

The Lycoming Valley Middle School



Report Cards

We intend to send Quarter I report cards home with students Friday, November 10. Please sign the parent signature card (yellow card) and return it to school on Monday, November 13 with your child. If you have questions concerning grades, please contact the teacher as soon as possible at 494-1700. Teachers will return calls at their earliest convenience. All teachers have voice mail therefore you may leave a message for them at any time during the school day.

The PTO Needs Your Help

The membership drive is the main source of income for the PTO. The goal for the drive was 200 members. We need 10 additional members to join the PTO to meet our goal. If you would like to join the PTO, please send \$5 per person to the school office in an envelope marked with your child's name, homebase and PTO membership. *Please join the PTO now and help to sponsor activities that benefit your child.*

Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day is scheduled for next Friday, November 10, 2006. If you are not satisfied with your child's package, please return it to school immediately so we can schedule your child for a retake on November 10. There were orange facial coloration problems with some student photos. If you are dissatisfied, please return the package to school and it will be reprinted by the photography studio. If your child was not photographed on October 4, he or she will be photographed on retake day. If you wish to purchase a picture package, please return the envelope which was given to your child by the office. *The envelope should be brought to school on November 10 and checks should be made payable to WS Photography.*

Calendar Change

In-Service Day Scheduled

November 22nd has been scheduled as a Teacher In-Service Day.

There is NO SCHOOL for students!

Attendance: A Key to Success

Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.



Your child's success in school depends on the student obtaining a solid educational background, one that can only be gained through regular school attendance. Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on state tests. Studies also show that kids who are absent more often score lower on state tests. Children can copy notes or make up assignments, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher, and the thinking that makes learning come alive. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Here are some suggestions for improving your child's school attendance:

- ✓ Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.
- ✓ Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours if possible.
- ✓ Help your children stay healthy by encouraging them to eat healthy foods, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly.
- ✓ Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school when they are not truly ill.
- ✓ Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.

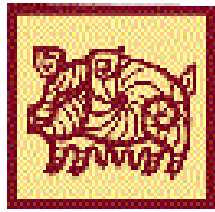
Grade 8 Writing Project

Eighth grade students recently completed their informational essays, which count for credit in both Language Arts and PA Studies. Students were instructed in both content and the five-paragraph essay format as they prepared these writing pieces. Samples of current event topics that students chose were bird flu, illegal immigration, food-borne illnesses, gang violence, legalized gambling, terrorism, alternate fuel sources, space junk, global warming, and 9/11 commemorative activities. Teachers who worked with the students were Mrs. Cioffi, Mr. Gossner, Mrs. Hamm, Mr. Heller, Miss Skipper, and Mrs. Steele.

School Delays and Closings

School closings and delayed openings are determined out of concern for student welfare. You should refer to the local television and radio stations for the latest information. A list of radio and television stations on which the district posts announcements is included in the back of the *ECHO*. Most begin broadcasting cancellations or delays at 5:30 A.M. You should already be making prior arrangements for your child should an early dismissal occur during the school day and making sure that your child knows these plans. Early dismissals will be announced over the radio and television well in advance of dismissal so ***please refrain from calling the school.***

New Additions to the Art Department



Mrs. Mapstone is pleased to announce the arrival of a life sized, fiberglass pig to the art room. David Linn of Williamsport has generously sponsored the hog for Mrs. Mapstone and her students to paint and be auctioned off in support of the children's wing of the James V. Brown library downtown. So far we have many good suggestions for painting the pig. When it is decided what kind of design will be used, students will participate in the painting process. Mr. Hensler and his eighth grade classes are busily sanding the animal to prepare it for the primer coat which will be applied by an automobile body shop willing to donate this service.

Another noteworthy addition to the arts area would be the five pottery wheels for the 8th grade. When we are not blowing fuses, we are throwing pots (on the wheels, of course). The 8th grade art students have created beautiful coil pots and now they can practice the art of throwing on the wheel as well. Thursday, October 26th and Friday, October 27th, a special guest demonstrated the art of the pottery wheel. Max Ameigh, a professional 'potter' and instructor at Penn College also showed his own work to the 8th grade students.



