

# Woodmen Hills Elementary



## THE QUARTERLY TWISTER ALERT

Woodmen Hills Elementary  
Monty Lammers, Principal  
Nate Hansen, Assistant Principal

(719) 495-5500  
Linda Fiedler, Counselor

May 15, 2009

Dear Families,

We have had another wonderful year here at Woodmen Hills, and much of our success has been due to the excellent support our students and teachers receive from our families. Thank you for your commitment to your child(ren)'s education throughout the year. We are proud of their hard work and excellent behavior. The entire staff at Woodmen Hills is incredibly talented and strives to provide the highest quality education for children. A special thank you to all of you who support Woodmen Hills and help make it such a great learning community. Our jobs would be much more difficult without you.

We received our 3rd Grade Reading CSAP results this week! Once again, our teachers, students, and families produced a success. This year, 79% of our students scored proficient or advanced on the state reading assessment. Way to go 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade!

As the school year draws to a close, there are many activities scheduled: field days, grade level field trips, kindergarten graduation, and fifth grade graduation, to name a few. Continue to check the marquee and notes that go home, so that you don't miss anything.

Best of luck to those students moving on to Middle School! We will miss you and look forward to stories of the great things you are doing. A few of our staff members will be moving on; they, too, will be greatly missed. The rest of us will be here to greet you when you return, rested and ready to go again in August. We look forward to the opportunities that a new year presents.

As your administrators, we want to thank you all for your support and trust in us this year. Have a safe and fun summer!

Sincerely,

Monty Lammers  
Principal

Nate Hansen  
Assistant Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES- 2009

8-5 First day of school for all students except ½ day Kindergarten

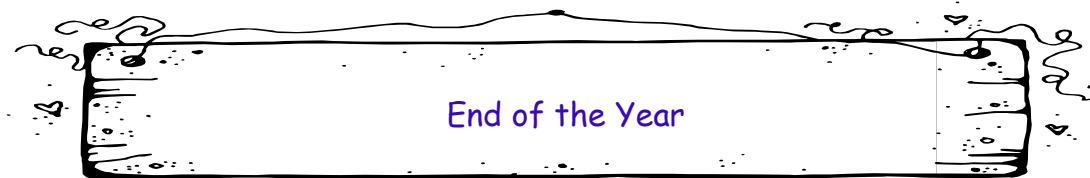
8-10 First day for ½ day Kindergarten students

8-24 No School –Assessment Day  
8-25 No School –Assessment Day

9-1 No School – Labor Day

9-24 No Elementary Students Report card prep day

9-25 Half day for students



Our final days are always busy ones. There is still much to be taught and much to learn. *Instruction remains a priority until the last day.* Note: the last day for students will be Thursday, May 28th.

Report cards will be sent home with your child on the last day of school. There will not be a teacher or classroom assignment for next year on the report card. Due to uncertain enrollment figures each year, classroom assignments cannot be completed until just before school starts. You will receive a postcard with your child's placement information at the end of July.

Students first day will be Wednesday, August 5th (with the exception of  $\frac{1}{2}$  day kindergarten students, who will be assessed that week and begin school on Monday, August 10th). We will all be excited about a fresh start.



## Student Council - NUMBER ONE in Recycling

When it comes to recycling, WHES Student Council TOPS the rest! We've been popping the tabs from aluminum cans all year and... WOW! Woodmen Hills placed first in the city contest among all elementary schools in the Colorado Springs area. With a grand total of 87 pounds of pop tabs the Tornadoes swept the city in support of The Ronald McDonald House on Logan Avenue. Eighty-seven pounds totals out to be approximately 111,360 pop tabs collected. Pop tabs are a higher quality of aluminum so that recycling efforts throughout the city bring thousands of dollars to support out-of-town families of critically ill children who need a place to stay.

Not only have we cleaned up the competition recycling pop tabs, Woodmen Hills Student Council has recycled more paper, cardboard, and cans than any other elementary school in the community. Thank You! To each classroom as well as our custodians, neighbors and friends who also care about our community and help support our recycling commitment.

## Custodial

Chantel Hodges, Building Manager

Dear Woodman Hills school community,

Due to the recent economic downturn, our trash company has informed us they are not making money on recycling. The costs associated with picking up and dumping our huge bin out-weighs the benefit from the recycling. As a result, they are going to start charging the school a fee every time they need to empty the recycle bin (this used to be a free service). Our school budget will not allow us to continue to provide the community with the large recycle bin. So, unfortunately, we are downsizing the recycle bin. The new smaller container will be emptied once a week. As a courtesy, if you come to use the recycle bin and it is full, please do not leave your recycling outside the container. Due to high winds in this area, if the recycling is left out, it may blow all over the school grounds. Please take your recycling home and come back another day.

