

Williamson Elementary School

October Newsletter

ATTENTION:

During school hours, there is only one door unlocked. This allows us to assist all volunteers and visitors. It also helps keep the building secure and safe. When coming into school, you must report to the Main Office to check in and pick up a pass. There is a log on the counter where you are asked to sign in as you enter the building and sign out as you leave. Even if you are working in your child's room each week, we ask you to wear a pass. We have *Visitor Passes* and *Volunteer Passes*. If you are bringing your child into school when school is in session, or you are picking your child up before dismissal, please check in at the Main Office, then report to the Health office for a Blue Slip. The Blue Slip procedure is the same as last year.

Your cooperation with this policy is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Elementary School Main Office at 589-9668.

Thank you.

Anne P. Ressler
Elementary School Principal, K – 4

"I CAN" - MOTTO OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Beginning in October, the "I CAN" program, rewarding academic achievement, will be continued in Grades K-4. The "I CAN" award will be given to students who have completed a specific learning task set forth by the teacher. The intent of this program is to encourage all to have self-confidence and high expectations. Students may receive up to two such awards throughout the year.

RIDING BIKES

Riding bikes to school by students in Grades K-4 is not allowed due to traffic congestion in our parking lots and around our school.



Elementary School Telephone #:

589-9668

BIRTHDAY/HOLIDAY TREATS

The custom of sharing birthday and holiday treats with other students and staff at school is a long-standing and desirable part of the school experience. However, due to the disruption to the instructional program, we have found it necessary to cut back, somewhat, on the practice. We are limiting the distribution of treats to the child's classroom (and teaming partner's room), the offices, and the "specials" rooms. Please consider these limits when preparing treats to be shared at school.

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTY INVITATIONS AT

PROJECT TRY

Project TRY is the name for our Primary Mental Health Project. This project provides counseling for students who are identified as "at risk" for school failure. Trained paraprofessionals (called Child Associates) work with small groups and individual students to work through feelings and needs that may interfere with school.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The school is looking for substitute personnel in the following areas:

Classroom teachers, teacher assistants, student aides, clerical positions, monitors, and cafeteria monitors.

Substitute Monitor

Part time (5 hours a day) position supervising students on the playground and working in classrooms to assist in the instructional program (Grades K-4)

Cafeteria Monitor

Part-time 2 1/4 hours per day (10:45-1:00)

Working with various classrooms in the school cafeteria – monitor student behavior and assist with opening milk cartons and gathering needed utensils

Substitute Secretary

Full time day position working in the Main Office answering the telephone, receiving visitors, and operating the intercom system

Student Aide

Full time (6 hours) working with one child within a regular education classroom

Apply to:

Anne P. Ressler

Elementary School Principal



SCHOOL

An established practice, here at Williamson and at most other schools, involves the distribution of party invitations by individual students. The school has allowed this practice in recognition that having friends and inviting them to one's home play an important part in the development of social skills. However, this practice can also lead to the loss of self-esteem and hurt feelings. When invitations are distributed to members of a class those not invited are likely to feel left out and isolated.

In light of the possible negative consequences we ask that the distribution of invitations be handled in a careful and considerate fashion. Each teacher has a preferred approach to this matter and will inform you in a newsletter. Please follow the teacher's suggested approach so as to avoid the damage that can result to those students not invited to an event.

SCHOOL PICTURES

ROLLERSKATING PARTIES

Listed below are the dates for the roller-skating parties at the Elementary School. These parties run from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. We ask that parents report to the school ***promptly*** at 4:45 p.m. to pick up students.

<u>Grades 1 & 2:</u>	<u>Grades 3 & 4:</u>
Wed., Oct. 4	Wed., Nov. 1
Wed., Dec. 13	Wed., Jan. 3
Wed., Feb. 7	Wed., Mar. 7
Wed., Apr. 4	Wed., May 2

The dates for school pictures have been set. Again this year we will have **Lifetouch** photographers. The dates are as follows:



