

Walnut Grove Gazette

September 2009

Jay Jordan, Principal
Kathy Hall, Vice Principal



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Mon, 9/14: Field of Dreams donation drive begins
- ◆ Mon, 9/28: School Pictures
- ◆ Tues, 9/29: Parent/Teacher Conferences. ½ day for students
- ◆ Fri, 10/2: Field of Dreams Donation Drive ends

Many Thanks

The 2009-2010 school year is off to an awesome start. Special thanks to our PTA parent volunteers who have worked so hard over the summer and the beginning of the school year.

***Lisha Pope** and the Hospitality Comitee-thanks so much for making the New families feel welcomed at the Newcomer's Coffee, for celebrating the teachers at the Teacher's Luncheon and for the parents of Kindergartner's to reflect on their children at the Boo-Hoo breakfast.

*Many thanks to **Cecelia Manning** and her committee for organizing the school supply sale. We appreciate your attention to detail that starts in April and is carried through for our children to start off the first day of school.

*Thanks to **Jennifer Cork** for organizing the office volunteers to help in the office. Thanks so much for all the

smiling faces of volunteers in the office.

* **Jenni Timmenberg** the Room Parent Coordinator, you did a great job organizing and facilitating the Room Parent meeting and folders. Our children will have wonderful celebrations this year because of you and your team of volunteers.

***Mori Fuller** and her committee thanks so much for selecting our t-shirt colors and making our kids look like the best-dressed kids around!!!

***The PTA Executive Board**- Thank you for your countless hours of hard work on the Newcomer's Breakfast, Teacher's Luncheon desserts, first day folders, Open House, PTA meetings and all of your regular responsibilities. I appreciate each of you for your unique gift sets and how you are using them for WGES.

Field of Dreams

The 2009-2010 Field of Dreams Drive kicks off on September 14 and will end October 2. The donations from this year's fundraising campaign will be put towards the beautifying of the Walnut Grove campus and school. The PTA is excited to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of WGES. Please support this initiative and send in your donation. As always, we are grateful and appreciate all of your support of Walnut Grove's Field of Dreams. Watch those grade level posters as each grade goes for a TOUCHDOWN!!!!

TCAP Date Change

Please note that TCAP Achievement **HAS BEEN CHANGED** to April 16-23 for Grades 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Principal's Corner



The State of Tennessee has made changes to the TCAP test. Effective this spring, new assessments will measure more rigorous standards in language arts, math and science. In anticipation of this change, the Dept of Education has made statistical adjustments to our previous scores. When comparisons are made, we won't be comparing "apples to oranges".

The assumption made by the state is this:

Had the previous tests been as rigorous as future tests will be, it is safe to assume that students wouldn't have performed as well (i.e. the more challenging the test, the less well you are likely to score on it). The results you will see published this fall in *The Tennessean* will reflect the "statistical adjustments" made. I'm not concerned with those adjustment as the same adjustments were made for every school in the state. No one can truly say what the actual results would have been.

They can, however, say there is a "statistical likelihood" that this would have been the result. Take the changed scores for what they are... statistical manipulations (granted they are ethical and theoretically valid manipulations).

Bottom line: The scores you will see won't be the glowing scores you have seen in the past and I'm glad. I have believed for a long time that our state standards were far too lax and we shortchanged our students when we labeled them proficient or advanced in every area. In some cases you need only have answered 32 of 100 questions correctly to be considered proficient and several advanced scores only

required mastery in the 75% range. Our challenge will be for teachers to master the new content standards (i.e. the more rigorous content for reading, math and science) and to develop effective lessons that permit a child to learn new content, varied thinking processes, and 21st Century skills necessary to be successful in the world that awaits them.

Walnut Grove students will be challenged with this new, more rigorous content. Our students must work hard, and they must know well the new content if they are to score well on these new assessments. I look forward to the challenge. When we see scores that don't always reflect "mastery", view that as an opportunity to grow the child in areas that require needed growth. After all, if a child always gets an A in every subject, every time, how would the student know his or her relative strengths and weaknesses? Our new TCAP tests will inform students as to ***what else there is to be learned***. This improved assessment system intends to send well-prepared students into a very competitive work place. I find that type of assessment of much greater value to the child than the "inflated" results we have had in the past.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

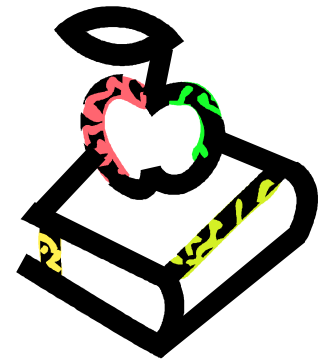
The new state standards can be found on the TN Department of Education website.
<http://state.tn.us/education/curriculum.shtml>

Grade Level Performance

Walnut Grove grade level performances can be crowded. **We respectfully ask that if at all possible parents only attend the evening performances.** Therefore, unless the daytime performance is the only performance that you can attend, please come to the evening performance. We reserve the daytime performances for the children to see their peers and teachers to celebrate with current and past students and their hard work.

Open House

Thanks to all who attended Open House. We hope you enjoyed the Information Fair, General Meeting and time spent in your children's classrooms. Many thanks to our administrators and teachers who give an evening of their time to provide information about classroom expectations, curriculum and take care of housekeeping issues.