Thank you so much for your cooperation,

Falcon School District 49  
Nursing Services

If your child has medication in the health office: we will be sending home medication with your child on the last day of school. If you prefer to pick it up, please contact the school health office and make arrangements. **\*\*\*Parents must come to the school to pick up any medications considered "controlled" (such as Ritalin and other ADD/ADHD medications). \*\*\***

If your child has a health care plan and/or medication forms on file in the health office, you will be receiving new forms for next school year. Please have these updated by your child's health care provider this summer and return to us on the first day of school. As district nursing staff is limited during the day, it is imperative that a health care plan to assist your child in the school building be in place.

The following information has been included as a review of our policies:

Medication: Colorado state laws require a signed physician's order and parent signature for ANY medication to be given at school. This law includes any over-the-counter medications (except for cough drops, which only require written permission). Please be advised that the pharmacy label on the medication packaging does NOT suffice for a written physician's order.

If you have any questions, please  
5503.



contact the health office at 495-



## Grade Level Happenings

### Kindergarten Team

Kindergarten is wrapping up another wonderful year! Mrs. Books, Mrs. Curnow, Mrs. Hopper, and Mrs. Riggs congratulate their students on all the knowledge they have gained this school year and say a big Thank You to parents for their support as well. The students had a great time showing their good sportsmanship during Field Day on May 14th. Everyone looked terrific in their "autograph t-shirts". Half-day Kindergarten students are excited about their trip to the Woodmen Hills cafeteria to eat lunch on May 20<sup>th</sup>. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, all the Kindergarten students will participate in "Kindergarten Karnival". The "Karnival" will focus on the things we have learned this year as the students travel through many fun stations set up in the classrooms. Our big finale will be Kindergarten Graduation which is set to take place in the gym on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. We want to wish Mrs. Curnow's student teacher, Miss Williams, good luck as she graduates with her teaching degree and enters the wonderful world of education!

### First Grade Team

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter is a busy and exciting quarter in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We continue to promote literacy in the classroom through small reading groups, shared reading, and writing to prepare us for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. In our balanced reading program we have been working on reading with fluency, decoding skills, sight words, and comprehension skills. We have been reading a wide variety of materials such as poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Students have been practicing mental image, giving a complete retell of both fiction and nonfiction texts.

We have enjoyed using our new writing program "Preparing to Write." The students have been using many inquiry methods such as brainstorming, locating and changing label words, stretching sentences by showing and not telling, focusing in on ideas and vocabulary to help them become prolific writers. Students are continuing to hear read-alouds and drawing the literal and inferential images that the text presents. We are proud of how far they have come!

In math, students worked hard at comparing and ordering numbers, identifying fractions, understanding place value and creating and reading graphs. We also continued our exploration of various subtraction and addition strategies and solving real life story problems.

In science, we completed our science rotations. In Ms. Grant's class, we learned about matter, blew up a balloon with gas from mixing vinegar and baking soda, and made oobleck. In Mrs. Reheman's class, the students explored the solar system and created a bead necklace representing each planet and the sun, and a chart to help remember the order of our planets.

In Mrs. Fothergill's class, first graders studied different life cycles by creating time lines of each life cycle. In Ms. Casey's class, we were able to learn about plants by planting sunflowers.

In Mrs. Ratliff's, the students worked on creating maps and playing games with the nifty fifty states. Our field trip to the Cave of the Winds was a great adventure as students observed the different cave formations, including columns, stalagmites and stalactites. The students were able to see "up close and personal" the habitat of the bats that we have been studying. We had so much fun being spelunkers for a day. The first grade team would like to thank all the great parents who chaperoned this event.

### Second Grade Team

Wow, this year sure has flown by! We just wrapped up our end of year Literacy Testing and are looking forward to some very exciting end of year activities. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Day is coming up on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and if the weather cooperates it should be a great day, full of exciting outdoor fun! 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be ending the school year by participating in some fun-filled activities on our "Theme" days. Classroom teachers will be keeping you informed about what the Theme is, and what the students may need to bring. Also, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be sending home more information about our upcoming Field Day, as well as the Bike Rodeo. As you can see May will be a busy month for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade so be sure to check HW folders, and Friday folders for important information. Thank you so much for all of your support this year, without it 2<sup>nd</sup> grade could not have been the great success that it has been! Remember to keep your kids reading this summer, and to continue practicing automatic recall of math facts to be better prepared for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Have a wonderful summer ☺!

### Third Grade Team

Throughout the school year, curriculum skills such as reading fluency, context clues, main idea/supporting details, summarizing, language grammar and usage, along with math problem solving and multiplication have been a focus within our intervention classes. Students are grouped according to pretesting data and these skills are taught with much vigor within an eight day period. Results are then documented and reviewed. Students seem to enjoy "switching" classes and a good teacher-student rapport is developed across our entire grade level.

