News and Information for our Commerce Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 6th</td>
<td>Board of Ed Meeting/Commerce Artists Recognition - 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 12th</td>
<td><strong>Student Count Day</strong></td>
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<td>PTA Meeting - 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 13th</td>
<td>Hearts to You Orders Due</td>
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<td>Salad Bar Day!</td>
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<td>February 17th-February 21st</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Winter Break - No School</strong></td>
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<td>Monday, February 24th</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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Science Alive Visits Commerce...Thank you, PTA!

Our students LOVED our annual visit from Science Alive! We connected our learning with current/recent science units and had a blast! We are grateful to our PTA for supporting our Science Alive visits each year!

![Science Alive Visit Images]

Important Reminder:

We have several children at Commerce who are vulnerable to contagious illnesses. These brave Cougars are fighting leukemia or Spinal Muscular Atrophy. We can help them stay healthy in a few simple ways...

- Talk with your child about the importance of proper hand washing.
- Teach your child to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze (and wash their hands).
- Notify the Main Office immediately if your child has a contagious illness like chicken pox, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza (the flu), and more.
- Most importantly, have your child stay home from school if they are sick.

Together we can show that Commerce cares about these brave Cougars. On behalf of these special families and their medical teams, I thank you for your support and compassion.

Box Tops Needed!

We are currently collecting Box Tops for the spring collection. Please continue to send in neatly clipped and unexpired Box Tops. The final turn in date is Friday, February 14th. The more we collect, the more money we earn for our school!
Understanding iReady

What is the iReady Assessment (or diagnostic)?
i-Ready is an online program that measures your child’s progress in reading and math. It assists classroom teachers in determining your child’s strengths and areas for growth, personalize their learning, and monitor their progress throughout the school year. i-Ready allows us to meet your child where they are and provides us with data to inform instruction. The i-Ready diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts to questions to suit your child’s needs. Each item a student receives is based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier ones. The purpose of this is not to give your child a score or grade but to determine how to best support their learning. The i-Ready diagnostics are given three times a year - Fall, Winter, and Spring.

What is iReady Instruction?
Throughout the week, the students work on the i-Ready Online Instruction module. This provides students with lessons based on their individual strengths and areas for growth. These lessons are interactive and provide strategies supports to keep your child engaged as they learn. It is important for students to spend at least 40 minutes each week doing BOTH Reading and Math online instruction at home (20 minutes for reading/20 minutes for math). We also encourage parents/guardians to discuss their child’s progress on i-Ready lessons and celebrate their growth! Classrooms are just finishing up with Diagnostic #2 in both reading and math. Once students have completed this second round of assessments, you should receive your child’s score, along with information about online instruction. For more information about i-Ready, check out this i-Ready Family Guide.

PTA President’s Corner

- We hope everyone had a great time bowling and bouncing at our PTA Membership Event on Friday night! It was great to see everyone having a good time and making new friends! Big thank yous to Lauren Turner and Griffin Sibinovic for chairing this great event!!
- Remember to keep clicking and scanning your Box Tops! The final date to turn in box tops for this school year is Friday, February 14th!
- Our Hearts to You fundraiser is officially underway! Students will be coming home soon with a flyer with all the instructions you’ll need to help show someone you care this Valentine’s Day! Completed "hearts" and $1 per heart are due no later than February 13th! Need more hearts? Print the copy at the end of this newsletter!
- Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, February 12th. We will be joined by our Student Council! Everyone is invited to attend, especially parents of Student Council members! We will have snacks for everyone!
- Make sure your calendars are marked for two of our most popular events, Moms and Muffins the morning of 3/19 and Dads Bingo Night the evening of 4/23! You won't want to miss these family-favorite events!

Affordable Internet

$9.95
Per Month + Tax

You may qualify if you are eligible for public assistance programs such as free/reduced school lunches, Housing Assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others. Get connected today!
Schools of Choice Applications

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools is a participant in Schools of Choice 105 on a limited basis – meaning that not all buildings or grade levels will have openings. Typically, we accept applications for grades K-10. Under Schools of Choice 105, we may enroll students who are not residents of our district but still reside in one of the other 27 Oakland County school districts who meet application guidelines. The application period for the 2020-2021 school year will be January 20, 2020 thru February 7, 2020. By law, applications cannot be accepted before January 20th or after February 7th. Please use this link for more information.

Note: If you are currently a resident of the district and anticipate moving out of the district during the school year, it may be possible for your children to continue their enrollment in Walled Lake under Schools of Choice 105. Please click on the link above for more information.

If you have questions, please contact our Main Office or Patty Sorensen in Student Services at 248-956-2085.

Commerce Elementary Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office: 248-956-3900</th>
<th>Website: <a href="http://www.wlcsd.org/commerce">www.wlcsd.org/commerce</a></th>
<th>Christina Carlin, Principal <a href="mailto:christinacarlin@wlcsd.org">christinacarlin@wlcsd.org</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DeniseKaczmarek@wlcsd.org">DeniseKaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CarleyDunphey@wlcsd.org">CarleyDunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<td>Tonya Gray, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TonyaGray@wlcsd.org">TonyaGray@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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Important Links and Resources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
<th>School Calendar</th>
<th>PTA Website</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Newsletters</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
<td>Staff Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast and Lunch Menus</td>
<td>School Supply Lists</td>
<td>PrimeTime Care</td>
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Accessibility:

If any individual has difficulty accessing the information in this newsletter, they may contact our main office at 248-956-3900. We will provide the requested information in an alternate format. More information about our district accessibility practices and policies is available here.

