Dear HWE Families,

This time of year marks the point in our government calendar where we look to determine what funding will be for our schools within the state budget. We are fortunate in Walled Lake to have an amazing Board of Education that works tirelessly to focus our energy and funds to students and the classroom. We are also very fortunate to have the Foundation for Excellence supporting our schools and a wonderful group of parents that support us at HWE in so many ways, including becoming a PTA member and giving your time and energy to our community and school events. Each year it seems that we are discussing deficits with respect to state funding and seeking increased supports from the Foundation for Excellence and PTA to supplement some of the wonderful opportunities we want to offer such as Math Pentathlon, classroom supports, and assemblies/author visits. We often receive questions from parents about funding and even being a part of the world of education, I can say that it is pretty complex!

Last year I shared with you that there was a study completed and shared by the School Finance Research Collaborative that talks about the actual cost of educating a student in Michigan, given our current educational standards. If you have wondered about the costs associated with educating a child and why we regularly hear about deficits in educational funding, I would encourage you to read the report. Though it is quite lengthy, it provides details of the base costs of educating a child in our schools and the additional costs associated with differences in district and students characteristics. For a quick read, you could skip to Chapter 9, which provides the results and recommendations of the study. Currently, we receive about $8,400 per student in comparison to the $9,500-$10,100 per student base cost (not including additional costs) recommendation from the study (not including the cost of transportation or food services). This study is so important as we continue to see cuts being made to education and districts having to make some very tough decisions about programming and services. We hope to see an increase in our funding from the state this year, but it will certainly not make up the difference between our current state and the findings of this report. It is important that we as a community make ourselves aware and consider the implications that these findings have on our children.

Have a great weekend,

Patricia

Visit our HWE website Follow us on Twitter: @HWE_Hawks

“Like” our PTA on Facebook and follow @HWEPTA on Twitter

HICKORY WOODS NEWS

Volunteers Needed:
• We are in always in need of volunteers to help in the Media Center. If you could be available to help with shelving books, repairing books, support weeding the collection, and such, please email Ms. Gantz at debragantz@wlcsd.org.

Parking Lots/Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Pick Up

• Please remember that we have a morning drop off around the back of the building each day, starting at 8:50 a.m.
• If you would like to drop off your child and walk them up to the building, please be sure to use a parking space.
• If your child is eligible to ride the bus, please consider them doing so each day. This will help with traffic in the parking lot.
• Please try not to park in the Handicap spaces during drop off and pick-up as we have families that need these spaces.

Important Dates:

• September:
  o 25 – Bonaventure Skating Night 6:00-8:30 p.m.
  o 26 – Nest 1
  o 27 – Picture Day!
  o 30 – No school for all students
• October:
  o 1 – Taste of the Lakes 5:00 p.m. at Edgewood Country Club
  o 2 – Count Day, Pajama Day ($1 to wear your pajamas all day), PTA meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
  o 4 – All Pro Dads @ 8:00 a.m., PTA Bagel Day (pre-paid orders only)
  o 9 – No School for all students
  o 10 – Nest 2, Kindergarten Curriculum Night @ 6:30 p.m.
  o 11 – PTA Color Run 4 Funds!
  o 16 – Family Book Study @ 7:00 p.m.
  o 18 – Breakfast with a Buddy @ 8:00 a.m.
  o 18-25 – Book Fair
  o 24 – Nest 3, Fall Festival @ 6:30 p.m.
  o 25 – Hawk Pride, PTA Popcorn Day (pre-paid orders only)
  o 31 – ½ day for all students

Please click here: 2019-20 calendar to view this year’s district calendar.