receipt if you need one. You can bring money to the cafeteria if you choose. Your child's lunch account is similar to a debit account. You can put any amount of money you choose into his/her account. When your child purchases a meal or milk and presents his/her caf-card to the cashier, the account will show activity.



**COCHRAN CALENDAR**

**P**LEASE POST THE CALENDAR ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER AT A LOCATION THAT IS CONVENIENT FOR YOU, SUCH AS YOUR REFRIGERATOR, IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND DAYS THAT SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION.

**Each newsletter will have a monthly calendar marked with important dates.**

**OPEN HOUSE**

Our annual Open House gives all parents a chance to meet staff, hear from their child's teacher about this year's expectations, and visit the classroom. Open House is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2008 from 6:00-7:30 PM.

**STUDENT PICTURE DAY**

The student picture day has been scheduled for October 9, 2008. Please make sure that the picture form is completed and money is sent to the teacher for that day.

**Promoting Healthy Lifestyles!**

## DRESS CODE

Guidelines have been established for a warm weather dress code. Short shorts or tight shorts are not permitted. A guide to measuring shorts length is to hold your arm straight down and wear your shorts no shorter than your fingertips.

Tank tops, halter-tops and muscle shirts are prohibited. Sandals should not be worn because of potential injury in school and on the playground. A parent will be notified in the case of a dress code violation.

All pants worn by boys will need to be at their waists. Please provide your child with a belt or the school will provide one. Thank you for your help and support.

## COCHRAN IS IN THE ZONE

Learn more about Cochran's commitment to the Keystone Healthy Zone Schools Program by attending our KHZ Kick Off on Thursday, September 25th beginning at 7 PM.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

Students are **NOT** to come to school before 8:45 AM unless they are breakfast students. Students who eat breakfast at school cannot enter the school before 8:15 AM. Please do **NOT** drop off your child in the morning any earlier than necessary as supervision is **NOT** provided until 8:45 AM. Students must be picked up promptly after they are dismissed at 3:30 PM. If you are in need of child care or "Latchkey" services before or after school hours, this can be arranged through YMCA Child Care Services which operates a program at Cochran. For more information, call 323-7134.



## YMCA CHILD CARE SERVICES

Kathie Saar is the sight coordinator at Cochran's YMCA Child Care Services before and after school program. Parents interested in this service may contact the child care office at 323-7134. This service provides supervision before and after school.



## REVIEW OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The cooperation of our students is a vital aspect of a positive learning experience. One of the reasons they are cooperative is that our expectations are clearly explained to every child from the first day of school. A copy of the Cochran Handbook will be sent to you. Please read it, become familiar with our expectations, and discuss them with your child. Please sign and return the last page of the handbook. This document will come home during the first week of school.

## WATCHA GOT???

Hopefully, you have received the following information via your child in his/her Cochran folder:

Lunch Calendar  
Emergency Cards (2)\*  
Free/Reduced Lunch Application\*  
Tylenol/Tums Card\*

If you did not receive any of these items, please contact us at 322-9731. **Items marked with \* should be returned as soon as possible.**

## REMINDERS....

Whenever a student has a change of address, phone, emergency numbers, or other important information, the school should be notified immediately. This notification can be in writing or by telephone. The information is extremely important for our records.



## "FAMILY" EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips during scheduled school days must be approved in advance by the principal. There is a form provided for this purpose available in the office. **Approval should be requested one week in advance in order for your child to get assignments.** Please remember to have the form filled out and returned to the school in order to have the absences legally excused. The total number of days is not to exceed 10 days per year in order to participate in educational trips.



## **Y.E.S. Coupon Requirements**

**Our Expectation...J. Henry Cochran students will be respectful, responsible, and reasonable individuals who will strive to function well in the school community.**

Please remember that students should initiate the behavior on their own accord.

The idea is to “catch” a student being a positive, helpful, caring example to others without the student knowing.

This program is designed to promote responsible, compassionate citizens in our school.

The focus is on exceptional behavior.

### **TOP TEN REASONS TO GIVE A YES COUPON...**

A student displays **respect** by being polite and listening carefully while others are speaking.

A student displays **courtesy** by helping others and using polite language.

A student displays **responsibility** by making thoughtful, wise decisions.

A student displays **leadership** by keeping his/her group focused on their goal, taking initiative toward a positive goal and modeling good behavior, especially when attending assemblies, learning with a substitute teacher, and representing our building on field trips.

A student displays **honesty** by telling the truth and taking responsibility for his/her actions.

A student shows **compassion** by reaching out to help other students, especially those in need.