Picture Day	Friday,
October 6	
Make-Up Day	Thursday, November 9

DIANN ROFFE STEINROTTER SPEAKS TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF AND STUDENTS

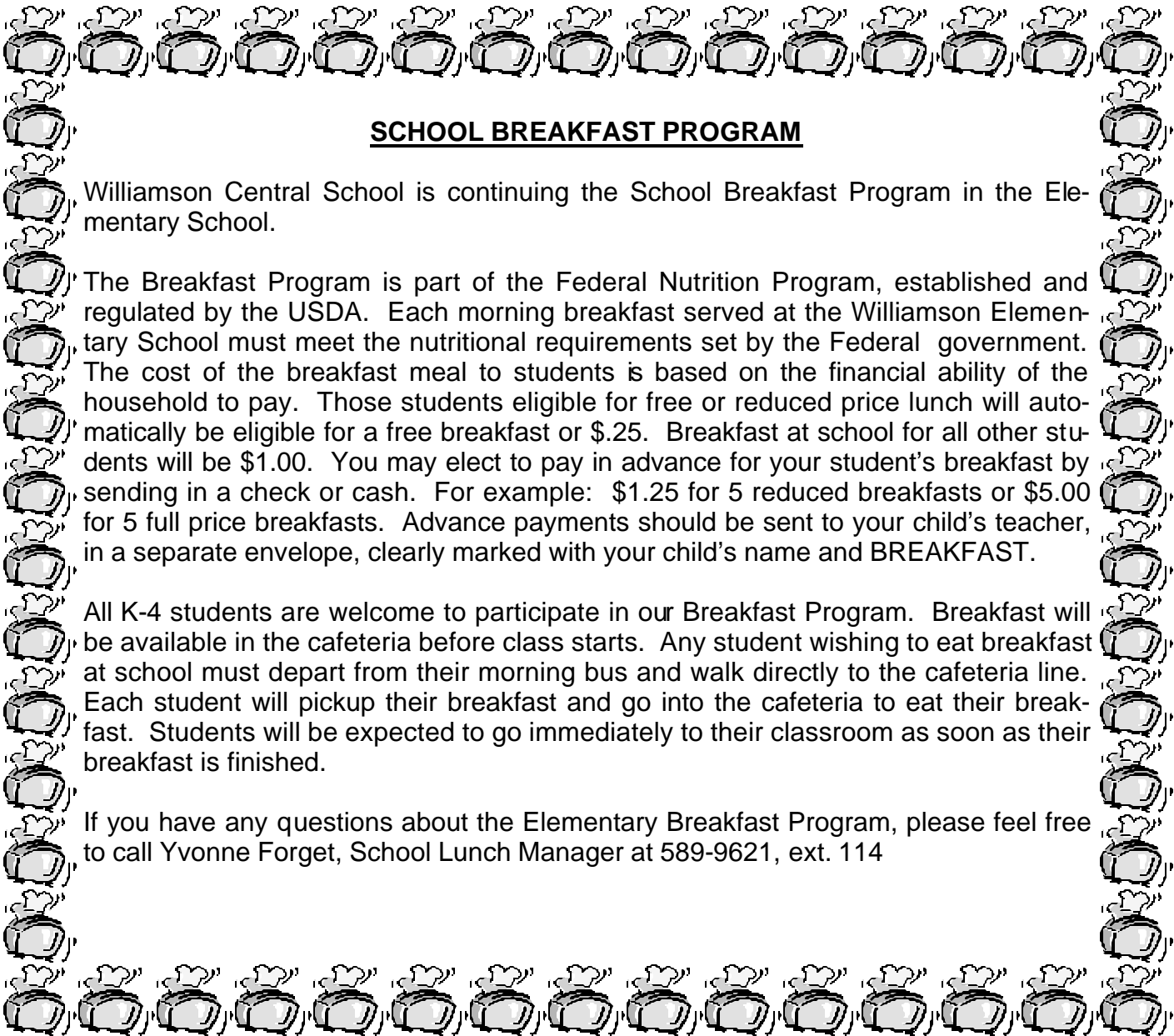
On Thursday, September 7, Diann Roffe Steinrotter spoke to the entire student body and faculty. In an inspirational message, the unassuming gold and silver medal winner spoke about her three Olympic experiences. While wearing both of her medals, Diann stated, "I started kindergarten in this school, I lived on Main Street, Mr. Minier was my high school soccer coach, and I won two Olympic medals. I found something that I was good at and followed my dream. Any one of you could do what I did if you are willing to work for what you want." The Olympian inspired both the students and the staff as she spoke about having to compete on three separate occasions before she won her medals.

Two students from each grade level formed the Olympic rings symbolizing the unity between the grade levels while I spoke of the similarities between the Olympics and school.