Third graders had recently been working diligently with CSAP Reading, Writing and Math assessments. Results from the reading test have arrived; writing and math scores will follow later this summer. You should be proud of your children. We all know test anxiety can occur during these times.

Please have your children practice multiplication and division facts over the summer. Memorization of these skills helps them with higher level math involving these two concepts as they grow older. Also, ask them to read some good books to enhance reading fluency and comprehension.

Have a wonderful and safe summer while enjoying your family, friends and summertime activities!

The Third Grade Team

## Fourth Grade Team

In reading, we are continuing to have whole group and small group instruction. Some of the skills we continue to work on are retelling expository text using main idea and supporting details, generate a response to reading citing examples from text, and understanding literary elements (e.g., content, plot, setting, problem/solution, character development). In math, we have covered topics on equations/inequalities, solids, and double-digit multiplication. Also, we continue to build on our new writing program. Students are learning the different containers for different styles of writing. Each student continues to work on his/her own personal learning goals, and is learning how to edit writing pieces using the CUPS format. In Social Studies, students are continuing Colorado history, and in science they are working on force and motion, and simple machines.

As the end of this awesome year comes to a close, we will be enjoying some very exciting activities. One of the new additions to the end of the year activities will be a Science Day, where students will have to opportunity to participate in different "stations", building simple machines, and testing strings on a can-phone for sound, among other things. We also have Dr. John Weishaar coming in to share some wilderness survival skills with our fourth graders, which will culminate with the book Hatchet, which many students have read this year. Our final end-of-year activity will be our auction on the last day of school. The students have learned how to balance their checkbooks and write checks, which we feel is an important life skill. They are really looking forward to this since they all have worked extremely hard to earn their "money" with positive behavior, and they will get to spend on some really cool items on the last day of school.

## Fifth Grade Team

This is a very exciting time for our fifth graders. They just enjoyed a Sky Sox baseball game this week, and they are getting ready for their fun-filled Field Day on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, our fifth grade music program is happening this upcoming Tuesday night at 7pm. Fifth graders will be performing dance, drumming, speed stacking, and slide dancing in the program. We have our last Positive Behavioral Assembly of the year coming up on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in the gym. Lots of prizes will be given out for all their positive behavior. Our wonderful PTA will also be hosting the graduation dance for the fifth graders Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Details are still being sorted out for the dance, so we will be letting you know when, where, and a time soon. Lastly, the fifth graders will be receiving their graduation t-shirts and yearbooks. The kids will have fun signing both of these before their big graduation ceremony on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May starting at 10:00am. Congratulations fifth graders and we are proud of all of you!

## Specials



### Music News, Karen Crockett

The school year is almost over and we have had quite a year in music. Since I missed a few months, my year seemed short! We have one more program on the calendar. Fifth graders will be doing a "STOMP" type program on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. It will be in our gym. The students need to be here by 6:30 to set up for the program. That will be the end of the programs this year.

Thank you for all your support this year. I appreciate the help that was given while I was out. Now we can plan for a great year in 2009-10. Have a great summer vacation.



### Physical Education News, Joel Patton

Field Day is coming!! The date for the **4-6** Field Day is May 21 from 8:40am to 3:10pm. The date for the **2-3** Field Day is May 15 from 8:40am to 3:05pm. The **K(AM) - and 1st** Field Day is May 14 from 8:40am to 11:00 am, the **K(PM)** Field Day is May 14 from 1:00-3:20. As in years past, there will be some traditional field day games, as well as games that are an extension of what the students have learned in my class this year. My goal of Field Day is for all the students to have fun, compete, relax and enjoy themselves.

I would like parents to feel free to come and spend the day with your student. I am sure some teachers would also welcome you to help out with their classes. If you intend to come to field day and stay for lunch, please let your students' teacher know so the cafeteria can be prepared.

We all know the weather in Colorado can change quickly, so please expect to send your student with sunscreen and maybe a jacket! It would also be a good idea to have your student wear sneakers since the majority of the activities will be on the fields surrounding the school. Hope to see you there!

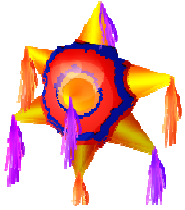


### Art News, Bobbie Thompson

I guess I'm not the new Art Teacher anymore! It is hard to believe I am at the end of my second year here at Woodmen Hills.

The students have had a very successful year in the art room. I hope you enjoyed the art that has been displayed in the foyer throughout the year

The second, third, fourth and fifth grades have all completed ceramics projects. These projects will be sent home next week along with all artwork completed this semester. Thank you for your support this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching art to your children.



