

Jottings From Jackson

AUG./SEPT. 2008

A Message from the Principals... Welcome to a New School Year!

As we begin our school year, we are going to be talking with the students about being good citizens and about this great country of ours.

We expect the students to be excellent Jackson citizens. We begin the school year by talking about our school rules so the students know what we are looking for as far as their behavior is concerned. You can help us by reviewing the Jackson School handbook that can be found in the first day folder. Please make it clear to your child that you expect him/her to follow our rules. In doing so, you will lay the foundation for helping your child be a great Jackson citizen.

On Friday, September 19, 2008 we will be celebrating Constitution Day. During the month of September, we will be talking about all the states that make our UNITED States great.

As part of our celebration, we will be collecting quarters, preferably eagle quarters to benefit the maintenance of the huge flag that flies over the entrance of Penn College. Please be generous with your eagle quarters. We will collect them September 8th - 19th and present them to a special guest at our Constitution Day assembly on Friday, September 19th.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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OFFICE PERSONNEL

MRS. ESHELMAN-
PRINCIPAL

MR. POOLE- ASSIS-
TANT PRINCIPAL

MRS. BOLAND-
COUNSELOR

MR. RUNNELS-
INSTRUCTIONAL

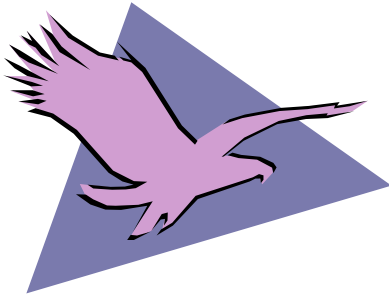
SUPPORT

MRS. CORTER &

MRS. ZAPOLA-
SECRETARIES

MRS. GRIECO- NURSE

MRS. GARDNER-
HEALTH ROOM TECH



We are very excited to start our sixteenth year at the “new” Jackson School. We want you to join us as we help all students SOAR!

ARRIVAL

Classes begin at 8:45 A.M. For those students who walk to school or are dropped off by their parents, we ask that they arrive at school no earlier than 8:30 A.M. when the first bell rings. Adult supervision does not begin until that time.

Handbook

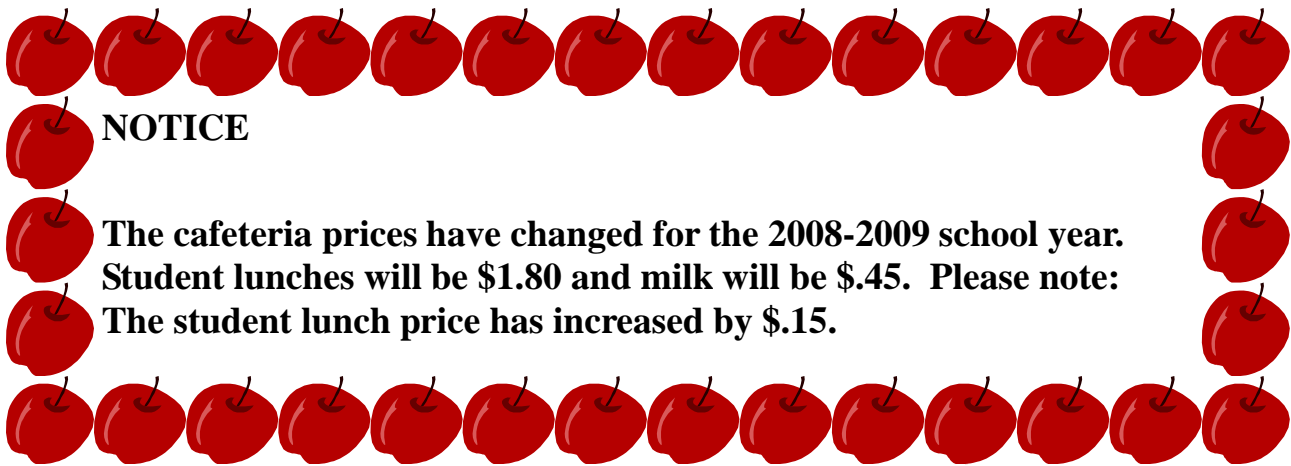
Included in the first day folder, you will receive a Jackson handbook. It is your responsibility to review this information with your child. Then, after reviewing it, please sign the Compact (in the back on yellow), have your child sign it, and return it to school as soon as possible. Working together to help the children understand the guidelines and rules of the school, we will be molding responsible future citizens.



DAYS 1—5

Again this school year on our monthly calendars, you will note that the days are numbered one through five. Then, that pattern is repeated. You will be able to tell what special class your child will have that day by watching the calendar. (The teachers have included that information in the first day folder.) This practice was instituted because we tend to miss a lot of Mondays and Fridays due to holidays and teacher in-services. By numbering the days, students won’t miss special classes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.





