

WALHALLA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

<https://sites.google.com/a/g.oconee.k12.sc.us/walhalla-elementary/home>

A Title I School

The mission of Walhalla Elementary School, in cooperation with home and community, is to develop confident, responsible, productive lifelong learners, by providing a total educational experience in a positive environment.

December 2018

Principal's Points

Shanon Lusk

I want to begin by wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season. This is a very special time of the year and I hope everyone will take the time to enjoy the season with family and friends. Our [Season's Readings](#) night on Monday, December 10th, is one opportunity to do so. Again this year, this night will have lots of activities for the entire family. I hope everyone will attend this festive and fun-filled event sponsored by our School Improvement Council.

Our Santa Shop, sponsored by our PTST, will be open December 3rd – 7th for students to shop for their family members. The PTST donates a portion of the profits from the Santa Shop to our school's White Christmas fund that is used to help our families in need.

We are excited to be able to have our Christmas Programs in our new gym this year. Please note the performance dates on the calendar section of this newsletter. We hope you will be able to join us for these performances.

Thursday, December 20th, will be a half-day for students with dismissal at 11:00 am. A bag lunch will be available to students.

Please encourage your child to continue to work hard and exhibit the characteristics of a STAR student. It is extremely important that your child be at school and on time each day. We have a great deal of work to do between now and Christmas break and we need your help and support to ensure we are successful.

I appreciate your continued involvement and support of Walhalla Elementary School. By working together, we can ensure that Walhalla Elementary School is a school **Where Everyone is a Star!**



Calendar of Events

December 2018

12/3-12/7	PTST Santa Shop Week
12/10	Season's Readings at 5:30 pm
12/18	Christmas Program for Grades 4 th & 5 th at 9:00 am
12/19	Christmas Program for Grades 2 nd & 3 rd at 9:00 am
12/20	Christmas Program for Grades K & 1 st at 9:00 am
12/20	1/2 day dismissal at 11:00 am
12/20-1/2	Christmas/New Year's Holidays

January 2019

1/3	School Resumes
1/11	End of 2 nd Nine Weeks
1/21	STUDENT HOLIDAY
1/16	Report Cards Issued



Curriculum for Students Christi Hartsock

We have had an exciting November at Walhalla Elementary and are looking forward to an eventful December as well!

Winter MAP Testing

All students in grades K-5 will participate in Winter MAP testing for Math and Reading. It begins 12/4 and goes through 12/14. Please encourage your child to get a good night sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and give their best effort! This is a great diagnostic tool for teachers to use the data to drive their individualized instruction. Please watch classroom newsletters for exact subjects on dates.

Celebrations

Our Veteran's Day Celebration was a tremendous success. We want to thank all of the veterans who attended and thank our chorus students and teachers for their awesome performance as well. We look forward to Season's Readings- STEAMing our way to a Traditional Christmas! on the evening of 12/10.

It will be an awesome event!

Coke Rewards Program

Codes can be found on your favorite Coca-Cola brand's packaging. Check underneath the cap, inside the tear-off of 12-packs and inside the wrap of our multi-packs.

Points donated will be converted to cash and the school will receive a quarterly payment to be used on physical education, sports, technology, arts and/or classroom supplies.



Volunteer Information

The School District of Oconee County has implemented a new background check system. Background Information Bureau (BIB) provides a more detailed report that a volunteer can complete themselves without giving out their personal information to the school. The cost for the background check is \$19.45. A credit or debit card must be used to pay the fee online. You will receive a copy of your background check by email and within two weeks, a card in the mail. The background check will be good for two years. The school will receive notification of the background as well. **THIS IS THE ONLY BACKGROUND CHECK THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

To access BIB, please follow the guidelines below:

- **USE INTERNET EXPLORER BROWSER**
- Go to the school districts website- www.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Click on the parent link
- Look for the navigation bar on the right, "Information"
- Click on the Background Check to Volunteer
- Read paragraph and then select - Please use this link to complete a background check
- Read the Secure Volunteer information and click on the blue button **I WANT TO VOLUNTEER**
- Follow the steps as you are directed to fill in your personal information and payment

Don't Forget to Send in Excuses for Absences, Tardies & Early Dismissals

There has been a change from the SCDE regarding attendance and how long a student must be at school to be counted present for the day. **Per the SCDE, a pupil is counted absent if he/she is not present for greater than 50% of the school day.** The actual calculation (done automatically by PowerSchool) is based on the minutes covered in a school's bell schedule.

A student who misses school must present a written excuse within three (3) days after the student returns to school. If your child was absent but did not go to the doctor, we still need a written excuse, signed by a parent/legal guardian, stating why the child was absent.

Make sure the excuse contains the following information:

- date(s) student was absent
- student's first and last name
- teacher's name

These requirements also apply for tardies and early dismissals.

Don't forget to shop for points at Ingles!

If you shop at Ingles, please make sure our school is listed on your Ingles Advantage Card. Please go to the Ingles website, www.ingles-markets.com/advantage_card, to register your card. This has to be renewed each school year!