## Spanish News, Carmen Colon

The school year 2008-2009 is almost over! I want to express a sincere gratitude to all the staff, students and parents of Woodmen Hills for all your support during this school year. In the Spanish class, students learned various aspects of the Hispanic culture and acquired Spanish vocabulary using different skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Also, the students learned about geography, history, well-known Hispanics, interesting facts about Spanish-speaking countries, some distinctiveness of the Spanish language, etc. The lower graders were more geared towards specific vocabulary.

Being your Spanish teacher this year was a wonderful experience that I will never forget.

Thank you very much to everybody!

Upper graders focused more on (conversational Spanish



acquisition of the language

## S.O.A.R. Notes, Ingrid Daniel

Hi Folks!

I can hardly believe that it is almost the end of the year already! Things are cruising right along in S.O.A.R., and we will be done with the year before we know it! Here's what is going on in S.O.A.R. this quarter:

The first and second graders are learning about famous scientists, and doing some scientific experiments of their own.

The third graders are discovering the physics of flight by studying how and why things fly.

The fourth and fifth graders are learning world geography by traveling around the world in the Caravans unit.

If you'd like to come by and see what we are up to, you are always welcome - just stop by the office first and get a visitor's badge!

Take care, enjoy the sunshine, and keep S.O.A.R.ing!!



## Library News, Karen Kamla

Once again Ms Whitted and I are grateful to your patronage during our Scholastic "Hollywood" themed book fair. Sales were up 19.85% from last spring's book fair! A welcome outcome for the technology and the library programs at Woodmen Hills. With sales reaching over \$8,900.00, our programs will gain nearly \$900.00 each in revenue. The library collection also added 22 Scholastic book titles as part of the proceeds. The library receives a voucher for \$900.00 in books from the Scholastic warehouse in Denver and the technology lab receives \$700.00 in Scholastic catalog materials. Ms Whitted has already determined that the catalog funds will go towards carts for projectors and document cameras for each grade level. She recently purchased a Smartboard with book fair money acquired over the past two years.

I want to thank our supportive staff and many students for dressing "Hollywood" style on our opening day and to all the "Pink Ladies" in the SPED department who planned *Grease* day. This was actually very educational as one of the students asked if she was to dress like she was 50! A teachable moment at its finest. I think it's also important to note that our teachers spent nearly \$1,000.00 themselves at the book fair. Wow! You're students are fortunate indeed to have teachers who support the programs at WHES with the same passion they dedicate to their careers.

Four books were donated to the library through the "wish list" program by Kassi Funk, Katie Kroeker, Isaac and Bre Romero and teacher Rochelle Richards. Those books are already on the shelves ready for checkout.

Tammy and I were fortunate to have such a wonderful group of volunteers headed by Corrie Ohlrich. Lily Hogan arrived early every morning of the book fair to open up while I was on traffic duty and student teacher Michaela Kuenzler filled in during lunch.

We appreciate all our volunteers: Rosa Powers, Lily Hogan, Bobbi Thompson, Michaela Kuenzler, Danielle Edwards, Melissa Riggs, Naomi Thomas, Lisa Funk, Lisa Reid, Sarah Edling, Lisa Hughes, Mel Hymer, Jeff Houchin, and Lisa Gardner.

Dates to remember:

- May 12 Last day for library checkout.
- May 12 Pike's Peak summer library program presentation
- May 12 Library awards for the 2008-2009 school year
- May 15 Library materials due

Support in maintaining the condition of the Woodmen Hills Library depends upon student responsibility.



### Technology Lab, Tammy Whitted

The Technology lab has had a busy year. With the installation of the SmartBoard in October, we have been learning about this new and wonderful touch screen. Students can demonstrate the programs we are using and control almost everything from the board. The Microsoft Office suite is used in the lab. Students have been learning about using Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet Explorer, PowerPoint and Microsoft Publisher. These programs were used for learning about math, reading, science, and social studies.

Fifth graders have completed presentations about the states and continue to develop their keyboarding skills. Fourth grade has recently researched a person from Colorado history. The fourth and fifth graders will finish the year with learning about the Global Positioning System and our handheld GPS units. Third graders are completing their "business cards" and will be doing some work with Excel on graphing data. The second graders are doing their "cosmic" address while learning the correct way to write their home address as well as the rest of the universe. First graders are gaining keyboarding skills as we finish up the year. The full day kindergarten students are publishing books and continuing to learn about using the keyboard.

We have raised more than \$400 in recycling funds for classroom supplies this year. Please continue to save your ink cartridges. They are turned into \$3 in the form of OfficeMax gift cards. Those gift cards have purchased equipment and supplies for the school.

I hope everyone will spend lots of time outside enjoying the summer break. If you would like to spend a little time on the computer, here are some sites you can use:

- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>
- <http://www.ppld.org/Kids/default.asp>
- [http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/index.asp](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp)
- <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/clf/tguidesitemap.htm>