



Back-To-School A Success

Parent participation at our annual Back-To-School evening October 13 exceeded that of previous years. Out of fifty-three families in grades kindergarten through grade eight, a total of forty-three families were represented. Eighty-one percent of Willow Creek’s families learned how to enhance their children’s education with a brief presentation by the teachers in the all-purpose room. Each family received a copy of Eight Essential Tips to promote school-success which can be posted on the refrigerator . Any family who did not receive these tips can pick one up in the office.

The following week on October 13, the preschool held their Open House for parents. One-third of all preschool families attended this event. While touring the various centers, parents saw examples of the types of activities preschoolers might do in each area. Posters showed the long-range educational value of each learning experience. One father remarked he had no idea that blocks or sand/water play affected academic achievement. Preschool parents received the guidelines “The Top Ten Things Preschool Parents Should Know” to keep as a handy reference.



Thank you for participating in Back-To-School Night

Fitness Friday in the Preschool

Perhaps you noticed the myriad of jogging suits in the preschool recently. In October they held their first monthly Fitness Friday. Health is a major theme this year with a special day set aside each month to emphasize the various aspects of personal health. The preschoolers are learning about the food pyramid and how to make healthy food choices. In addition to our daily movement/large muscle activities, our program emphasizes age-appropriate exercises. This past Fitness Friday featured aerobic exercises.

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Special points of interest:

*Willow Creek Learning Center
Christmas Program
The Christmas County Spelling Bee
Featuring Kindergarten through Eighth
Grade
Friday, December 12th
7:00 p.m.*

Book It Reading Incentive Program

Grades kindergarten through sixth grade are participating in the Book It Reading Incentive program this year. This program is designed to encourage students to do more reading inside and outside of the classroom. Pizza Hut sponsors the Book It Program. The program has been in existence for more than twenty years. Most likely some of you may remember participating when you were in school. Language Arts teachers set individual student reading goals at the beginning of each month. The program begins in October and ends in March. Goals can be set in a variety of ways: minutes, books or pages to read. Students meeting their goal are rewarded with a Reading Award Certificate, which may be redeemed at participating Pizza Hut restaurants. At the end of the program, students who have met all six goals are All Star Readers and receive a special award.



Our thanks to Pizza Hut for Book It!

In the spring the preschool Book-It incentive program will begin.

Travelers Welcome!

The Willow Creek Geography Club will be starting soon. Meetings will be held after school on Fridays from 3:05 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. in Mrs. Carroll's room. A permission slip will be sent home on Friday, October 17th and must be signed and returned to Mrs. Carroll before you can participate. Meetings will begin October 24th. Grades four through eight are encouraged to join. We will be preparing for the Geography Bee.

The Geography Club has returned to WCLC!

Math

This year the first, second and third graders are participating in the First in Math online game. They are earning points at school and at home. The second through sixth graders are competing in the Math Olympiad for Elementary Schools. The first contest of this school year is Tuesday, November 11th. Willow Creek Learning Center will compete in Math Counts at Youngstown State University in February. A small group of seventh and eighth graders have begun to practice during lunch. The fourth through eighth graders continue to solve the problems that Dr. Math publishes in the Vindicator on Fridays. Willow Creek has had a correct answer every Friday so far this school year.



Watch the Vindicator for Dr. Math's column on Fridays.

Timothy and Ruth Awards

The Core Essentials value for November is gratitude.

Gratitude is “letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.”

The Core Essentials Program sponsored by Chick-fil-A recommends the following discussion questions for mealtime at home during the month of November.

Week 1 What helpful things has each family member done for you?

Week 2 When is it hard to show gratitude? Should we always be grateful no matter what the circumstance is?

Week 3 Why is gratitude important?

Week 4 What have we learned about gratitude? Are we showing our gratitude like we should?

Play the “ABCs of Gratitude” game. Go around the table starting with the letter “A” and let each family member name something someone has done for them that was helpful.

Timothy and Ruth awards for September were Christina P, Jacob, Mia, Frankie, Alanna, Nicholas D., Ana, James and Katherine.



November's value is gratitude.

WCLC Fundraiser

The annual Fall Fundraiser for WCLC ended October 20th. All money that is raised is used for general upkeep and needs of the school. Thank you for your participation.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Playground Upgraded

Playground World recently upgraded the wooden jungle gym to meet the stiffer safety regulations that will be taking effect. Altieri’s Garden Shop donated the mulch around all the equipment to meet regulation.

The climbing dome is in the process of being primed and painted. The jungle gym needs to be winterized with a coat of sealer. Any volunteers available on an Indian Summer day would be appreciated. Two of the items that were a safety hazard for large groups of children have been removed. The merry-go-round and the high sliding board were removed from the playground. Both of these pieces were difficult to supervise safely.

Several wooden cables of various sizes were donated. We are looking for good ideas to utilize these for the children.



Thanks to Altieri's Garden Shop for our fall decorations.



Organization

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Musical Notes

Students in Kindergarten through grade 8 are already warming up their voices for our Christmas musical entitled “The Christmas County Spelling Bee.” Our program will be performed Friday, December 12, 2008. Please watch for announcements about tickets and other details about the Christmas Program.