A student displays **caring** by being concerned about others well-being.

A student displays **kindness** by giving their time and efforts to help others.

A student displays **pride** by keeping the school environment clean and organized.

A student displays his/her **personal best** by learning from mistakes, trying harder when faced with adversity, and showing significant improvement in any area.

**WE NEED YOU! Please consider donating to the Y.E.S. Program!**



## **BUSING – WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

Ms. Brobst and I try to be positive and pro-active with bus behavior. We can achieve this by instilling in our children to REMAIN SEATED and TALK QUIETLY.

### **BUS SAFETY**

Riding the school bus is one of the many things that contribute to the excitement of starting school. Although riding a bus is fun, there are many things for the children to learn in order to assure a safe ride. While all students will receive bus safety instructions at school, parents are encouraged to review and discuss the following rules:

1. Obey the bus driver.
2. Remain seated.
3. Keep hands, head, feet and objects to oneself and inside the bus.
4. Speak quietly and use good language.
5. Sit in assigned seat
6. When crossing the street in front of the bus, walk ten steps in front of the bus so the driver can see you.

The assistance and support of parents is needed and appreciated to help our primary children learn about bus safety. We want to provide all children with a safe and happy ride to school. Students who do not follow the rules above may receive a written report to the principal and lose the privilege of riding the bus.

### **PARENT RESOURCE CENTER**

\*Do you have trouble motivating your child?

\*Does your child need to be more responsible?

\*Would you like new ideas on discipline?

\*Would you like to help your child be a better reader?

\*Do you need more information on ADHD?

\*Do you wonder how much you should help your child with homework?

Answers to these and many other parent/child/ school-related issues are available for free in the Parent Resource Center located in Cochran's library. Please stop by anytime during school hours. Remember to sign in at the office!

# J. Henry Cochran Elementary

## 2008-2009 Staff

\*Denotes new staff member

### Principal

Mr. David J .Michaels

### Assistant Principal

Ms. Michele L. Brobst

### Secretary

Mrs. Nel Stoudt

Mrs. Kim Cillo (AM)

### Kindergarten

Mrs. Lori Beiter

Ms. Michelle Bennett

Mrs. Julia Edler

Mrs. Vanessa Follmer\*

Mrs. Wendy Kelsey

### First

Mrs. Renee Bower

Mrs. Erin Brouse

Mrs. Peggy DiFrancesco

Mr. Rick Walker

### Second

Mrs. Michelle Boyles

Mrs. Barbara Davis

Miss Kristiann McQuown

Mrs. Sandra Ritter

### Third

Mrs. Barb Adair

Mrs. Erin Hamilton

Mr. Gary Michaels

Mrs. Ann Potter  
Mrs. Charisse Sick

### Fourth

Mr. Andrew Bennett

Mrs. Julie Campbell

Mrs. Deb Goff

Mrs. Carey Taddeo

### Fifth

Mr. Nicholas Kelley

Mrs. Barb Rizzo

Mrs. Amy Twist

### Special Education

Mrs. Michelle Bitner

Ms. Michelle Cappa\*

Mrs. Barbara Dalena

Mrs. Jeanne Goodell

Mrs. Patricia Jones

Ms. Kaya Loehr

Mr. Jeffrey Pelly\*

Mrs. Betsy Yost\*

### Counselor

TBA

### IST

Mr. Dennis Logan

### Reading

Mrs. Charlotte Allgeier

Mrs. Sondra Fisher

Mrs. Vanessa Follmer

Mrs. Anne Leshar

Dr. Shelley Litz

Mrs. Tracy Mitstifer

Mrs. Carey Taddeo

### ESL

Ms. Lydia Heiser\*

### Art

Mrs. Julie Hammond

Mr. Kevin Werner

### Music

Mrs. Beverly Schmidt  
Mrs. Natalie Grimes  
Mr. Kevin Henry  
Mr. Matthew Radspinner

### Physical Education

Mr. Keith Veldhuis

### Speech

Mrs. Linda Runnels

Mrs. Donna O'Brien

### Gifted

Mrs. Patricia Bower

Mrs. Kimberly Cassidy

### Primary

### Literacy Coordinator

Mrs. Wendy Kelsey

### Intermediate Literacy

### Coordinator

Mrs. Deb Goff

### Health Room Tech

Mrs. Karen Miller

### Aides

Mrs. Ilene Butler

Mrs. Deb Clark

Mrs. Carmen Fischer

Mrs. Jennifer Gray

Mrs. Tina Knipe

Mrs. Faith Lovell

Mrs. Gail Myers

Mrs. Linda Ross

Mrs. Kathie Saar

Ms. Amber Seasholtz

### Parent Coordinator

Mrs. Billie Hardy

### Custodians

Mr. John Springman (Head)

