



WASHINGTON SCHOOL

400 Morrow Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-3687

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER



By: Michael Weaver, Principal

2010 ISAT Testing:

We will be giving all eligible students the state-required Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) on March 1st through the 12th. Students in Fourth Grade will be tested in reading, mathematics, and science. Students in Fifth Grade will be tested in reading, mathematics and writing. Washington Elementary School results in reading, mathematics, science, and writing will be reported to you on the School Report Card in the fall. In addition, you will receive information about your child's individual performance in fall of the 2010-11 school year. The ISAT is very important to our school and community. Please emphasize to your children the importance of doing their very best while taking this exam. You can help your child do his or her best on the test day by:

- 1. making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of testing;*
- 2. making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;*
- 3. providing breakfast on the mornings of testing; (snacks will also be provided at school)*
- 4. reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand the test directions;*
- 5. letting your teacher know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do his or her best; and*
- 6. advising your child not to worry about the test- just do the best he or she can.*

We look forward to sharing the ISAT results with you this fall.

Sincerely,
Michael Weaver, Principal
Washington Elementary School

Washington Elementary Music Program:

Unfortunately a scheduling conflict occurred with the Washington Spring Music Program and has been rescheduled for April 22, 2010. Informational flyers will be sent home with the students approximately one week prior to this date. If you have any further questions, please contact the office at 815-844-3687.

Parent Reminder:

The Pontiac Police Department would like to remind drivers to be cautious of students and other pedestrians walking on the sidewalks. It has come to our attention there has been a problem with vehicle's entering the circle drive in front of Washington School. The problem is caused when there are students walking on the sidewalk directly in front of Washington School and cars are pulling into the circle drive without yielding to the students on the sidewalk. This is simply a reminder that pedestrians in the sidewalk would have the right of way. For the safety of the students and parents we would appreciate drivers to exercise caution prior to turning right onto the driveway. Thank you for your cooperation. I wish everyone a safe and happy remainder of the school year.

Respectfully,

Officer Shawna Gilliam

Illinois Vehicle Code

(625 ILCS 5/11-1008) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 11-1008)

Sec. 11-1008. Right-of-way on sidewalks. The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.

Fourth Grade News:

Our 4th grades will be testing Reading, Math, and Science during the week of March 1-5, 2010. We will have two tests on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thursday and Friday we will be giving one test each day.

Reading topics tested will be drawing inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text. Students will need to identify the main idea of a selection. They will identify the development of the plot of a story. Each Reading test will have an extended response question. Understanding the important information by focusing on the key ideas presented in the story will be demonstrated by the student in a two to three paragraph essay.

Math topics will include solving for the unknown in an equation and give estimates with whole numbers. Students will interpret data in a pictograph, bar graph, circle graph, and line graph. There will be an extended response question in the Math section. Students will demonstrate knowledge of mathematical principles which result in a correct solution and give a written explanation of the steps in a solution process.

There will be two 41 question Science tests. Students will identify the basic needs of living things: understand that each plant or animal has different structures at serve different functions in its growth, survival, and reproduction. They will need to identify the order of the planets from the sun, and know that the further planets take longer to go around the sun. There are no extended response questions for Science.

Each student has been reviewing questions that have been on previous ISAT tests that were provided by the State of Illinois. Teachers review daily. Extended response questions in math and reading have been the hardest for the students to complete correctly.

Fifth Grade News:

For our last quarter of the school year we are stressing the completion of assignments. We all get antsy about spending these beautiful days outside. However, our students need to fight the urge to play at the expense of assignment completion. We have had a great year of learning and the final days are just as crucial in regards to material being taught. Take a few minutes each night to check on your child's progress and assignments.

Our Accelerated Reader successes continue to mount. We have just 40 or so days left to get to 100% and attend the swimming party. Students should still be spending some free time each day to read novels. This is a great parent-child activity. You, as parents, will be very impressed with the novels which the children have available to read. You may even find yourself reading the books when your child goes to bed. Our April deadline for 80% or the next ten percent plateau is April 27th.

We do have an all 5th grade activity coming up on April 19th. We have assigned every 5th grader the task of making a "land yacht." The guidelines are quite simple to follow. The land yacht needs wheels. How many, what kind, what size and where they are on the yacht are up to the student. The land yacht must have a sail. Size, design, materials and method of attaching are again up to the creator. The yacht must move by the wind of a fan we will have. The size, shape, design and material of the body are all the decision of the creator.

Please be sure to look in at the web page in May to see the dates for our entire 5th grade end of year activities.

Science Triathlon

The annual Pontiac Science Triathlon will be held at Pontiac Jr. High on Saturday, May 8th, 2010. The event is open to any area 4th-8th grade student. Applications are available from Mrs. Thompson or Mr. Aplington at Washington School. Registration begins the day of the Triathlon at 8:00 a.m. and the opening ceremony begins at 8:45 a.m. Students are to build the projects at home with their parents or their teammates. Three events that students may compete in are Land Yachts, Bridges, and Model Rockets. The application has complete descriptions and instructions. Students compete against others at their grade level. They may enter as individuals, or as a member of a three-person team. The application has more information about this as well. Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Aplington will have balsa wood available for purchase if students decide to build a bridge. Rocket kits can be purchased at hobby stores- be sure they will fit an A8-3 engine which will be given to you at the event. Materials for land yachts are found or purchased items depending on the builder's own design. Awards will be presented to first, second, and third place winners in each event at each grade level at the Awards Ceremony at the end of the competition. Students who do not win one of those awards will earn a participation ribbon. Everyone will go home with an award! Hope to see you there! Contact Mrs. Thompson or Mr. Aplington at Washington School if you have questions or concerns. (Washington 815-844-3867; thompsonbre@p429.k12.il.us or aplingtonpau@p429.k12.il.us)

March Calendar:

3-1-10 / 3-12-10
3-8-10

ISAT Testing
Board Meeting Continued 7:00 p.m. @ Central School

3-11-10
3-15-10
3-16-10

5th Grade Field Trip to Springfield
Spring Pictures
11:15 Dismissal/1:00-7:00 p.m. P/T Conferences

3-18-10

PTO Book Fair
PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m. @ Central School
PBIS Celebration
11:15 Dismissal/1:00-7:00 p.m. P/T Conferences
PTO Book Fair

3-19-10
3-22-10 / 3-26-10
3-29-10
3-31-10

No School
Spring Break: No School
Students Return from Spring Break (Full Day)
AR Celebration