NOTICE

The cafeteria prices have changed for the 2008-2009 school year. Student lunches will be \$1.80 and milk will be \$.45. Please note: The student lunch price has increased by \$.15.

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 he/she can contact; help coaches fill out necessary paperwork and provide training; suggest children for a team of 5 to 7 students; and 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.

DISTRICT WEAPON POLICY

Pennsylvania legislation and the Pennsylvania School Code require that specific actions be taken if a student brings a weapon to school, to a school-sponsored activity, or onto any vehicle transporting students to school or a school-sponsored activity. Possession or use of a weapon in these settings requires that the student be suspended and then expelled unless the Superintendent recommends to the Board a modification of the expulsion requirement. Toy and look-alike weapons are considered weapons under these rules.

Safety First....A message to 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. As we do 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 we 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



UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

If you want the most up-to-date information, please visit the Jackson web site @ www.wasd.org and click on our school link.

Non-Discrimination 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 or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civic Rights Act of 1964, Title IX Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped individuals contact:

Debra J. Savage, Esq.
Director of Human Resources
Williamsport Area School District
201 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 327-5500, 3590
dsavage@wasd.org

JESA-PTO NEWS

What is JESA-PTO?-

Jackson Elementary School Association Parent/Teacher Organization

What do we do?-

We are a group of caring parents/guardians who work together with the staff to make Jackson School a fun and interesting place to learn. We provide treats for parties (and other events), sponsor class field trips, have two fundraisers, help with class pictures, sponsor a 5th grade trip and party, the end-of-year game day, and provide a patrol breakfast...just to name a few.

Who are we? Here are the 2008-2009 Board Members:

President - Sue Stopper Vice President - Shawna Bartholomew
Recording Secretary - Lori Glant Corresponding Secretary - Tricia Howard
Treasurer - Shelly Gehr

Here are the Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Grade Parent - Heather Umstead Membership - Dianne Laver
Fundraising - Bobbi Jo Staver By-Laws & Legislation - Donna Rudio

When does the JESA-PTO Board meet? - The second Thursday of each month.

How can you support our school?

It's very easy...For a small fee of \$3.00 (\$5.00 for 2 people) you can become a voting member on some JESA-PTO issues, become a grade parent, or help out in many other ways. *Please note: You must be a PTO member of Jackson School for the current school year to help with school functions or to be a grade parent. The class with the most memberships will receive a party. The deadline for joining the PTO and participating in activities is September 19, 2008.*

What's happening in September? (Mark your calendars).

September 9-10 - Fundraiser money/orders due
September 11 - September Board Meeting at 2:00
September 19 - Last day to submit PTO dues
September 22-25 - Book Fair

SPECIAL NOTE: The Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser information is contained in the First Day Folder. Please help Jackson School by participating in the fundraiser.

We are still collecting Box Tops for Education. A drop off container is available in the office. Please be sure to return the Box Tops that you collected all summer!

The PTO Board would like to thank all parents who were involved last year. Getting involved with the school is very helpful for your child. Let's work together to make this year "SOAR" with parental involvement.

BIRTHDAYS

We understand that elementary-age students love to celebrate their birthdays; however, the celebrations at school need to be very limited. Due to our district's new wellness policy, which limits snacks at school, it is necessary for us to change the way we celebrate birthdays at Jackson. Beginning this year, students who wish to bring a treat to school for their birthdays must abide by the following guidelines:

- 1). The teacher must be notified in advance.
- 2). The treats must be small, wrapped store-bought items.
- 3). Healthy snacks such as granola bars, pretzels, etc. are encouraged.
- 4). No peanut or peanut butter products may be brought to school.
- 5). The following dates will be designed as birthday treat days for the 2008-2009 school year for students who have birthdays in that specific month –

August 29

January 30

September 25

February 27

October 31

March 27

November 26

April 30

December 19

May 29

June 1 (for June & July birthdays)

Students are not permitted to bring birthday party invitations to school to distribute.



September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Aug. 24	Aug. 25 No School	Aug. 26 First Day of School Fundraiser Begins Day 1	Aug. 27 ← Return Day 2	Aug. 28 First Day Folders Day 3	Aug. 29 Day 4	Aug. 30
Aug. 31	1 No School Labor Day	2 Day 5	3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 3	6
7 Eagle Quarter Collection September 8th—19th	8 Day 4	9 Fundraiser Money & Orders Due Day 5	10 Day 1	11 PTO Board Meeting 2:00 Day 2	12 Pep Rally 2:00 Day 3	13
14 Eagle Quarter Collection September 8th—19th	15 Day 4	16 Day 5	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19 Constitution Day Assembly 2:00 Day 3	20
21	22 ← BOOK FAIR Day 4	23 Day 5	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26 No School In-Service Day	27
28	29	30				