Parking Lot News

Just a gentle reminder as the new school year is upon us. Please make sure to **arrive early** enough that your child can reach class before the tardy bell rings. You can drop children off as early as 8:00 and they are dismissed to their rooms at 8:20. The drop-off line is busy after 8:20. If your child is later than 8:35, you must sign him/her in at the office. **DO NOT** drop your child off in the middle lane of the parking lot and let them cross the drop-off traffic on their own. If you are parking your car in

the morning, walk your children into the building. The school administration asks that parents do not get out of your car and walk up to the building to pick up your child in the afternoon. This becomes a safety issue for all involved in leaving campus. If you have an after school appointment, please arrive early enough to get in the front of the car line. Please remember to be slow, patient, and courteous! We want to keep all of our students, faculty and parents safe.

Yearbook Photos

Please submit photos of any school events (programs, field trips, parties, recess, lunch, specials, classroom activities) by emailing them to pattycastle@aol.com or bring in a disk or prints to the office labeled "Yearbook". Please identify the type of activity, grade and students in the photograph.

Publicity/Media

Josephine Lewis, Publicity chair invites you to submit pictures to her for the media. Pictures submitted should contain our students participating in a Walnut Grove Activity. Submissions must include the first and last name of each student and a description of the event. Please email the information to josephine.lewis@yahoo.com with pictures sent as a JPG attachment with a file size of 100 or larger. Josephine will handle it from

there with the approval procedures and submissions to media. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published. Please note, media will only publish pictures and school information sent directly by the Publicity Chair.

Bus Procedures

School transportation is a very important part of the education process of our school system. Our goal is to provide safe, efficient transportation for all passengers to and from school and school events.

An essential ingredient in achieving this goal is appropriate student conduct on the bus. There are serious safety concerns involved with the operation of school buses and it is expected that all students will comply. When a bus driver's attention is diverted because of unsafe behavior or misconduct, a serious safety hazard develops.

Education is required by state law, transportation is not. Because the bus is an extension of the school day, the code of conduct also applies to behavior on the bus. Eligibility to ride the bus may be revoked if students violate school bus conduct policy. **School children being transported on a school bus are under the supervision, direction and control of the school bus driver and shall be subject to the discipline of the bus driver and student's principal.** Below are some of the rules and regulations regarding student conduct on the bus:

1. **Students shall obey the driver.** The driver must be totally in charge. Students shall respond promptly to instructions given.
2. Each student will be seated in the seats which they are assigned, take their seats promptly upon entering the bus, and **stay in their seat while the bus is in motion.** No windows or doors will be opened or closed except by permission of the bus driver.
3. **Bullying is prohibited on the bus and at the bus stop. Behavior that is found to be in violation shall be subject to discipline up to and including suspension.** Students are not allowed to tease, scuffle, trip, hold, and hit or use their hand, feet or body in any objectionable manner.
4. **The use of electronic devices or other items in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the driver's operation of the school bus is prohibited,** including cell phones, radios, cd players, mirrors, flash cameras, etc.
5. **The use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, eating, chewing gum or soda drinks on the bus are prohibited.**
6. **Students must observe classroom conduct.** Ordinary conversation is permitted. Loud, boisterous, profane language and obscene gestures or indecent conduct will not be tolerated.
7. **Students must keep the aisles clear of items such**

as musical instruments, books, backpacks, etc. If student must carry such items, they will not occupy another student seat nor extend above the seat back. Animals (alive or dead), oversized objects as well as glass containers are not permitted on the bus at any time.

8. **At no time will a student put hands, head or other body parts out the window.**

9. **Students must treat bus equipment as they would the furniture in their homes.** Any damage will be charged to responsible student(s).

10. **Students must have a bus permit to ride any bus other than their assigned bus or to exit at a different location on their assigned bus.** Parents must send written notice in advance to school principal with appropriate Principal or their designee will approve and issue a Bus Permit. Student will give bus permit to driver when they board the bus.

11. **Students will not ask the driver to let them off at such places as a store, job, etc.**

12. Students are asked to use the handrail when getting on and off the school bus.

13. **If students must cross the street or road to board the bus, they must wait for the driver's signal and must cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.**

14. Students are expected to do following:

- Be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to scheduled pickup time
- Never run to catch the bus
- While waiting for bus---stay clear of roadway & wait in an orderly line
- Never exit using rear door unless an emergency and directed by bus driver.

Failure to follow Rules & Regulations may result in the following disciplinary action:

1st Offense—Driver completes Bus Behavior Referral Form and submits to Principal

2nd Offense—Principal notifies Parent

3rd Offense—Suspension from school bus

Extreme or zero-tolerance offenses may bypass the above steps for immediate bus suspension.

Parents must assume responsibility for behavior of their children while their children are riding the bus. If permission to ride the bus is revoked, the parent must provide transportation to and from school for the student until such time as reinstatement is made. Williamson County Schools

Transportation Department
1771 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37064
615/472-4952
Fax : 615/472-4967

Walnut Grove
Elementary
School

326 Stable Road
Franklin, TN 37069

Phone:
(615) 472-4870

Questions or
Comments?

Contact Marianne
Sperry, PTA President
mariannesperry@comcast.
net

Lunch Notes

Please share this change with your students. If they are going to get a grab N go lunch (the sandwich lunch), they will not be able to choose from the variety of different chips offered. Those chips will ONLY be sold a la carte. The grab n go lunch consist of their chose of sandwich, a fruit, vegetable, and a bag of the Rold Gold Pretzels. Some of the children call this lunch a snack pack. They are allowed to pick any of the hot vegetables we serve that day with their chose of sandwich if they would like. The deal is they do not want one of our hot entrée's so they are choosing a sandwich instead. The Rold Gold Pretzels will be available everyday if we have a student who cannot decide, or does not want any of our vegetables or fruit, we are allowed to give them a bag of the Rold Gold Pretzels according to our Nutrient Standard Menu Planning.

Jennifer Mallard : Child Nutrition Manager : jenniferm1@wcs.edu