



The Ripple

Newsletter Date

Operation Christmas Child

Volume 2, Issue 1

Pre-school children and elementary school students from kindergarten through eighth grade have filled Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes for needy children across the world. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse. For more information try www.samaritanspurse.org.

Our goal for 2009 was one hundred boxes. Most homerooms had one hundred percent participation and a total of one hundred six boxes were collected.

The children filled the boxes with games, pencils, candy, small toys, toothbrushes, socks and other items.

The children brought their shoeboxes to Mrs. Packo's chapel on November 20th. When chapel was over, they carried their boxes to cars that were parked outside. Please visit our website, <http://www.willowcreeklearning.com>, to see photographs of the children loading the cars with shoeboxes.



Operation Christmas Child 2009

Special points of interest:

- ✓ One hundred six shoe boxes
- ✓ Nearly one hundred percent participation in pre-school and elementary

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WCLC Christmas Program

The WCLC Christmas Program, Meet Me At the Manger, is Friday, December 18th at 7:30 p.m. This will be our 25th year.

Reserved tickets are five dollars each and are available in the office.

General admission tickets for adults are three dollars and general admission tickets for children are one dollar.

The fundraising committee has raffle tickets for four gift card trees.

Videos of the program can be ordered for twenty dollars each and the DVD can be ordered for thirty dollars.

Cookies will be on sale after the program for two dollars and fifty cents a dozen.



Ongoing Fundraiser News

Thank you to all who have been bringing in Box Tops, soup labels, and cell phones! It is easy to think that bringing in a few Box Tops does not have much of an impact, however, quite the opposite is true. Those Box Tops and Soup Labels are definitely benefiting Willow Creek Students.

On October 31st Willow Creek mailed in its first Box Tops Submission for the 2009-2010 school year. Because of the efforts of our students and families, the school will receive a check for \$112.00 in December. Our school collected 1,120 Box Tops for this submission! At the end of

March we will send in a second Box Tops submission, so please continue sending in Box Tops. You are encouraged to ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, friend and neighbors to save for you.

We have also been able to collect well over 200 soup labels this school year. The labels help the school earn points to use in shopping from a Campbell's catalog full of educational merchandise. Every label earns at least one point and some earn five points. Besides the cash incentives we have received a new overhead projector, DVD player, science

kits and gym equipment.

Collecting cell phones is our newest project. Since we began collecting phones we have already mailed in over 32 phones and received checks totaling \$57.50. Simply place any unwanted cell phones in the appropriate box near the office. Blackberry phones are especially valuable.

These fundraisers continue all year long. Anyone with questions can talk to Mrs. Hoffmaster or Mrs. Ball. Thank you again for your efforts.



January Events



The National Geographic Geography Bee for Willow Creek Learning Center will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010 in the afternoon. Fourth through eighth graders will participate. The winner of the school Geography Bee will take a written test to qualify for the State Geography Bee in April.

The Willow Creek Spelling Bee will be held Friday, January 15th at 1:45 p.m. First through eighth

graders will participate. The winner of the school spelling bee will compete in the Youngstown Vindicator Spelling Bee in March at Youngstown State University.

Last year Cooper competed at the State Geography Bee.

All K to 8th grade students are encouraged to enter our Winter Short Story writing contest sponsored by the English department. Prizes include a copy of the book

published in hardcover for the winner a copy for the school library. Entries may or may not be illustrated. There are three grade levels for entries: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All work must be the original work of the student. The deadline is 3 p.m. on January 18, 2010. Details will be sent home with students this week.

Geography Bee January 8th
Spelling Bee January 15th

Donations and Acknowledgements

• We are grateful for the generosity of our parents and friends of Willow Creek. Thank you to Mr. John Arfaras and Mrs. Cherie Stebner for recently donating computers and/or monitors. We appreciate the time Mr. Jamie Wellington donated to the school for much-needed electrical work. Thanks go

also to Chris and David Altieri for the playground mulch and for the seasonal decorations at the entrance to the school.

• We thank our very generous anonymous donors who have given monetary contributions to our general operating fund and financial aid support. We could not continue to operate

in these financial times without their support.

• We are in need of a newer model TV than our current one. If you are replacing your TV, Willow Creek might be able to use it.





Family Togetherness

I sit at the computer typing up this year's Christmas Wish list, in the hopes that I have been a good girl this year and that Santa does, in fact, still deliver to those under thirty years old. But this year I'm stumped. Beyond a "functional hole puncher," which is at the top of my list, surrounded by asterisks and a smiley face emoticon, I can't think of anything I really need.

I try to think of the greatest gifts I've received, but these memories elude me. Even though our memory isn't supposed to begin the "slow decline into the fog of dementia" until we're twenty-eight, mine already seems to be failing me. I remember that the year I got

my pet bird, my brother Darren (who was in college at the time) chased the bird around the living room for hours, because the bird looked funny when he was scared. I also remember the time my mom chewed my dad out when she caught him with a spray bottle aimed at the bird. (He doesn't like the way the bird squawks.) The year I got my ice skates, my brothers took me to the lake, and it was my job to go out in the middle and make sure it was safe enough to skate. Don't worry, it was. I remember my favorite part of the Christmas Eve service every year is singing Silent Night with my brother Dan next to me, singing the

harmony. And I remember how, every year, when my grandma was still around, Santa had to drop off a couple gifts early, because he "just couldn't wait". Now I can't even remember what any of those gifts were.