Christmas Program Dates and Attire

K-1 grades= "Flakes"

Thursday, December 20th at 9am
White shirts

2-3 grades- "The Littlest Christmas Tree"

Wednesday, December 19th at 9am
Green shirts

4-5 grades- "Dear Santa"

Tuesday, December 18th at 9am
Christmas colors

Literacy Coach's Corner



By Linda Smith

The holiday season is upon us! As you would expect, I am going to recommend that at least some of the gifts your children receive this year require them to read. There are so many opportunities for real life reading experiences during the break from school- Here are just a few ideas to keep your children reading:

- Make reading an essential part of your children's lives. Let them read menus, movie names, roadside signs, game guides, weather reports, and other practical everyday information. Always try to make sure your children have something to read in their spare time. (Travel bags should include books, magazines, e-readers, etc.)
- Letting children have choices in their reading material goes a long way in raising life-long readers. Kids who choose what they read, regardless of whether it's a novel, a comic book, or a magazine, are more engaged with what they are reading and more likely to retain the information. (Visit the public library)
- Your smartphone or tablets can be used to install useful reading apps where kids can have safe spaces for reading without parents worrying about what they might come across online. Parents are able to choose what their children can access, as well as how long they can do different activities with timer features.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Counselor Corner

By Heather Hunnicutt

I cannot believe that Christmas is right around the corner! The month of December is always so much fun here at WES! We have parties, programs, and activities for everyone to enjoy. The character word for the month of December is Compassion.

Compassion means caring enough to do something about someone else's need. It is very important to remember that it is always better to give than to receive. I hope that all the students here at WES will remember this during the Christmas season. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

SchoolPay

The School District of Oconee County has partnered with SchoolPay to assist families in paying for school-related fees with a debit or credit card. SchoolPay allows parents to pay for school lunches, yearbooks, field trips, and any other related cost that may occur throughout the school year.

SchoolPay is also accessible through your child's Powerschool account.

To create an account with SchoolPay, go to: www.schoolpay.com. You will need your child's student identification number and the name of the school he/she attends in order to register.

Mark your calendars!!!

The annual Walhalla Elementary School Fun Run and 5K is on March 9th! We are looking for sponsors for this event. Are you or someone you know interested in sponsoring this event? All sponsor names are printed on the back of participant t-shirts. You may also send in flyers for us to place in the race bags. This is a great way to promote your business and show your school spirit. If you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Shanon Lusk, Sara Wright or Debbie Rowland at 864-886-4480.

Walhalla Elementary School continues to collect **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**. The school receives a dime for every box top that you send to school. Look for the labels pictured here for us to receive credit. They are on several brands of cereal, refrigerated/dairy, frozen, snacks, baking, and others.



Look for this symbol to collect points!

Golden Apple Awards Program
Sponsored by WYFF News 4 & Ingles

WYFF News 4 & Ingles proudly continue to sponsor the Golden Apple Awards given to deserving teachers. Please stop by our local Ingles store to pick up a Golden Apple nomination form. Using this form, you can share why your child's teacher (past or present) should receive this honor. Each week, an outstanding educator is featured during the Thursday 5:00 pm newscast on WYFF 4.

What a wonderful way to spotlight the wonderful teachers here at Walhalla Elementary School.

Orders are now being taken for the 2018-2019 Yearbook. The cost of each yearbook is \$18.00. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook for your child, then complete the form on the left and send it in to your child's teacher. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WALHALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

To order online, visit
www.inter-state.com/yearbook
and enter the code: 31485J

DEADLINE IS
February 1, 2019.

Per The Walhalla Elementary
Family Handbook

Parents are not allowed to bring in, or drop off, specially purchased meals (McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, etc.) for a child's lunch. No child will be allowed to have soft drinks at lunch or snack time.



Student's Name _____

Teacher's name: _____

Grade: _____

Number of Books: _____

Total: _____

Cash or Check# _____

The cost for each yearbook is \$18.00. Please make checks payable to
Walhalla Elementary School.

A Note from the Nurse
By Heather Robinson

With colder temperatures approaching, colds and viruses and things such as head lice become more prevalent due to wearing jackets, scarves, toboggans, close family gatherings, etc. Take a few minutes to discuss ways to prevent illness with your child such as:

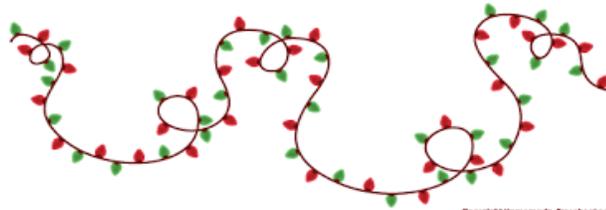
- washing hands with soap and water especially before eating
- covering their cough
- eating a well-balanced diet and getting plenty of rest

Please note that district policy states that students must be free of fever or any episodes of vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

Also, please talk with your kids about ways to prevent the spread of head lice:

- no sharing hats, brushes, combs, hair bows, scarves, jackets, towels, and even headphones
- avoiding hair to hair contact while playing
- keep longer hair pulled up in pony tails or braids
- consider over the counter products such as sprays made to be lice repellent (as always, check with your child's physician before using any medications).
- check students and family member's hair for lice on a weekly basis and anytime intense scratching is noted.

Please note that while inconvenient, head lice do not harbor or spread any diseases. Please feel free to call or stop by my office with any questions!



Walhalla Elementary
Santa Shop

Santa Shop kicks off December 3rd and continues through December 7th. This is an opportunity for WES students to shop for the special people in their lives. Students will shop 'til they drop on their designated day with their class.

Monday, Dec. 3 rd	Walk-through
Tuesday, Dec. 4 th	Kindergarten and 1 st grade
Wednesday, Dec. 5 th	4 th and 5 th grade
Thursday, Dec. 6 th	2 nd & 3 rd grade
Friday, Dec. 7 th	Make-up day



All items are \$2

Send money in a Ziploc bag with the student's name on it. **Happy Shopping!**