



From the Principal, Jeff Heaney

As we are in the midst of the holiday season, it is with warmth that I acknowledge the Woodland staff and students for their commitment to excellence. One of the greatest aspects of my job is that I get to visit classrooms each and every day. I am extremely proud to say that our entire staff is committed to the academic, social and emotional growth of our students. There is no doubt that the students of Woodland are in great hands. It is also wonderful to report that our students are not only great academically but are also outstanding human beings. Each day I witness so many students demonstrating exemplary character traits and taking care of one another. As I sit here thinking about how my wife and I plan to budget for all of the holiday gifts, I am reminded that the best things in life don't come wrapped in a box. The memories we make with family and friends truly mean the most. I am personally fortunate to not only be surrounded by wonderful, supportive people at home but also here at work. Now more than ever, it is important that we take time for the people and things that matter most in life.

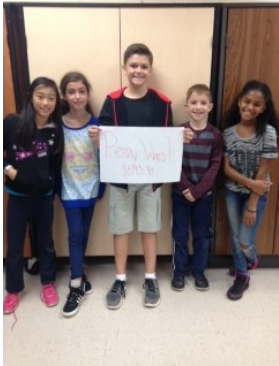
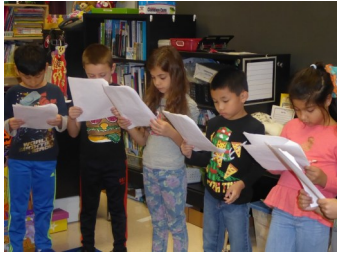
On behalf of the entire staff of Woodland, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy, healthy and memorable holiday season. May the cold winter days be warmed by the love of family and friends.

By now you realize how much I enjoy sports and often get inspired by great athletes' and coaches' stories and speeches. While I have never been a Dallas Cowboys fan, I was extremely impressed by the recent speech by quarterback Tony Romo. For those who may not know, Tony Romo, the very successful starting quarterback for the Cowboys for many years, was injured at the beginning of the season. As a result, rookie quarterback Dak Prescott was given the opportunity to start and has been an outstanding player. Now that Tony Romo is no longer injured, there has been controversy as to what the Cowboy franchise should do. Romo's speech exemplifies true character, class, and a commitment to his team. He also talks about the fact that rewards should be given for hard work. I believe these are the lessons and role models our children should follow. While I will NEVER be a Cowboys fan, I am now a Tony Romo fan.

[Romo speech](#)



Mrs. Leonard's second grade class performed a reader's theater of the book "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything". The students were assigned parts and practiced in the classroom before performing for two first grades and one kindergarten class. The repeated readings help to improve the student's reading fluency.



The Woodland School Service Club and 5th Grade Reach, Too are proud to announce that they have collected \$593.84 to support the Children's Joy Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center!



Woodland's Dr. Seuss Election Day



Students in grades K-5 had fun participating in their first Cat in the Hat "election". The Cat in the Hat needed our help deciding on what cause he should endorse as the president. Should he make help the Lorax save the environment or promote the importance of reading and education? Perhaps he should endorse Horton and Kindness? Maybe he should make sure everyone gets their Greens Eggs and Ham and help to end Hunger. Throughout the Election event students learned about the power of a vote, the importance of making informed decisions, and the feeling of what it is like to vote. Thanks to Mrs. Leonard for the creation of the Voting Booth, Mrs. Zaleski for educating the students about the causes, Mr. Kilroy and the SLA for creating speeches and posters, Mrs. Brink and the Service Club for agreeing to support the winning cause and the Spirit Committee for the wonderful idea. It was truly a great experience for all. Oh, and by the way, Hunger was voted as the cause that we will support this year.

Superintendent's Corner

This time of year is one of giving thanks and spending time with friends and family for many of us. In October and early November, I had the opportunity to meet with student focus groups in each school. With each group of students, I posed two overarching questions: 1) What do you like best about going to school here? 2) If you were principal, what would you change?

As you can imagine, the answers ranged from the wild (all students should get free ice cream at lunch) to the reasoned (each elementary school should have a student government that helps guide the direction of the school) to the creative (some chairs should have bicycle pedals built into them to get out energy) to the thought-provoking (it is really hard to get all homework done due to my parents' custody arrangement).

There was only one common response to all five schools. Without exception, each student focus group stated unequivocally that the best thing about going to school here is the staff. When pressed for detail, students used words like *helpful, kind, supportive, nice, funny, smart, gentle, and respectful*. They said "our teachers treat us like equals" and "they help us until we get it."

It brought me great pride to share that feedback with our staff members. Like our students, I am sure our families appreciate the lengths our staff members go to day in and day out to provide the very best learning and growing experience possible. This all-encompassing community support for our schools makes it such a privilege to serve as the superintendent here.

