

cause both delays and closings far more often than snow. If temperatures dip to 25 degrees below zero with the wind chill factor, we will delay if warranted and even close if the predictions should indicate, because of the risk of frostbite while waiting at a bus stop. Luckily, we do not see many arctic days!

If we find ourselves in a position with significant differences in weather conditions within the Washington West Supervisory Union District, we will close all schools if less than 50 percent of high school students will be in attendance. This becomes necessary to maintain adequate classroom instruction and because of busing contracts and costs.

I try to begin my calls to the phone chain by 5:20 AM. Each principal is called, and they begin their call chains. Laura Titus, my administrative assistant, calls the television and radio stations and puts the information on two websites. Your building principal should have sent home information explaining the best ways for you to receive weather information as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you in advance for your patience and support as we try to make the best possible decisions regarding school delays and/or closings this winter season. I will do my very best to keep school open whenever I can, while maintaining the safety and security of our greatest resource, our children.

School Health Notes *Fran writes,*

Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis) is redness and inflammation of the membranes covering the whites of the eyes and the membranes on the inner part of the eyelids. Most cases of pinkeye are caused by a virus or bacteria and are **very contagious** and **spread very easily**.

Symptoms:

- Discomfort in the eye – feels like there is sand in the eye.
- Redness of the eye and inner eyelid.
- Discharge from the eyes, which may cause the eyelids to stick together when the child awakens in the morning.
- Some children have swollen eyelids or sensitivity to bright light.

Types:

- Since most pinkeye is caused by a virus, for which there is usually no medical treatment, preventing its spread is important.
- Doctors usually recommend keeping children diagnosed with contagious conjunctivitis out of school for a short time. A person can usually return to school when symptoms begin to improve, typically in 3-5 days. Medicines are not usually used to treat viral pinkeye.
- Bacterial pinkeye – usually treated with an antibiotic eye drops or ointment. A child can usually return to school within 24 hours after an antibiotic has been started if symptoms have improved.

Prevention:

- To prevent pinkeye, teach kids to wash their hands often with warm water and soap.
- Keep hands away from infected eyes and if they do touch them have them wash their hands.
- Do not share eye drops, tissues, washcloths, towels or pillowcases.
- Be sure to wash your own hands thoroughly after touching an infected child's eyes and throw away items like gauze or cotton balls after they've been used.
- Wash towels and other linens that the child has used in hot water separately from the rest of the family's laundry to avoid contamination.

Treatment:

- Pinkeye caused by a virus usually goes away on its own without treatment.
- If caused by a bacterial infection, eye drops or ointment will be prescribed.
- Cool or warm compresses and acetaminophen or ibuprofen may make a child with pinkeye feel more comfortable.
- You can clean the edges of the infected eye carefully with warm water and gauze or cotton ball. This can also remove the crusts of dried discharge

that may cause the eyelids to stick together first thing in the morning.

- If you think your child has pinkeye, it's important to contact your doctor to learn what's causing it and how to treat it.
- If the pinkeye does not improve after 2-3 days of treatment, or after a week when left untreated, call the doctor.

Physical Education Notes *Leigh Clark writes,*
With the badminton unit now under way, students in grades 3-6 are working on increasing their their eye hand coordination and their physical fitness. Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are using scarves and balls to develop their eye hand coordination. Locomotor skills and fitness are also part of their physical education classes. Students in Pre-K are exploring P.E. equipment, learning locomotor skills and working on their eye hand coordination.

Please continue to send in the notes for any hiking, walking, jogging or biking your child does outside of school. If you wish to purchase a bike helmet please see me. Scholarships are available. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me here at school or at my home. I am at school all day on Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings.

Gingerbread!

Coming soon to a kitchen near you: the Warren Gingerbread Contest! Please check out our new Blog dedicated to this event scheduled for December 11th, 2009 <http://warrengingerbreadcontest.blogspot.com/>

Disco Party October 30

Help the PTO *and* your own state of bliss – get your tickets now to the Disco Party at the Sugarbush Gatehouse on October 30th. See attached flyer or contact Laurie for more information.

Important Dates for your calendars:

10/22 – 23	School Closed for State Teachers Convention
10/29 <i>Thurs</i>	Flu Vaccine Clinic
10/30 <i>Fri</i>	PTO Disco Party 7-11 pm Gate House
11/3 <i>Tues</i>	Election Day
11/5 <i>Thurs</i>	Upper Unit Play, 6:30 pm
11/6-7	Fifth grade camp-in trip at Boston Museum of Science
11/10 <i>Tues</i>	Harwood Bond Vote
11/11 <i>Weds</i>	Early Dismissal; WASP & KPAS programs will be offered

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

44 Wrapping Days 'til Christmas...

The holiday season is quickly approaching! Help support our school's KPAS program by participating in our gift-wrap fundraiser. Sales packets are included with this week's Monday Bulletin. Orders need to be returned to school by October 20th. Thank you for your help and support!



Mother Nature provided a nifty upgrade for the playground in time for last Tuesday's recess. Although we relaxed the rules a little last week, normally children need to wear boots and snowpants, as well as warm jackets and hats, to play in the snow at recess.