Attachments:

➔ Letter to 3rd Grade Parents/Guardians
➔ Pre-School Open House flyer
➔ Hearts to You flyer
➔ STRIDE flyer
➔ February Lunch Menu
January 29, 2020

Dear Third Grade Families,

Walled Lake Schools has a long-standing commitment to ensuring our students can read. Much before the state legislature passed the Michigan Third Grade Reading Law in 2017-18, Walled Lake Schools has been implementing progressive reading goals. In accordance with the state law, this year’s third graders are subject to the retention portion of the law. The law requires a minimum score on the M-STEP English Language Arts test for retention in third grade the following year. This spring, your child will take the test during the testing window scheduled for April 24 to May 22, 2020. The purpose of this communication is to remind you of Walled Lake’s commitment to early literacy instruction and ensure that all students are successful.

Some children find learning to read difficult as they grow and develop. In Walled Lake, we understand that each child has unique needs and we have the following practices in place:

- A bold assessment system to catch struggling students early
- Caring and highly skilled staff who intervene and support student needs
- Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIP) for students who are not meeting grade level reading expectations
- A home component to the IRIP which involves family support and collaboration
- Close progress monitoring and adjusting of plans for each student with an IRIP

If your child has been identified as needing support with an IRIP plan, your child’s school has already been in contact with you.

After the Spring M-STEP is given, students who have not met minimum requirements on the English Language Arts test will receive a letter from the Michigan Department of Education. This letter, mailed to your home, will notify you that your child has not met the minimum requirements and is subject to retention in third-grade for the following year. Walled Lake is committed to working with families receiving this letter. We will discuss plans with you on how to best support your child moving forward. To access information about “good cause exemptions” to the retention letter, please follow this link: Facts for Families-3rd grade.

You will continue to receive updates on the Third Grade Reading Law from your school principal and your child’s third grade teacher. Thank you for your partnership with Walled Lake and for making reading a priority in your home!

Sincerely,

Catherine Kochanski, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Preschool Locations

Open House, February 6, 2020, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

For a **Tuition** Preschool class for your 3, 4 or 5 year-old, you can find us at...

- Dublin Elementary School, Room 301 - 3 and 4 year olds
- Glenary, Room 13 - 3 and 4/5 year olds
- Pleasant Lake Elementary, Room 205 - 3 and 4/5 year olds
- Wixom Elementary School, Room 102 - 3 and 4/5 year olds

For full day **Tuition** Preschool for your 4/5 year-old, look at...

- Guest Elementary - Pre-K Academy, Room 5
- Twin Sun, Room 300 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

For full day **Tuition** preschool for your 3 year-old, look at...

- Twin Sun, Room 300 (Tuesday and Thursday) Call 248.956.5080

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For a **Head Start** preschool for your 3 year-old, you can find us at...

- Walled Lake Elementary School, Room 6 and Glenary, Room 11 Call 248.956.5089

For a **Head Start/GSRP** preschool for your 4 year-old, you can find us at...

- Glenary Elementary, Room 12
- Pleasant Lake Elementary, Room 112
- Walled Lake Elementary, Room 22
- Wixom Elementary, Rooms 203, 205, and 104 Call 248.956.5091

**With Walled Lake Schools, you can find the right preschool program for your young learner.**

Join us on Saturday, March 28, 2020, 10AM - Noon at Geisler Middle School. Jim Gill will present a **Musical Sing Along Program** that will keep you smiling and you can meet the preschool teachers!

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**Come grow with us!** [www.wlcasd.org/Preschool](http://www.wlcasd.org/Preschool)

GSRP is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Education. Head Start is a federally funded program.
Attention Commerce kids, moms and dads! How would you like to send your friend, sister, brother, cousin, and/or teacher a very special valentine message? Once again, the PTA is sponsoring "Hearts to You." Here is how it will work:

- Fill out the heart(s) below (one for each special person).
- Cut out, and if you want, decorate your heart(s).
- Send your heart greeting along with $1.00 (1 heart = $1; 2 hearts = $2, etc.) to the school office attention "PTA."

Volunteers will collect your hearts and add a special valentine candy treat to each of them. Friday, February 14th, your special valentine heart(s) and treat(s) will be secretly delivered to your valentine’s classroom - What a surprise! Your valentine will be thrilled to receive such a special treat!

So don’t forget about “Hearts to You” this Valentine’s Day and remember, all hearts must be turned into the school office along with your $1 for each heart greeting by Thursday, February 13th. Sorry, no late orders can be accepted.

→ QUESTIONS? Please contact Jennifer Kapeller -- dkn420@aol.com

Cut out your heart(s) and return to the school office by Thursday, February 13th!
READY, SET, FUN!

STRIDE
A fun, character-building afterschool program for boys

STRIDE is a fun afterschool character development and fitness program for boys in grades 3–8. Boys have the chance to share their thoughts and opinions about various life topics in a safe, encouraging environment that helps them develop character, while building their running endurance to complete a 5K.

In a world where boys are constantly trying to measure up to what they should be, STRIDE helps them discover who they are!

Season Begins:
March 11th

Celebration 5K:
May 17, 2020
Lake St. Clair Metropark

REGISTRATION
Registration Dates:
NOW through 3/8/20

Cost:
Before 3/1/20 - $145
After 3/2/20 - $160

Register Online
ymcadetroit.org/stride
Scholarships and payment plans are available.

"AT STRIDE I LEARNED THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN STRENGTH AND YOU CAN RUN AT YOUR OWN PACE"
- Evan, 4th Grade

Everyone is welcome. Financial assistance is available. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit strengthens communities in Southeast Michigan and beyond through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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**Elementary Lunch Menu**

**February 2020**