Next, Mrs. Christi Byron taught us to sing a new song with an Olympic theme and hearing the entire student body sing along brought tears to many of the faculty members' eyes.

Mrs. Patty Sheridan, our art teacher, entered the gymnasium holding the torch she carried in the relay prior to the Atlanta, Georgia Olympics four years ago. The torch was then passed on to each teacher as I spoke about the teachers setting their minds on fire for learning. One student from each grade level and a faculty member then stood in a circle while the torch was lit to begin the school year.

Having Diann Roffe Steinrotter speak to the students and staff is sure to be an experience that we will long remember!



SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

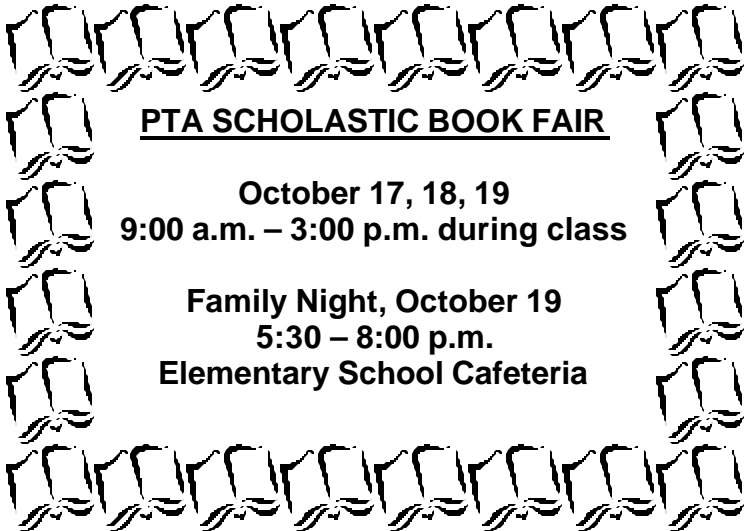
Williamson Central School is continuing the School Breakfast Program in the Elementary School.

The Breakfast Program is part of the Federal Nutrition Program, established and regulated by the USDA. Each morning breakfast served at the Williamson Elementary School must meet the nutritional requirements set by the Federal government. The cost of the breakfast meal to students is based on the financial ability of the household to pay. Those students eligible for free or reduced price lunch will automatically be eligible for a free breakfast or \$.25. Breakfast at school for all other students will be \$1.00. You may elect to pay in advance for your student's breakfast by sending in a check or cash. For example: \$1.25 for 5 reduced breakfasts or \$5.00 for 5 full price breakfasts. Advance payments should be sent to your child's teacher, in a separate envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and BREAKFAST.

All K-4 students are welcome to participate in our Breakfast Program. Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria before class starts. Any student wishing to eat breakfast at school must depart from their morning bus and walk directly to the cafeteria line. Each student will pickup their breakfast and go into the cafeteria to eat their breakfast. Students will be expected to go immediately to their classroom as soon as their breakfast is finished.

If you have any questions about the Elementary Breakfast Program, please feel free to call Yvonne Forget, School Lunch Manager at 589-9621, ext. 114

<u>STUDENT LUNCH PRICES</u>	
Hot Lunch ...	\$1.00
Milk ...	\$.30



PTA SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

October 17, 18, 19
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. during class

Family Night, October 19
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Elementary School Cafeteria

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

STAYING AHEAD OF HEAD LICE

Occasionally, in the fall, head lice make an appearance. Here are some helpful tips in dealing with them.

- 1 Watch for signs, such as frequent head scratching. Head-to-head contact, sharing of brushes, hats, headrests, etc. can spread them.
- 2 Check family members in bright light, especially at the crown, neck, and behind the ears. Look for nits, which are the eggs attached directly to the hair shaft near the scalp.
- 3 Continue to check on a regular basis; lice infestation is much easier to treat if caught early.
- 4 When you find a case of lice, notify the school and day care, as well as parents of playmates. This is the best way to protect your family and community.
- 5 Be sure to follow all of the directions on the packaging carefully. Many treatments require using shampoos that do not contain conditioners. Removing all nits and cleaning the environment thoroughly will prevent re-infestation.

Please call Mrs. Judy Plyter (School Nurse) if you would like more information.

GOOD HAND WASHING

In the K-4 classes, we are emphasizing the importance of good hand washing. This simple procedure is essential in preventing illness. Please encourage your child to wash often, especially after bathroom trips and before eating.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Please plan for a 10 minute check-out process. This will allow you ample time to follow the sign in process in the Main Office.