Ski Club to Take to the Slopes

An exciting part of our annual winter activities at Lycoming Valley Middle School is the Ski Club. We will be traveling to *Ski Sawmill* on January 8, 22, 29, and February 5, all Monday evenings in January and February. Makeup dates for cancellations will be February 12 and 19. We will depart Lycoming Valley on Susquehanna Trailways charter buses each date listed above at 3:30 P.M. and return promptly at 10:00 P.M. each evening. We will have faculty members as well as Mr. Williams serving as chaperones. Lessons are available for beginning skiers and snowboarders. There was a meeting held during school on Thursday, November 2 and information packets were distributed to interested students. There will be different packages available that include lift, equipment, lessons, and transportation, and/or a package that just includes lift and transportation if your child owns his or her equipment. **ALL SNOWBOARDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A HELMET.** The available places on the bus will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis so get your forms with payment to Mr. Williams as soon as possible. There was a \$2 increase from last year due to the cost of charter busing.

Counselor Corner

As you know, the end of the marking period was November 3rd with report cards coming home November 10. In light of what may or may not be on the report card, there are a few items for parents to keep in mind for the rest of the school year.

1. If you do not see the agenda book, make sure your child is bringing it home each evening. An agenda is issued for every student at Lycoming Valley. Your child should be making sure he or she uses this agenda every day for writing down assignments. This is a way for you to double-check that your child is completing their assignments and studying for tests or quizzes. Also, on occasion, some teachers will use the agenda as a means of communication with you, the parent.
2. Remember that Interim Progress Reports are issued halfway through the marking period. These are sent in the mail and will give you an indication of your child's academic progress to date.
3. Your child's teachers can meet with you during school hours if you would desire. If you would like schedule an appointment with your child's teacher(s), you may call 494 – 1700 and ask for your child's counselor. For students' last names beginning with A-K, please contact Miss Christine

Hanna and for students whose last names begin with L-Z, please contact Miss Kate Skipper.

If there are any other concerns regarding your child, please feel free to give either one of the counselors a call at the above listed number.



"Heelies" Footwear

Some of our Lycoming Valley students are wearing "Heelie" footwear to school. This footwear is basically sneakers with wheels in the heel of the shoe. For basic safety concerns relating to all students, faculty, and staff, students are not permitted to put the wheels down while at school and slide on the shoe. Students are allowed to wear the shoes; however they may not use the wheel option on the shoe while at school or on the buses. If we continue to have problems with students taking inappropriate advantage of this issue, we will re-evaluate the permission to wear them.



The Williamsport Area School District does not discriminate in employment or education programs, services, or activities based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, marital status, or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities, in accordance with State and Federal laws, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990. Inquiries should be directed to:

Mrs. Debra Savage, Esquire
Director of Personnel
Williamsport Area School District
201 West Third St.
Williamsport, PA 17701 1-570-327-5500

Lycoming Valley Talent Show

Last year we had a record attendance at our spaghetti dinner due in part to the student talent show that was held during the dinner. We had a great response in 2004 when we held our first talent show but the response last year was overwhelming. So once again, we are inviting students to sign up and audition to be considered for participation in the second spaghetti dinner talent show that will be held between the hours of 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on February 9, 2007. We will be inviting students to do solo acts or perform in groups and any type of talent will be considered. Signup for auditions will be held the week of December 11-15 in the main office and auditions will be held in January. In order to be in the audience for the talent show, you would need to purchase a ticket to the spaghetti dinner.

Each year, the faculty and staff of Lycoming Valley host the annual spaghetti dinner in order to benefit many local organizations. Last year donations were given to the James V. Brown Library, the Old Lycoming, Trout Run, and Hepburn Township Volunteer Fire Companies and the American Red Cross. Additionally the faculty sponsors a \$250 award each year at the Williamsport Area High School Commencement that is awarded to a former Lycoming Valley student. Funds were also used to purchase items that directly benefited our students at Lycoming Valley. *Please watch the December ECHO for more details.*



Please Help Us

If you shop at Giant Food Stores, you can help the Lycoming Valley HI-R-TRAC program by simply filling out a simple form, either on-line or a paper form. We are participating in the *Giant A Plus Rewards* program. Every time parents use their Giant Bonuscard, Lycoming Valley earns cash that can be used for our HI-R-TRAC program. Last year our school had nearly 100 participants and earned over \$900. Currently only 30 parents have re-registered for this year's program. You can register online or at the Customer Service Center of any participating Giant Store. If you plan on registering at the store, please fill out the form that is attached to this edition of the *ECHO* and take it to the store service center. ***Remember, if you registered last year, you must re-register in order to help us this year.*** Please encourage your friends and families who shop at Giant to help us by registering for Lycoming Valley Middle School. And remember to keep saving the ***Boxtops for Education*** and sending them to school. You most likely throw many Boxtops away each week and each time you are throwing away a dime for your school.



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