Together we will continue to focus on educating the whole child so that each and every student who spends time in the Warren Township Schools is prepared to participate in the global community.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season filled with warm family memories.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.



Thank you to the Woodland PTO for sponsoring the Abraham Lincoln Assembly. The students truly enjoyed meeting “President Lincoln” and learning about what made him a great leader!!



In recognition of Dia de los Muertos, 4th and 5th World Language classes constructed an altar. Pictures of Prince and Gene Wilder, who the students voted to recognize, were placed on the altar along with marigolds, candles and symbolic items that were brought in by students. Students also learned some interesting facts about the special day and colored calaveras that have been displayed in the World Language classroom.



Students in 2nd grade truly enjoyed learning about the life cycle of the Painted Lady Butterfly. They enjoyed observing the caterpillar go through metamorphosis, which culminated in the release of the Painted Lady Butterflies on a beautiful fall day. Several days later, the students had the wonderful opportunity to use our Cisco technology to take a virtual field trip to the Center of Puppetry Arts out of Atlanta, Georgia to learn more about the life cycle of the butterfly. They also were able to design their own Butterfly puppet.



The Great Pumpkin Meets Science

First graders in Mrs. Brower's and Mrs. Stolfi's classes along with the library media specialist, Mrs. Zaleski had a "Pumpkin-Fest" week! The children enjoyed literature such as *Too Many Pumpkins* and the informational book, *Pumpkin, Pumpkin*. The classes also enjoyed listening to the story *The Runaway Pumpkin* in Mrs. Zaleski's library class.

The children created a sequence book about the life cycle of a pumpkin after reading the book *Pumpkins*. Another activity was a writing prompt, How to Carve a Pumpkin. Students wrote directions for the teacher on how to carve a pumpkin. The class read their directions and chose which directions would be best for the teacher to follow. The classes also participated in several pumpkin investigations. One investigation was to estimate how many seeds would be found in a pumpkin! The children took turns counting the seeds and placing them in bags of 10. The class was amazed when they discovered that there was 530 seeds in one pumpkin!

After reading an article from their *Scholastic News* magazine about pumpkin boats, the two classes decided to put pumpkins to the test. The classes used three small pumpkins after making their predictions about whether or not the pumpkins would float. The children found out that pumpkins do float! The last activity that the students will enjoy is planting a pumpkin in class. The students will grow a pumpkin within a pumpkin and chart the changes they observe.

These fun activities allowed the children to enjoy science!!



Woodland's REACH teacher, Mrs. Krumm and Mt Horeb's REACH teacher, Mrs. Piller, present "Engineering in Elementary School" during American Education Week. Parents were tasked with creating a geodesic object out of gumdrops and toothpicks that would support the weight of two dictionaries. Through the process, parents got a glimpse of the engineering and design process that our students use in their REACH classes.



Halloween at Woodland

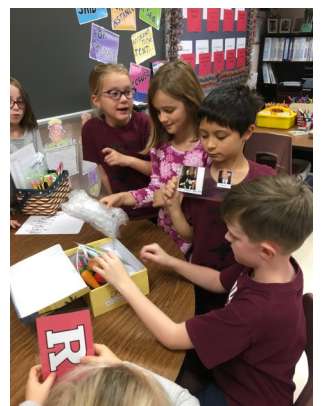


The MOST important things in life
.....aren't THINGS!

Top of Mt. Woodland recipients for the month of October.



With the assistance of Mrs. Krumm, students in Mrs. Rzasa's second grade classroom have begun a "Secret" pen pal relationship with a second grade located in another country. Each second grade class began by brainstorming clues that would help the other class identify where their secret pals were located in the world. Shoeboxes were then filled with clues that would be mailed to the other second grade class. Mrs. Rzasa's class recently received the shoebox from their secret pals. With the help of iPads, students worked in small groups using the clues sent to try and figure out where their secret pals were located. Students discovered that their pals live in a town called wo Hills which is located in Alberta, Canada.



December Calendar

Monday, Dec 5	3rd grade Musical (students/staff only)
Tuesday, Dec 6	3rd grade Musical (Parents) 7:30pm
Friday, Dec 9	Spirit Day: Wear Winter Pajamas to school (no slippers)
Tuesday, Dec 13	Scrubby Bear Handwashing Assembly- Kindergarten
Wednesday, Dec 14	Scrubby Bear Handwashing Assembly- 1st grade
Thur, Dec 15 and Fri Dec 16	CAP Program for K &3
Wednesday, Dec 21	PTO Holiday Luncheon for Staff Caroling– 10am (students and staff only)
Friday, Dec 23	1:20 Dismissal
Dec 24– Jan 2	Winter Break- No School