

**SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER
WILSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

FUNDRAISER KICK-OFF!!

This year's annual all-building fundraiser kicked-off on August 26. We will again be working with Norma Mefford and Mr Z's. In addition to selling the regular candies, cheese and sausage, ornaments, toys, wrapping paper, candles, and magazines... we will also be selling **frozen pizzas, garlic bread, and desserts**. The staff sampled these frozen products and loved them! The sale ends on September 12 and products will be delivered on October 18. This fundraiser will be different than the ones in the past; *we are asking for your child to turn in the money with his/her order form on September 12.* We encourage students to sell to their friends and families; we highly *discourage* door-to-door selling.

Any student who sells at least one item will receive a prize. In addition, the top three classrooms in participation will receive pizza parties. Our goal is to raise more than we did last year, when Wilson made over \$19,000 profit. Earnings from this year's fundraiser will help purchase books and classroom materials that will assist our school-wide goal of improving reading achievement. All money raised will benefit the students in some capacity!

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

Monday, September 5: Labor Day (no school)
Tuesday, September 6: Start of regular dismissal (2:40)
Monday, September 12: Fundraiser money and order forms due
Friday, September 16: School Improvement Day (11:15 dismissal)

MUSIC NOTES

All music classes will start the year with a quick review of some basic music information. During the first couple of weeks, 4th graders will receive information about recorders and 5th and 6th graders will have the opportunity to join our Wilson Choir. Look for more information coming home soon.

I am looking forward to an exciting fall here at Wilson! If you have any questions or concerns for me, please feel free to call the school or send an email. My information is listed below...

Mrs. Damotte
477-4722 Ext. 2214
jdamoto@pekin.net

REPORTING ABSENCES

Attendance is the single most important factor in school success. 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. Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Having said that, we also realize there are reasons your child may miss school (illness, emergencies, etc.). Whenever a student is absent from school, state law and student safety requires a parent contact. When your child is absent we ask that you call the school at 477-4722 to let us know. We need your child's name, his/her teacher, and the reason for the absence. Please leave a message on our answering machine if nobody answers the phone.

If you are unable to call the day of your child's absence, please send a note with him/her to give to the office upon return to school. Failure to do so will result in a letter from our office inquiring about your child's absence. If we do not receive an explanation from you, your child will be considered truant.

If your child is truant, you will receive 2 written warnings. Upon the third truancy, in compliance with District 108 policy and city ordinance, you will receive a fine (ranging from, \$75-\$750) from the Pekin Police Department. We hope to avoid this; we are just asking for your help in communicating absences.

WHO IS THAT?

We would like to welcome the following new faces to Wilson Intermediate School:

- **Terry Funk** is a Personal Assistant in Sherry Harding's room.
- **Deanna Goodin** is a Title I Assistant.
- **Danielle McMaster** is substituting for Kristy Karmenzind's 4th grade classroom while she is on maternity leave.
- **Dawn Najpaver** is a Personal Assistant in Carrie Cumming's room.
- **Inga Schaich** is a Classroom Assistant in Jackie Gray's room.
- **Sue Werner** is Wilson's Learning Consultant, and she will split time between Wilson, Washington, and Edison.
- **Stacey Whitney** is a Literacy Leader, and she will split time between Washington and Wilson.

GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS AND CAMPBELL LABELS

We are asking students to save box tops from participating General Mills cereals, snacks, Betty Crocker fruit snacks, Yoplait yogurt multipacks, Yoplait Go-Gurt, Lloyd's Barbeque Buckets and General Mills Foodservice products. We will also be collecting Campbell Soup labels. We were able to purchase additional books for our students by collecting these items and sending them in. Thank you.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Parents, Wilson School needs your help. For the safety of students please do not park and leave your car in the drop-off and pick-up lane. This creates a traffic problem and we don't want students unloading and loading from the inner traffic lane. Please remember during the drop-off and pick-up times cars are not to be making left turns out of the circle drive. There is a sign posting this request. With everyone's help, we can make student drop-off and pick-up a quick, pleasant and safe experience for all.

By placing cones in the circle drive, we have narrowed traffic to one lane. While this may result in a slightly increased wait for you, we feel that it is much safer for the students. Staff members who you see outside will try to have vehicles pull up as far as they can, thus speeding up the process. Thank you for your flexibility and cooperation.

FROM THE SCHOOL AT-RISK COUNSELOR (Mrs. Kaufman)

Listed below are some tips 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.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class and being tardy.
- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.
- Lead by example. If children see parents taking off work for no real reason, they may expect to be able to do the same.

SCORE COUNCIL POINTS

SCORE Council was created to involve students in school, community, and student body activities. Last year's SCORE Council members set high standards for this program at Wilson Intermediate School. SCORE Council members will be representatives of the student body who promote academic integrity, behavior promoting the SCORE Code, and community involvement. Elections for Term I will be held on October 4th. More information and applications will be given out in early September. We are looking forward to another successful year of SCORE Council!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Mr. Burks)

Welcome back! It is always exciting to begin a new school year. Hopefully the weather won't be so hot that we can enjoy the days outside. We begin our year in physical education by reviewing a few playground games such as four square, knockout, team twenty-one and others. Then we will spend most of the month of September in a flag football unit. We'll play several games including take out the trash, capture the flag, and five passes. Depending on the weather, we may spend one week running the mile run for the physical fitness test. I'm looking forward to going outside with the students and getting the year off to a great start.

ARTIFACTS (Mr. Laux)

Hi all and welcome back. I feel refreshed and excited to get back to business. I hope that you all share my enthusiasm this year. Please be reminded that students should have a box or bag to carry supplies (glue, crayons, pencils, markers, and scissors) to and from art Class. I also recommend keeping a button down over shirt in students' lockers for art day.

I would like to encourage you all to visit The Peoria Art Guild's 43rd Annual Fine Art Fair. It will be on the Peoria riverfront September 24 and 25 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (admission is FREE for anyone under 16 and \$5 for adults). There will be visiting artists from all over the country, food, and fun activities. The art guild also offers week end and evening classes. Find out more at www.peoriaartguild.org.

BUS RULES

To ensure their own safety and that of others, students must obey the following regulations:

1. Cooperate with the bus driver.
2. Do not use obscene and unacceptable language, gestures, remarks or signs.
3. Avoid excessive talking and unnecessary noise.
4. Show proper courtesy and respect for the bus driver and others riding the bus.
5. Do not throw items of any kind in the bus or out of the window.
6. Do no fight or argue on the bus or at the bus stop.
7. Be on time, take your seat promptly, and avoid deliberate delays.
8. Remain seated and avoid turning around in the seat.
9. Keep head, arms, and hands inside the bus and never out of the windows.
10. Have no illegal substances on the bus or at the bus stop.
11. Get on and off the bus at your regularly scheduled bus stop.
12. Do not eat on the bus.
13. Ride only the bus to which you have been assigned.
14. Only students who qualify for bus transportation will be allowed to ride the bus.

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school while at the bus stop and while riding the bus. The bus driver is in complete charge at all times; he/she is responsible for the safety of the students and is require to report any infraction of the rules to the school administrator(s). Students who repeatedly violate regulations may be suspended from riding the bus. Parents/guardians will be notified of any reported bus infractions by their child.
