



# Williamson Elementary School

Welcome to the WILLIAMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the 2000-2001 school year. Please read and post this Newsletter and make use of the calendar.

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

### Telephone Numbers:

Elementary School	-	589-9668
Middle School	-	589-9665
High School	-	589-9621
Business Office	-	589-9661
Superintendent's Office	-	589-9661
Bus Garage	-	589-6901
CSE Office	-	589-8308

### Student Information Sheet

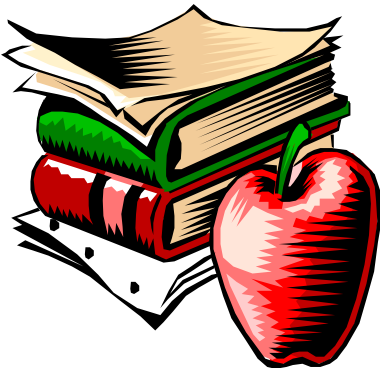
Students will receive an Information Sheet which they will bring home the first day of school. Please complete this form and return it to school as soon as possible. In addition, there is a form asking for names of those people who will have permission to pick up your child from school. **Only these individuals will be allowed by pick up your child from school.** This list can be updated at any time throughout the school year.

### Attendance

**So very important** – Student attendance in school is critical for maximum progress to result. We are requesting your assistance to help us reach our goal of increasing student attendance rates this year. Please encourage student attendance unless illness prevents. It is vitally important that students arrive on time (**no later than 8:55 a.m.**) to start their day.

### Change of Address, Telephone Number and/or Place of Work

The school needs to have up-to-date information so we are able to communicate with you. If you have changes in residence, work, and/or telephone numbers please be sure to let us know.



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## **Staff Changes**

Staff changes for the 2000-2001 school year in the Elementary School will be as follows:

Mr. Ian Thomas	-Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Jodi Barnes	-K-1 Communications Class
Mrs. Susan MacWhorter	-2-3-4 Communications Class
Mrs. Paula Dobesh	-Speech & Language Therapist
Miss Shannon Tipper	-Speech & Language Therapist
Mrs. Carol Fox	-3rd Grade Teacher
Miss Anna Carey	-Reading Teacher
Mrs. Barb Tomeno	-1st Grade Teacher

## **Visiting**

We welcome visitors to our school!

We ask that you park in the Parking Areas and proceed to the Main Office. Please sign in and pick up a *Visitor's Pass* for your time in the building. As you leave, please sign out and return your *Visitor's Pass*.

If you are bringing items to school for students, please drop them off in the Main Office. We will see that they are delivered. This will reduce interruption of instructional time in the classroom.

## **School Lunch**

Lunch is served daily in the Elementary School. All students will be eating in the cafeteria.

*Breakfast* \$1.00

*Hot Lunch* \$1.00

*Milk* \$ .30



All money for lunches brought to school by students should be labeled with student name, amount of money, and purpose (*lunch money*) noted. **Free and Reduced** lunches are available for those children whose family meets the criteria. Forms and information are sent home the first day of school and are available in each building.

## **Snacks**

Most of our classes have a mid-morning snack. We suggest nutritional snacks such as apples, pears, bananas, raisins, etc. Avoid sweets such as candy bars, cake, and cookies.

## **When Your Child is to be Picked Up During the School Day**

To insure the safety of each child and to minimize disruptions in our educational program, we ask you to follow these steps when removing a child from school during the day.

1. Complete and return to the Main Office the Pick-Up Authorization Form (this is especially important if someone other than parents pick up the child).
2. Send in a note with your child that you plan to pick up your child early.
3. Report to the Nurse's Office and ask for the release slip.
4. Go to the child's classroom to pick up child.
5. Give release slip to teacher.
6. If you return the child to school that same day, please go to the Nurse's office with your child for readmission.

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## A Summary of Current Compulsory Attendance Law

- ◆ Children who turn six (6) on or before December 1 of the school year must attend school from the start of classes in September of that school year. Children who turn six (6) after December 1 must begin school no later than the first day of session the following year.
- ◆ Children who turn sixteen (16) during the school year must remain in school until the end of that school year.
- ◆ In districts that elect to raise the compulsory age to seventeen (17) pursuant to Section 3205(3) of the Education Law, attendance is required until the end of the year in which the student turns seventeen (17).