I suppose the reason I'm having so much trouble making my list this year is because I already know that I'm getting what I really want. You see, both of my brothers are coming home this Christmas. The years that Darren was not able to make it home, Dan and I begged him to come as a gift and surprise our parents. I think we mostly just wanted to put him in a box and wrap him up. (see page 4)

Math



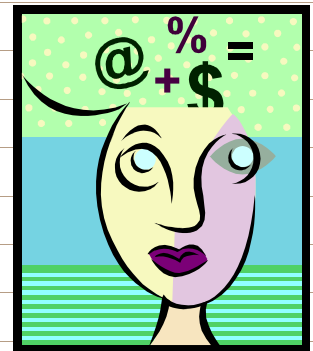
The sixth, seventh and eighth graders will take the Math Counts qualifying test on Monday, November 23rd. This test will determine the four members of the WCLC Math Counts team. They will represent WCLC at the local Math Counts competition at YSU on February 11, 2010.

Several WCLC fourth through eighth graders have correctly answered one or more of Dr. Math's questions this school year. Please

check your Friday edition of the Vindicator to see what Bryson, Cooper, Lauren, Nick, James and Grace have done.

The first, second and third graders are earning stickers for First in Math online. The top scorers have been Ethan, Annabelle, Audrey, Xenya and Andre.

The November Olympiad was on the 17th. Top scorers were Norah, Ryan, James, Lauren, Alanna and Jacob.



Spanish

From the west side of the building to the east side, aqui se habla espanol. The pre-school and kindergarten children are learning Spanish. They are responding to basic commands, for example, jump, turn around and touch. They are learning colors and numbers. They learned about Christmas in Spanish-speaking countries.

The fourth and fifth graders are taking their second year of Spanish.

The sixth, seventh and eighth graders are taking high school level Spanish I. The sixth, seventh and eighth graders started Spanish in the third grade. It is our hope that the seventh and sixth graders will earn a credit in Spanish I when they finish eighth

grade.





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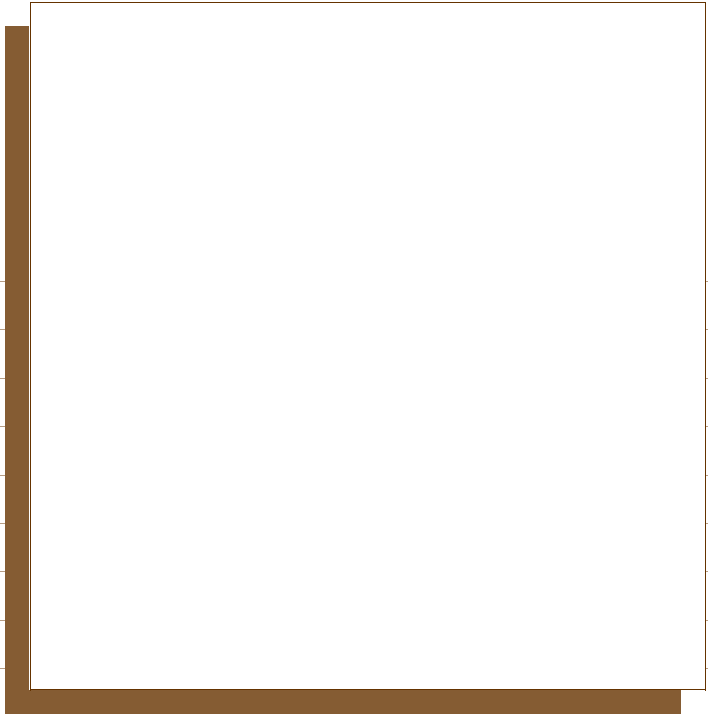
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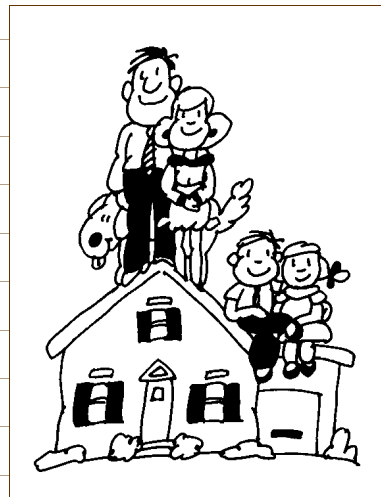
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Family Togetherness

As I get older, I find that my dearest memories involve *interactions* rather than *things*. So when your children are fighting this Christmas because they're experiencing too much togetherness, just remember that they're forming unbreakable bonds with the people who will always be closest to them. Because even though my family is the only one that can have a *heated* discussion about whether one experiences more jet lag flying east or west, I love them all the more for it.

May you be fortunate enough this year to have your Christmas plagued with too much togetherness.



By Wendy Rabosky