

**WESTSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER MESSENGER**

2009

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 31	STUDENTS BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 2	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 6:00 PM.
SEPTEMBER 7	SCHOOL CLOSED LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 8	SCHOOL REOPENS 8:30 PM.
SEPTEMBER 11	KICK OFF SCHOOL FUNDRAISER
SEPTEMBER 14	FUNDRAISER BEGINS

COMING IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2	FUNDRAISER ENDS
OCTOBER 5	PTA WESTSIDE PRIMARY 6:00 PM
OCTOBER 7-8	GRADE 5 BEYOND THE LIMITS
OCTOBER 16	SCHOOLS CLOSED MSTTA CONVENTION
OCTOBER 19	PROFESSIONAL DAY FOR TEACHERS
OCTOBER 27-29	GRADE 5 BEYOND THE LIMITS



Dear Parents,

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome! We are so excited to have all our new families as well as our returning families back from a wonderful summer break. Our building is looking new again with shiny floors and clean carpets, desks and chairs. The service crew has worked hard all summer to get our school looking great for all of you. We are continuing many of our programs with a few tweaks and introducing new strategies for reading, science and social studies. Our staff will be continuing with professional learning communities that will enhance the rigor of instruction and increase the knowledge of **all** students. Our theme this year is "Go the Distance" to help each child meet with success and keep our test scores high and meet AYP subgroups. We are extremely happy that our 2008-2009 MSA scores are among the top in the county in reading and math. We continue to strive for 100% in all areas of academics. We welcome new staff members this year: Mr. Chris McLaughlin, grade 4. Mr. McLaughlin will take Mr. Ireton's afternoon classes. Mrs. Denise B. Cathell, replacing Mrs. Amy Hudson, who will be moving to Delmar Elementary as a Title One teacher of math. Mr. Scott Taylor, will take over for Mrs. Carole Marine who retired at the close of last school year. Mr. Taylor joins us from Delmar Elementary where he has taught PE for the last several years. Mrs. Ann Walter will join us as a resource assistant coming from Parkside High School. We are blessed and very fortunate to have a great team of dedicated staff who want only the best for ALL students and will go above and beyond to meet the needs of our children.

In this messenger you will find the following information: a NEW PERSONAL DATA AND EMERGENCY FORM, school insurance, school lunch menu, student pick-up form, bus information, pest management, assessment calendar, and our PBIS brochure. Please return the data form, media release and student pick-up back to the school as soon as possible.

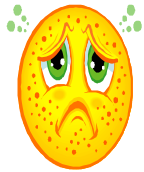
We look forward to working with all of you this school year. Your child/ren's education is important to us and we want to challenge, engage, encourage, nurture, and love them. We have their best interest in mind. The administration's office doors are always open to you and we want to hear from you. Thank you to those of you who filled out the survey at the end of the school year. We have read them all and tried to make changes where suggested. We believe we have worked diligently to place your child in the proper educational setting. We ask that you give the teachers a chance to work with your child/ren before asking for them to have a different placement. Please join our many activities, PTA meetings and functions, American Education Week, Grandparent's Day, field day, and yes, fundraising help. We are always looking for volunteers to work with our teachers and children in any way to ensure a positive community school. We commit our efforts to give our best to see that "No Child Is Left Behind" at Westside Intermediate, the "Happy School".

The Administration



NEW PERSONAL DATA SHEETS

If there are no changes since you completed the form last year or just recently, please write **SAME** in **red ink** at the top of the form, **sign the back**, and return to school. **If any information has changed, please complete the appropriate areas of the form in red, sign the back, and return to school.** Your child's safety is our concern, and this information is extremely important. Please make sure that there are **three local emergency contacts** filled in on the back. Return these forms as soon as possible so that we may update the information in our computers.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance is extremely important. The staff at Westside Intermediate is very proud of our 95% overall attendance, but it could be even better. When your child is home not feeling well or sick, when he/she returns to school we ask they return with an absent note (**the day they return**). This will assist us in keeping accurate records of excused and unexcused absences. If your child is absent for more than three days we need a doctor's note to accompany them when returning. If you need or wish to pick up your child's homework, **please call school by 9:00 a.m.** the morning you would like it and we will have it ready in the school office by the close of school the same day. Mrs. Allison Smith, our Home School Liaison, will be keeping close eyes on all our students making sure they are here on time each day. Feel free to contact her in our school office if there is a concern or if your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time. Please keep in mind that **CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:00 a.m. AND INSTRUCTION ENDS AT 3:25 p.m.** In order for your child to be successful, they need to be in school on time each and every day! **Please try and plan vacations when children are already out for breaks so that instruction is not missed.** Missed instruction means breaks in learning. Help us help your child be successful. The school lobby will be open at **8:00 a.m.** if students need to be dropped off early. No one will be on duty prior to that time.



HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of your child's daily reinforcement. Each night your child should have spelling, math and sometimes reading, language, social studies or science. Check your child's **agenda nightly** to see what the assigned homework might be and, most importantly check over with your child when completed. Discuss with your child what they are studying in math, social studies, or science. Ask them what stories they are reading and check with them about the Accelerated Reader program.

The more questions you ask the more information your child will share. Most important make sure the **homework is returned** and not left on the kitchen table. The student agenda is a great way to communicate between home and school. If your child loses their agenda, please notify the school counselor, Mr. Taylor. Thanks for helping your child be a winner. Many teachers also post homework or upcoming projects on their web page or wiki space.



SCHOOL REMINDERS

- 1.) All visitors, and parents **MUST** sign in the office when entering the building and receive a visitor's pass.
- 2.) When going on vacation please inform your child's teacher and the school office with a note.
- 3.) If any information changes throughout the year please notify the school office as soon as possible.
- 4.) The communication device "**Parent Link**" is being used again this year. A call will be made from the central office or the school office when something of importance needs to be sent to our parents. When you receive the call there will be a wait time, please listen to the message before calling the school.



CAR RIDERS

If you would like for your child/ren to be car riders every day or just a few days a week, please fill out the information in this packet and return to school as soon as possible. The students will come out the doors by the circular parking lot and you may pick them up there. We found last year that this worked very well. The administration ,Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Allen, will be on duty to assist you. It will take us a few days to learn cars, but it usually takes about 15 minutes for all students to be picked up. Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school office, 410-677-5118.



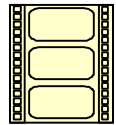
SCHOOL FUND-RAISER

Again this year our school will be selling the **Gourmet Cinnamon Roll**. These were a huge hit year before last and are very reasonably priced at \$4.00 a roll. Our school will receive half the profit. All monies collected will go to classroom libraries, materials of instruction for teachers and we'd like to purchase additional technology bundles. These bundles cost about **\$5000.00 each**. Anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated. If you do not wish for your child to participate in the selling of the product and wish to send in a donation this would be greatly appreciated as well. Every little bit helps. Look for information on prizes for the winners coming home later.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for parent volunteers to assist in classrooms working with small groups or individual students in the areas of reading and math, special events at the school, and PTA, this year. Mrs. Kim Moreno will be the Volunteer Coordinator this year at the Intermediate School. I'm sure she will be calling to look for volunteers to help with our special events. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to assist. If you would like to be a parent volunteer you can email Mrs. Kim Moreno at ktmereno05@hotmail.com or call her at 410-548-9564. She will be waiting to hear from you!



YEARBOOKS

We will be selling yearbooks again this year at Westside. Look for information at our Back to School Night and information will be coming home in Friday folders. The cost will be \$21.20 from the beginning of the school year through December 22nd. After Dec. 22nd the cost will be \$23.32. These prices include tax. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have your child have a lifetime of photos from their elementary years.

WHAT'S NEW IN GRADE 2?

Meet "PAINT" (Promoting Arts Integration Now Team). Our grade 2 teachers will embark on integrating the arts (art, music, drama, and dance) into the second grade curriculum. The vision for grade 2: **"To create multi-faced learners that are actively engaged in the VSC (voluntary state curriculum) and arts curriculum."** The teachers are looking for parents, family members, and neighbors who are creative in the arts to come in and assist during these fun days. Materials such as but not limited to; yarn, ribbon, buttons, and scraps of material are also needed. Come out on Sept. 2, Back to School Night and find out more.