Please send a note in the morning if you will be picking your student up early or at dismissal. This way "blue slips" can be made out ahead of time, avoiding back-up and confusion at the last minute.



BUS PASSES

When writing notes for bus passes, please remember to include the following information:

- * **the student's first and last name**
- * **the teacher's name**
- * **the name and address of where the student is going (and the bus number if known)**
- * Mrs. Faye Ticconi, Health Office Aide, is responsible for filling out bus passes for your child.

FIRE HALL TRIP

As part of our Fire Safety Education, students in Grades K, 2, & 4 will be visiting the Williamson Fire Hall on **Tuesday, October 3**. Under the direction of the Fire Department, members will display and explain fire company procedures. The firemen dress up and familiarize the students with the look and sounds of a fireman at work. Fire safety practices at home and at school are stressed. Students are encouraged to wear long pants on this trip.

NO SCHOOL

Superintendent's Conference Day Oct. 27
 Columbus Day Oct. 9
 Superintendent's Conference Day Nov. 10
 Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 22, 23, 24

WILLIAMSON WOMEN

When school opened this fall we were privileged to have four generations of women working or attending school at the Elementary School. Radah Wacenske is a retired nurse who has spent the last 13 years volunteering in the school library. Her daughter, Judy Wooster, has spent the last 17 years safely driving a school bus for the district. Judy Wooster's daughter, Mary-Jay Alward, has skillfully driven a school bus for the last 9 years. Kayla Jean Alward, Mary-Jay's daughter, started her first year of school as a Kindergartner in Mrs. Robusto's class on September 5, 2000. It is a true pleasure to have four generations with ties to the Elementary School. Kayla will always remember the commitment that her mother, grandmother, and great grandmother made to support the school in her education!

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PROGRAM

The Williamson Elementary School welcomes eight WCS High School seniors who will be working with mentor teachers each afternoon this semester. Mr. Jeffrey Van Deusen, School-To-Career Coordinator, has arranged the following placements:

Liz Mangieri	-	Mrs. Emerson (Kindergarten)
Molly Wilson	-	Mrs. Carlson/Mrs. Worthington (Kindergarten)
Dan Verdine	-	Mrs. Taft (1st Grade)
Sarah Bouwens	-	Mrs. Gardner (2nd Grade)
Mitch Wissick	-	Mr. Parker (2nd Grade)
Dave Reetz	-	Mrs. Velte (3rd Grade)
Erika Eaton	-	Mrs. J. Miller (3rd Grade)

These students will participate in a two week orientation/observation experience with Mrs. Wilkins before beginning work with classroom assignments. The activities planned for the semester emphasize understanding the concept of "work." The goal is to begin at the Elementary level to incorporate the New Regents Action Plan CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) and SCAN (Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills) goals, which are designed to ensure success in the workplace of the next millennium.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

If you have not visited the Elementary School Library, please do! We are fortunate to have a beautiful facility with an outstanding and growing collection of children's books, both fiction and non-fiction.

I am delighted to be in my third year as library teacher. Using my experiences as a classroom teacher, storyteller, and a lover of children's books, I hope to both inspire and instruct students in the many uses for reading and the library. Weekly classes include stories, poetry, finger plays, interactive games, as well as a full K-4 curriculum on library skills. In time, we would like to provide our students with the necessary skills to use technology effectively in accessing, evaluating, and using information from the library as well. I hope to build into this year's program more time for students to just read!

During September and October, kindergarten classes have been learning how to care for library materials while enjoying stories and games to reinforce early language skills. First grade students have been introduced to several Caldecott winners. This award is given annually to an outstanding picture book with exceptional illustrations. Discovering the various sections of the library has been the task of second graders, while also enjoying read or told stories weekly.

Although third and fourth grade students exchange library materials weekly, their formal library lessons are scheduled in one hour blocks sporadically throughout the year to correspond with classroom units and objectives. Their lessons support independent access to library materials, research skills, introduction to several reference sources, and book talks.

Mrs. Shultes and I are very excited to see the enthusiasm of all the students and appreciate your continued support for the care and returning of library materials as dated. If I can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to call or write. For any of you interested in using the internet to further reading and learning, an excellent web site to explore at home is www.ala.org/parentpage/greatsites/amazing.html.

Mrs. Mary Jo TenEyck

