

# WAUSA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER



October 2024 . Quarter 1

## FROM MR. HEIMES

### *The Power of Reading at Home: Why It Matters for K-2 Students*

Reading is one of the most powerful tools we can give our children, especially in their early years. For students in kindergarten through 2nd grade, reading at home can make a world of difference in their academic and personal growth.

Reading at home helps children develop essential language and literacy skills. During these formative years, children are learning to recognize words, understand sentence structure, and build vocabulary. The more they read (or are read to), the more confident they become in their ability to comprehend and use language effectively.

Children who read at home tend to develop a natural love for books and stories. This love for reading can transform how they view learning and school. When reading is a regular part of their routine, students begin to see it as something enjoyable rather than a chore.

When students engage with books, they're not just reading words—they're imagining new worlds, solving problems, and thinking critically about characters and events. This cognitive engagement is vital for developing problem-solving skills, creativity, and empathy.

Reading together provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to connect with their children. Whether it's a bedtime story or a quiet moment after dinner, reading time strengthens the bond between parent and child, offering comfort and security.

Children who read regularly at home tend to perform better in school. Reading improves concentration, memory, and the ability to follow directions. For K-2 students, these skills are crucial for academic success in all subjects.

Make reading a daily habit. Even 10-15 minutes a day can have a significant impact. Let your child choose books that interest them, and take the time to read aloud together. Encourage questions and discussions about the story to enhance comprehension.

**Together, we can create a strong  
foundation for a lifelong love of reading!**



## Elementary Parent Council

Thank you to all who participated and played at Book Bingo night. We had around 60 people (parents and students) in attendance and gave away so many good books! Thanks to all who helped and attended, with a special shoutout to our bingo caller Kevin Burns! We look forward to seeing even more of you next year! Congratulations to Adalyn Kumm.

Her ticket was drawn and she was the lucky winner of a \$25 gift card to the fall book fair.

## AR Goal Getters who are on track with the full year reading goal:

Kindergarten: 8 of 11 students  
1st grade: 2 of 15 students  
2nd grade: 7 of 12 students  
3rd grades: 2 of 13 students  
4th grade: 4 of 12 students  
5th grade: 13 of 16 students  
6th grade: 4 of 10 students

## KEY DATES

### **Thursday, October 3rd:**

Board Game Club at the Library until 5:30 and LEGO Club at the Library until 4:30

### **Monday, October 7th:**

No school. Parent-Teacher Conferences all day

### **Tues-Fri., October 8-11:**

Fire Prevention Week

### **Wednesday, October 9th:**

Grandparents Day Program at 2:30pm in the gym

### **Thursday, Oct. 10th:**

Board Game Club until 5:30

### **Thursday, October 17th:**

Board Game Club until 5:30.

### **Friday, October 18th:**

Last day of first quarter

### **Mon-Thurs, October 21-24:**

Red Ribbon Week

### **Monday, October 21st:**

Hearing screening

### **Thursday, October 24th:**

Board Game Club until 5:30

### **Friday, October 25th:**

No school—Fall break

### **Thursday, October 31st:**

Halloween parties in the afternoon

### **Mon-Fri, Oct. 28-Nov. 1:**

Scholastic Fall Book Fair to benefit the elementary



"AUTUMN IS A SECOND  
SPRING  
WHEN EVERY LEAF IS A  
FLOWER."  
— ALBERT CAMUS

The Grandparent's Day program will be held on Wednesday, October 9th at 2:30pm in the gymnasium. The theme is "Music in Sports" and the children have been working very hard! They are excited to show off all they have learned in music class! The program can be attended by more than just grandparents, but it is dedicated to our very special guests, the grandparents.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OBSERVED EACH YEAR DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9TH IN COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE, WHICH BEGAN ON OCTOBER 8, 1871, AND CAUSED DEVASTATING DAMAGE. IN 1925, PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE PROCLAIMED FIRE PREVENTION WEEK A NATIONAL OBSERVANCE, MAKING IT THE LONGEST-RUNNING PUBLIC HEALTH OBSERVANCE IN OUR COUNTRY. DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND TEACHERS LEARN HOW TO STAY SAFE IN CASE OF A FIRE. FIREFIGHTERS PROVIDE LIFESAVING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AN EFFORT TO DRASTICALLY DECREASE CASUALTIES CAUSED BY FIRES. OUR WAUSA FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS WILL BE COMING TO SCHOOL THAT WEEK TO TALK TO EACH CLASS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY. THE KIDS WILL GET TO ASK QUESTIONS, LOOK AT FIRE GEAR, AND GET A CLOSE LOOK AT A FIRE TRUCK. THANK YOU TO THE WRFD FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL AND HELPING KEEP KIDS SAFE!

**Halloween Parties will be held in each classroom on Thursday, October 31st. Children should not wear their costumes to school that morning. More information will be coming from your child (ren)'s teacher as it gets closer.**

We will be holding **two Scholastic Book Fairs** this year! The first one is this month to benefit the elementary school, and the second one will be in the spring to benefit the school library.

It is time for the SchoolStore fundraiser. Packets went home with students last week. They can earn prizes while earning money for our school. Please help the school by participating in this fundraiser!

### Importance of Good Behavior at School

We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing the importance of good behavior at school. Recently, we've noticed some students being too loud in the lunchroom, running on playground equipment, and not always listening to paras and teachers. These behaviors can create safety concerns and disrupt the learning environment. Please take a moment to talk to your child about following school rules, using indoor voices, being safe on the playground, and listening to the paras and teachers. Working together, we can ensure a safe and positive experience for all students. We want that for all of our students! Thank you for your continued support! -Mrs. Heimes

## Wausa Parent Council

presents...

### The Great Pumpkin Decorating Contest

for  
PreK-6th grades

BRING YOUR PUMPKIN TO THE ELEMENTARY

ON  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST.

**JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 31ST.**

**There will be a winner for each category from each class announced on Friday, November 1st!**

**Entries will be judged (by an outside entity) according to the following categories:**

**\* TEAM SPIRIT \***

(Choose your favorite team and show us your spirit.)

**\* MOVIE MAYHEM \***

(Get creative and display your favorite movie scene or character.)

**\* FOOD FRENZY \***

(Channel your inner foodie to help you disguise your pumpkin as a food item.)

(This is a family project; however, Wausa Parent Council encourages students to take the lead role in the design. Also, please reach out to Wausa Parent Council if you have any questions or if you need help obtaining a pumpkin or items to decorate.)

**RULES ON BACK**

## Wausa Parent Council

presents...

### The Great Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Pick out the perfect pumpkin and get it all dressed up for the season! Wausa Elementary School is holding a contest for the best decorated pumpkins, just in time for Halloween!

#### -- The Rules --

1. The main part of each entry must be a pumpkin or a member of the pumpkin family.
2. Pumpkins may not be carved or hollowed out.
3. Pumpkins may not be larger than 2' X 2' X 2'.
4. Objects, paper and materials of any kind may be pinned or glued to pumpkins. Participants may also draw or paint on their entries or dress them up. Again, do not carve or hollow out your pumpkin.
5. We reserve the right to dispose of any pumpkin that starts to rot during the contest period.
6. Pumpkins shall be taken home or picked up no later than Friday, November 1st by 2:15pm. Pumpkins that are left behind will be thrown away.
7. All entrants should write their name and grade on the BOTTOM of the pumpkin in permanent marker. Any visible names will not be judged.
8. No pre-purchased pre-decorated pumpkins will be allowed to enter the contest. One entry per student only, for Grades PreK-6.