Please note the following reminders regarding arrival and dismissal procedures.

**Arrival Routines:**
- Please take advantage of bus transportation when available.
- **Use caution** on Farr Street and in our parking lot.
- Drop-off begins at **8:40am**. Staff are present to monitor students at this time. The first bell rings at 8:50am and the final (tardy) bell rings at 8:55am.
- Students must be **ready-to-go** and should only exit **curbside**.
- If your child is not able to get out of the car by themselves, please park your car and walk your child to the main entrance.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not wait until you reach the front of the line to have your child exit. This causes delays and makes our drop-off process inefficient. Students can exit anywhere along the **red curb** (see image). 6-8 cars should be able to drop-off at one time.

**Dismissal Routines:**
- **Changes in Dismissal Routines:** If there are unexpected changes in your child’s dismissal routine, please make sure you contact their teacher AND the main office before **3:30pm**. Our office is a busy place, especially at the end of the day. Early notice is appreciated!
- **Cougar Carpool:** Please park only in designated parking spots. Many parents are making their own spots at the end of rows or other areas that are not designated as parking spots. This is dangerous and makes our parking lot even more congested. We understand that the lines are difficult to see when it snows. However, this happens even when it isn’t snowing.

Thank you, again, for your help. We want our routines to be efficient and, most importantly, our kids to be safe!
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.

A Message from our Fresh Picked Garden Team

Spring is right around the corner. We just received a donation of a fun variety of veggie and herb seeds for our school garden this year! 🌱☀

On that note: the garden is in *desperate* need of volunteers for each grade. If you’d like to help out with your child’s grade or class please reach out to Jami Long at jami.long48@gmail.com.

Volunteer opportunities include: helping classrooms plant their seeds in the spring, harvest their crop(s) in summer (when school is back in session) and fall, healthy cooking demos with our mobile kitchen, laying mulch and compost, fall/spring garden clean up…and more.

Our kids love working in and learning about the garden and we can only do it with lots of help from our parent volunteers! Thank you in advance for your support!
PTA President’s Corner

- Remember to keep clipping 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! Please turn in your cut out hearts along with $1 per heart before February 13th. No late entries will be accepted. Need more hearts? Print the copy at the end of this newsletter!
- Our next **PTA meeting is this coming Wednesday, February 12th at 7pm**. 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 programs, **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!

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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!](#)

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**Fifth Grade Camp Information**

5th Grade Camp Informational Meeting for Parents – Thursday, February 27th at 6:00pm (at Commerce in the Media Center)

Burton/Bison Camp – Monday, March 30th thru Wednesday, April 1st
Loughlin/Guiliani Camp – Wednesday, April 1st thru Friday, April 3rd

You can also learn more about 5th Grade Camp on the [Outdoor Center’s website](#). This information will also be provided in a packet during our informational meeting on February 27th.

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**WLCSD Food Service Job Openings**

Food Service positions are our perfect jobs for our parents who want to have the same schedule as your children. We need you! If you have food service expirence and would like to have a part time job, Walled Lake Consolidated School District Food Service Department is hiring. Monday thru Friday while your students are at school or if you know anyone who would be a great fit in our department, please go to the [Oakland Job Consortium website](#) to view our Food Service Jobs. We currently have an opening for Guest Elementary as an Elementary Server and Wixom Elementary as an Elementary Server. We are always looking for subs as well. **Questions?** Contact Julie Fortner, Food Service Supervisor - juliefortner@wlcsd.org
Pokemon Cards, Rubix Cubes, Smart Watches…

Please Note:

- Trading cards (like Pokemon cards), rubix cubes, and other toys are not allowed at school unless specifically requested by the teacher for a special award day.
- Additionally, selling or trading items is not permitted at school.
  - If your child has a smart watch (like an apple watch), please review expectations for wearing the watch during school. Students should not be texting parents during school hours. If they need to contact their parent/guardian, they can do so in the Main Office. If a child’s smart watch becomes a distraction, we’ll ask that it is stored in their backpack during the day.

Please keep these items at home to prevent distractions and sad feelings should they go missing.

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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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<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Tonya Gray, Secretary <a href="mailto:tonyagray@wlcsd.org">tonyagray@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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**Important Links and Resources:**

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<td>School Newsletters</td>
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<td>Staff Directory</td>
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<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.

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Attachments:

- Letter to 3rd Grade Parents/Guardians
- 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
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!

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 -- dkny420@aol.com**
Where: Commerce Elementary
When: Wednesday & Fridays
Time: Wed: 7:30 - 9 Fri: 4 - 5:15
Includes:
» 20 Lessons with a Snack
» Cinch Bag & Water bottle
» T-shirt & Medal
» Entry into the 5K & Finisher Gift

Season Begins:
March 11th
Celebration 5K:
May 17, 2020
Lake St. Clair Metropark

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!

SUCCESS
TEAMWORK
RESPECT
INSPIRATION
DETERMINATION
EXCELLENCE IN CHARACTER

"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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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**Elementary Lunch Menu**

**February 2020**