

Wanda Gray Elementary

Home of the *Wildcats*
2101 West Farm Road 182
Springfield, MO 65810



May, 2008

Dear Wanda Gray Parents,

It's so hard to believe that this is the final newsletter of the 2007-08 school year. I do not know where this year has gone, but it sure has been another successful year of learning.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA, Fun Night last month was a blast! I know that our kids, parents, teachers, and staff had a great time.

Our construction project is on schedule. Beginning June 2, workers will begin further removal of ceiling tiles in the existing building to install air conditioning. By August, 2008, the five kindergarten classrooms, new gym, renovated computer lab and expanded library will be complete. Air conditioning in the new addition areas, the cafeteria, current foyer area, and Little Cat Country will be complete by the time students return in the fall. The construction workers have until November, 2008 to complete air conditioning work in Big Cat Country.

We have taken a bit of a nose dive with attendance these last few months, putting us way behind than what we're used to, compared to other schools. We continue to stress the importance of good attendance and arrival by 8:45 a.m. Classrooms that have no tardies for the whole week are recognized on our web site and at Rise and Shine. We also keep track of the classrooms that have the best attendance. Thanks for your help with this.

Please join me in recognizing our wonderful teachers and staff during their special week—May 5 thru 9.

Check out our *May Students of the Month* who are listed in this newsletter! We are so proud of them! ☺ They will receive the following: a free McDonald's breakfast, wildcat card, certificate displayed in the hall for the month, and recognition at our next celebration assembly.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind this month:

MAY: Character Word of the Month is Dependable

- 2: Project HATS: Money raised is donated to the Greene County Historical Museum
- 3: K.U.B.S.' Annual Garage Sale @ 7:00 a.m.
- **5-9: TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK**
- 7: National Nurses' Day
- 9: 4th grade field trip to Exchange City in Kansas City

- 9: WG Night @ Ozark Mountain Gymnastics
- 12: Gordman's Student of the Month tour for 4th graders—6:00 p.m.
- 13: KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION @ 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- 13: WG Night @ Wendy's
- 15: PTA @ 7:00 p.m. 2nd graders perform
- 16: Student Council Spirit Day: Pajama Day
- 17: 4th grade float trip
- 21: WG Night @ Domino's
- 21: Site Council meeting for 4th quarter
- 26: Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
- 27: 1st grade field trip to the zoo
- 27 thru 29: Lunchroom Talent Shows
- 28: Field Day
- 30: Last day of the school year

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks for all of your support and thanks for sharing your children with us!

Respectfully,
Chris Mendel

cmendel@spsmail.org 523-4010



School Store--THANK YOU

The students and teachers of fourth grade want to thank our entire Wanda Gray Community for helping us raise the additional \$3,000.00 for our trip to Exchange City. The kids were thrilled when we made that final move of our bus on our bulletin board in Big Cat Country. The fourth graders have run a successful small business and will continue to sell similar products for the next few weeks--all proceeds now will go toward **the rock climbing wall** for our new gym and its accessories.



Student Dress Guidelines

(See page 12 in purple student handbook)

The responsibility for the appearance of students enrolled in the R-12 district rests with the parents and with the students themselves. When student dress is considered disruptive to the educational process, the student may be required to modify his/her clothing or be removed from the school program. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Hats, bandanas, or other forms of head covers are not to be worn in the school building.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Coats or jackets should generally be left in classroom closets or designated area.
- T-shirts and/or other apparel should not contain profanity, obscenities, suggestive or provocative statements, drug or alcohol symbols or advertisements, gang dress symbols, or graffiti.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn in the school building.
- Chains attached to wallets or used as a fashion accessory are not to be worn in the school building.
- Clothing should fit appropriately without concerns for safety or disruptive learning.
- Strapless tops, backless tops, and tops with revealing necklines are not to be worn in the school building.
- Visibly showing your underwear is not allowed in the school building.
- Wearing tops that show the bare midriff are not to be worn in the school building.



News from Nurse Charlotte.....

One of the "joys" of living in an area that still has lots of natural trees is the influx of ticks! I have seen (and heard) of several children finding ticks both at home and after coming in from recess. Here are some "Tick Tips" you might find helpful.....

- Consider applying an age-appropriate tick repellent on your child **before** they go outside to play or come to school. Due to the SPS medication policy, students are not permitted to bring or self-apply this medication during the school day. If applied prior to coming to school, most of the tick repellents continue to be effective throughout the day.
- Check your child daily for ticks--especially the scalp and groin areas.
- Removing a tick can be a tricky job sometimes! It is no longer suggested to cover them with Vaseline, fingernail polish or by putting a pin or hot object next to them. Most first aid guidelines suggest placing tweezers next to the scalp, over the tick's body/head, and with a quick, straight-up motion, removing the tick.
- After removal of the tick, you will want to clean the area with some sort of antiseptic solution (alcohol or antibacterial soap) and might even consider a triple-

antibiotic ointment such as Polysporin. If the tick was found in the scalp, you would want to avoid using hydrogen peroxide in cleaning as this could leave a discolored area to the hair!

- Another suggestion is to mark on the calendar the date and location of where the tick was removed in the event your child would experience adverse reactions-- sometimes as much as 3 weeks later!
- It is always a good idea to check the site for a couple of days after removing the tick to ensure there is no sign of infection or other complications. In the event you think your child might be having either a reaction or a possible infection, you would want to follow with your child's physician.

The school system is unable to spray or use any chemicals on the grounds to treat for possible ticks due to possible exposure of chemicals to our children!

MEDICINE PICK-UP

All medication should be picked up from the health room no later than Friday, May 30th. Any medication left after that date will be disposed of according to policy. If the parent is unable to pick up the medication, they may delegate this task to another adult-- elementary students are not allowed to transport medication. To make other arrangements, contact Nurse Charlotte at 523-4030



**WANDA GRAY ELEMENTARY
STUDENT OF THE MONTH
MAY 2008**

BRYANT - K

ALYSON THOMAS

DUNKLE - K

AUDRI MOSES

FOLEY - K

JORDYN RUST

GRAY - K

TIFFANY LE

KERN - K

CHANTELL MAINA

EVANS - 1	TRICIA HESTER
KELTNER - 1	GRACE LAFLEN
MILBURN - 1	JACKSON MOORE
SZURA - 1	KATHRYN DECK
CARDIN - 2	JADE MATHER
CRAIG - 2	ALYSSA MILLER
LUDLAM - 2	ANNA VILLASENOR
THOMPSON - 2	SCOTT NEVENHOVEN
KUBS - 2	ALEX GERZEN
KUBS - 3	BRYNN COWHERD
HANSON - 3	SARAH AZHAR
HILL - 3	ALYSSA TAYLOR
HOWSER - 3	LAURA FROST
POLLARD - 3	ALEX FESIK
BARRETT - 4	CONNOR EVANS
HIGHTOWER - 4	LAUREN CUMLEY
MCMULLIN - 4	BENJAMIN LEMON
NIBBELINK - 4	TIM RODRIGUEZ
NORMAN - 4	BREANNA PREST