Mr. Tim Bodewes

Mr. Jerome Harer

Mr. Dan Phillips

### Cafeteria

Mrs. Kathy Dulaney (Director)

Mrs. Nancy Beamer

Mrs. Kathy Hess

Mrs. Sandra Johnson

**E-MAIL:** All professional employees and secretaries have been assigned Internet E-Mail accounts and have Internet E-Mail addresses. In order to contact an employee through Internet E-Mail, simply type in the first letter of their first name followed by their complete last name (no spaces). Then add "@wasd.org". The Williamsport Area School District Internet E-Mail address for a person with the name of Tony Jones would be as follows: tjones@wasd.org

## SAFETY FIRST



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Williamsport Area School District engages in an on-going review of the methods it uses to keep its students and schools safe. In doing so, we believe it is important to keep parents and guardians aware of our safety plans and the impact those plans may have on families and the community.

Some of the school safety measures we use may inconvenience you, and if so, we apologize for any difficulties these may cause. However, maintaining a safe environment for your child in the face of potential problems is our highest priority, and we take these actions only in order to ensure that safety.

Please know that we have developed our safety procedures in consultation with national experts on school safety, the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety, and local police agencies. Events have taught us that in some instances of concern it is possible to maintain most of the normal activities of the school day, providing a calm and uninterrupted day for children, while securing the buildings to potential outside risks. To do so, we must use what may be called a perimeter lock-down, which prevents anyone outside from entering and severely limits the opportunity for those inside to leave during this process. Such a procedure will only be used during the time of active concern about something happening in the community and will be lifted as soon as conditions return to normal. This action will, however, prevent anyone, even parents, from entering the building during the time it is in force. If it must be used, there is the potential for inconvenience to parents and others for the sake of our students' safety. Should such an action be necessary, we ask that you understand that our intent is to protect your child and that you remain patient until we can reinstitute normal access to the schools.

Thank you,

David J. Michaels



**About J. Henry Cochran**  
(The following article is to be featured in the August Edition of the Pennsylvania School Board Association's (PSBA) *Bulletin*.)

J. Henry Cochran Elementary School, situated in Williamsport's picturesque Vallamount neighborhood, was built in 1928 on a 9.85 acre plot of land. This land was donated by the family of state Senator J. Henry Cochran - a pioneer, lumberman, banker, and philanthropist. Shortly after the land acquisition, the School Board of the City of Williamsport began planning the construction of the original two-story building. When Cochran Elementary opened on August 24, 1928, it consisted of 16 classrooms, a large double room, and a kindergarten. A large Cochran shield, designed by architects Richter and Eller, was located at the front entrance of the school. The architectural firm also developed Cochran's design with future additions in mind.

The first addition to the original building was completed in 1951. At that time, the east-west corridor was expanded with the construction of another floor of classrooms, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. When renovations were completed, Cochran had grown from 16 to 32 classrooms in order to accommodate the city's growing population.

The most current addition is a 2000-01 project which includes a new library, computer lab, multi-purpose room with stage, cafeteria, large-group instruction area, music rooms, Internet capability, art room, and total handicapped accessibility to all floors. Many steps were taken to match the original architecture with the newest addition, including outside lighting.

Today, Cochran serves a diverse student population of approximately 530 students. Much like its namesake, J. Henry Cochran Elementary School has become a "trail blazer" in education. The school staff has committed to becoming the first in Pennsylvania to implement the Ohio State Literacy Collaborative framework at the primary and intermediate levels. Cochran has also been identified as a Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) Keystone Healthy Zone school for two consecutive years because of its commitment to the wellness of the entire school community.

# Connect with Cochran

- **Thursday, August 28th: Open House (6:00-7:30 PM);  
Teacher Presentations @ 6:15 and 7:00**
- **Friday, August 29th: Rock Wall Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (2:45 in the MPR)**
  - **Monday, September 8th: First CSA meeting (7:00 PM in Library)**
- **Thursday, September 11th: Odyssey of the Mind Meeting (7 PM in the LGI)**
  - **Friday, September 12th: Walk AT School (8:15 on our Playground)**
- **Wednesday, September 17th: Cochran Community Night @ Hoss's (4:30-8:00)**
  - **Friday, September 19th: CSA Walk-A-Thon (All Day)**
- **Thursday, September 26th: Keystone Healthy Zone Kickoff (7 PM in the MPR)**