

# WALHALLA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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

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.

## September 2019

### Principal's Points

Christi Hartsock

Welcome back to the 2019 - 2020 school year! I hope you all enjoyed your summer. I am so glad to have your child with us at Walhalla Elementary School. We've had a great start to the new school year!

Please remember that we will no longer take phone calls or emails for transportation changes. A signed note is required for all transportation changes. We also ask that you do not sign your child out after 2:00 unless it is an emergency. This will help ensure safety for all students in our building!

While we welcome and encourage parents to visit our school, all visitors must stop by the front office to receive a visitor's badge upon entering the building at any time during school hours. Please bring a picture ID with you also to be scanned with our new badge system. If you plan to visit your child's classroom, please make sure you have made plans with the classroom teacher prior to arrival.

I truly consider it an honor to work with such wonderful students, families, and faculty/staff members. If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 886-4480. I look forward to wonderful year of learning!

### Calendar of Events September 2019

9/2	Labor Day Holiday
9/9	Individual Picture Day
9/10	Good News Club Begins 3:00 - 4:00 pm
9/24	Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night (5:00 - 8:00 PM)
9/25	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Ms. Melton's Grandparents Day Lunch
9/27	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Grandparents Day Lunch

## **Important Information from Dr. Thorsland, Superintendent**

We wanted to inform you of a change that has been made regarding the distribution of progress reports. The School District of Oconee County will continue to send quarterly reports at the midpoint of each quarter. Teachers will be expected to enter grades in their gradebooks weekly so parents can stay up to date on their student's progress through PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you do not currently have a Parent Portal account, please contact your child's school and request a Parent Porter letter. The Parent Portal letter provides instructions on setting up the Parent Portal account as well as an ID and password needed to link your child to the account.

The only exception to this change is that high schools will send home a midterm grade report for classes that are only one nine weeks in duration.

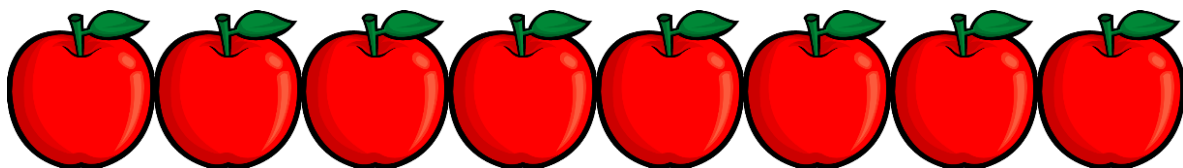
If you have questions regarding this change in policy, or need assistance with getting access to PowerSchool Parent Portal, please contact your child's school and speak to an administrator.

Thank your understanding and support as we make this transition.

## **Curriculum for Students Emily Roberts**

Welcome back! I am so excited to begin another wonderful year! We have had a great start to the new school year, and our students are really beaming with excitement at Walhalla Elementary! I wanted to inform you of some important upcoming events. Fall MAP will begin September 10th. The entire school will participate in Fall, Winter and Spring MAP testing. I know our students will put forth their best effort!

We always appreciate your help and support throughout the school year! If you have any questions or concerns that I can help you with, feel free to contact me at 886-4480. I am looking forward to working with you and your children this year!



# Welcome Back!

## 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](http://www.ingles-markets.com/advantage_card), to register your card. This has to be renewed each school year!



## 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:

- Go to the school districts website- [www.oconee.k12.sc.us](http://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

## Class DoJo



Want to see exciting pictures of your child's classroom in action? Enjoy positive news from your child's teacher daily? Then be sure to sign up for Class DoJo! It's easy, and can be accessed by an app on your phone! See your child's teacher for details!



Chorus began on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> until 3:30 pm. Parents are asked to pick up using the single file RIGHT dismissal line.

For any questions, please contact Kayla Williams at [kmwilliams@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:kmwilliams@g.oconee.k12.sc.us)

## 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](http://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.

## 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.



Want to see grades and attendance at the tip of your finger? Then sign up for a Parent Portal account today! This website allows you to set up for weekly grade notifications as well as missing work. Parent Portal also makes registration a SNAP! Don't worry about snapcodes and passwords, log into your parent portal account and complete registration from your phone. That's right! There's an app for Parent Portal/Power School. Download the Power School app from your Apple or Android play store. The district code is JMGL. If you have any questions, please email [nking@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:nking@g.oconee.k12.sc.us) or call the school at (864) 886-4480.



## Grandparents Lunch Schedule

- Sept. 25 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Grandparents 12:15 - 12:40 pm
- Sept. 25 Ms. Melton's Class 11:45 am - 12:10 pm
- Sept. 27 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Grandparents 12:20 - 12:45 pm
- Oct. 2 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Grandparents 11:15 - 11:40 am
- Oct. 4 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Grandparents 11:30 - 11:55 am
- Oct. 9 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Grandparents 10:55 - 11:20 am
- Oct. 11 Kindergarten Grandparents 10:40 - 11:05 am

Adult Lunch  
Cost is \$3.85

# TERRACYCLE List 2019

Please only send items on this list!

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Walhalla Elementary's Kindergarten Classes continually collect waste that would otherwise pollute our environment, to be processed into new products and raise money for our classes. Please help us by collecting the following items and sending them to WES. We will have bins set up for collection:



## \*Chip & Cookie Wrappers\*

(Any brand/size chip wrappers, including individual, family size and multipacks)



## \*Cleaning Product Packaging\*

(Cleaner lids, cleaner pumps, and cleaner flexible packaging and bags)



## \*Cereal bags\*

(Any brand/size cereal bags and liners)



## \*Entenmann's Little Bites Packaging\*



## \*Snack Bar Wrappers\*

(Any brand/type foil lined snack bar wrappers)



## \*Healthy Snack Pouches\*

(lids only!!)



## \*Personal Care and Beauty Packaging\*

(hair care packaging, skin care packaging and cosmetics packaging)



## \*Air Care Packaging\*

(air freshener cartridges and plugs, packaging and flexible film packaging, trigger heads, and aerosol containers)

READY, SET, GO GREEN!!!!!!

If you have any questions please e-mail [ssphillips@oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:ssphillips@oconee.k12.sc.us) . Thank you so much for helping our school and our earth!

\*\*Thanks for your continued support!\*\*