### Ride a Bus to Open House on Thursday, October 5!!



#### Open House

Our "Get Acquainted" Open House for the Elementary School (Grades K – 4) is set for **Thursday, October 5, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** This affords families the opportunity to meet teachers and visit various classrooms, including special classes and remedial centers.

To reduce the confusion in the parking lots and to provide a more convenient way for you to get to our Open House, the Transportation Department will be providing busing again this year. The buses will run continuously from the high school parking lot and from the parking area behind IGA Supermarket from **5:00 until 8:00 p.m.**, allowing you to arrive at the school door and return to your vehicle.

The Elementary School Open House with visitation to the classrooms will be **6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

See you there!

### K – 4 ABLE Team – 2000-2001 Goals

The Elementary School along with the entire school district develops annual school improvement plans. This process helps coordinates the variety of excellent education practices currently existing under a common plan. It involves cooperation and commitment on the part of administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents.

The ABLE Team consists of:

Cyndi Cappon	Parent Representative
Gloria Decker	Support Staff
Sandi Gardner	Grade 2
Sue Gregg	Grade 4
Judy Hoefen	Grade K
Becky Lisy	PPS
Joan Miller	Grade 3
Karen Fitzgerald	Parent Representative
Dan Schoonerman	WFA Rep
Mary Thomas	Grade 1
Anne Ressler	Principal

## **Focusing on Respectful Behavior**

Over the past 5 years the staff of the Elementary School have researched, designed, and piloted various program ideas dealing with the issue of civil behavior. **By civil behavior we mean the way one person treats another ... the respect, regard, and concern for others expressed in various social behaviors.** There has been growing concern about the lack of civility in the exchange between students. These concerns mirror the concern expressed throughout our society regarding the inconsiderate and disrespectful behavior increasingly experienced by our citizens. In response to this we have instituted a BE WISE Program that teaches and reinforces civil behavior in school.

The **BE WISE Program** will be expanded to include specific focus on desired behaviors. Each week one specific behavior will be discussed during morning announcements and will be reinforced by teachers throughout the day. Below you will find the list of specific **RESPECTFUL BEHAVIORS** we will focus on during the course of this school year.

### **Weapon-Free Schools**

Recent state legislation reinforces an existing prohibition against the carrying of weapons on buses, school grounds, and/or into school buildings. The term weapon is defined as "any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile; the frame or receiver of such a weapon; any firearm muffler, or silencer; or any destructive device." Very severe penalties have been written into the law including one year suspension from school.

Please take any possible precaution to insure that your child does not have access to any weapons which would then be carried to school.



### **No Smoking**

A recent state and local regulation prohibits smoking, by any person, on school grounds. School grounds includes school buildings, playing fields, drive-ways, and parking lots. Your cooperation in adhering to this regulation is appreciated.

### **Five Be Wise Rules**

1. Respect Yourself, Adults, and Other Students
2. Cooperate and Be Helpful
3. Respect the Property of Others
4. Be Friendly and Kind
5. Respect the Space of Others



## Who To Contact If . . .

- ⇒ Your child is sick or has been hurt.  
***K – 4 School Nurse – Mrs. Plyter, 589-9668, ext. 112***
- ⇒ Your child is having problems on the school bus.  
***Transportation Supervisor – Mrs. Weber, 589-6901  
or K – 4 Principal – Miss Ressler, 589-9668, ext. 110***
- ⇒ Your child is struggling with assignments.  
***Classroom Teacher, 589-9668***
- ⇒ Your child is having problems on the playground.  
***Classroom Teacher, 589-9668 or  
K – 4 Principal, 589-9668, ext. 110***
- ⇒ Your child seems unhappy (over a period of time).  
***Classroom Teacher, 589-9668  
or School Psychologist – Mrs. Seniuk, 589-9668, ext. 127  
or Home/School Counselor – Mrs. Decker, 589-9668, ext. 131***
- ⇒ Your child's placement in Reading or Math seems wrong.  
***Classroom Teacher, 589-9668  
or K – 4 Reading Teacher – Mrs. Kane, 589-9668, ext. 132***
- ⇒ Your child is experiencing speech or language-related problems.  
***Speech Specialist – Mrs. Salitan or Miss Tipper, 589-9668,  
ext. 142***

### Goldenrod Rule

Over the past several years, the Elementary School has used the deep mustard yellow paper (Goldenrod) to indicate a ***need for you to read, sign, and return.*** So, when you see the mustard yellow in your child's backpack, please take the time to read, sign, and return.

Thank you.  
K – 4 Staff