

W.O.W.

Word of Walden

February 2009

Volume 27 Issue # 6

Published monthly August through June

CALENDAR 2008-2009

February

- 6 Cabin Fever-afterschool activities 2:30-5:00 pm
- 13 Valentine's Day Dance 6:00-9:00 pm
- 17 PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 20 Market Day online orders noon deadline
- 24 Market Day Pickup 4:00-5:00 pm
Music Dept. hosts – staff advisor is Vanessa
- 25 Walden Blood Drive 7:00 am-1:30 pm
- 26 All-school field trip to Chicago by train

March

- 12 **Delayed Start – school starts at 9:15**
Dine Out at Rocky Roccoco's 5:00-9:00 pm
- 17 PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 18 English Fest
- 20 Spring Fling Dance 6:00-9:00 pm
- 20 Market Day online orders noon deadline
- 24 Market Day Pickup 4:00-5:00 pm
Senior Class hosts – staff advisor is Chris
- 26-27 **Conferences – dismissal at 11:14 am**
- 27 **Conferences – no school**
- 26-27 Book Fair in the Main Hall near the office

April

- 10-19 **Spring Recess (school resumes April 20)**
- 20 **School Resumes**
- 21 PTSA College Night 6:30-8:00
- 24 Market Day online orders noon deadline
- 28 Market Day Pickup 4:00-5:00 pm
Student Government hosts – advisor is Michael
- TBA Penney Wars

May

- 7 Delayed Start – school starts at 9:15
Dine Out at Shillings
- 16 Prom
- 19 PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 22 Ice Cream Social
- 22 Market Day online orders noon deadline
- 23 Springing Walden
- 25 Memorial Day – no school
- 26 Market Day Pickup 4:00-5:00 pm

WALDEN III

In the Process of Discovery

MAP Testing

Feb 2-Feb 11

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests are achievement tests in mathematics, reading, and language usage that are taken on a computer.

MAP tests provide teachers, students, and parents with an accurate assessment of student progress in mastering the basic skills. Teachers use this assessment information for instructional planning for individual students or an entire class.

MAP tests are taken **three times a year** (fall, winter, spring) by **sixth-ninth grade students**. Results are given to the teacher immediately following the testing window. Parents are provided results at conferences.

Walden's winter test window is **February 2-11, 2009**. Please encourage your child to do their personal best on these tests. The results are very important in helping teacher set goals and monitor progress.

The Big Give

The purpose of PTSA fundraising is to enhance the academic experience at Walden.

In addition to funding numerous smaller requests, each year the PTSA identifies one *major project* which we will fund at a level of \$1,000.00 or more.

Please join us at our next PTSA meeting on **Tuesday, Feb. 17**, to vote on the recipient of this year's **Big Give**. See the PTSA page for more details.

Doctor Appointments

Parents – Please remember to call the office if your student needs to leave early for a doctor appointment. All students must check in at the office before leaving school.



MAIN OFFICE 664-6250

ATTENDANCE LINE 664-6259

Please call before 9:00 am

IMPORTANT NOTICES

BOOK RENT

Book rental for second semester is due by **MARCH 15**. The cost is **\$12.00**; after March 15 it is \$17.00. If you have not yet paid for the first semester, please pay \$29.00 by March 15. After that date the amount increases to \$34.00 for the full year.

Make checks out to Walden and write "Book rent" in the memo line. Remit to your Homegroup teacher or directly to the Office. *THANK YOU* for paying promptly.

Receive RUSD Emergency Announcements

Sign up on the RUSD website at www.2.racine.k12.wi.us to receive up-to-the-minute closing and emergency announcements by email. Click on Emergency Announcements in the upper left-hand corner of the home page.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Feb 6 Cabin Fever – Middle school afterschool activities from 2:30-5:00. Cost \$5.00 – Food will be sold.
Feb. 26 ALL SCHOOL field trip to Chicago by train

WALDEN BLOOD DRIVE



Together, we can save a life

Walden seniors will be sponsoring a blood drive in the Walden gym to benefit the American Red Cross on **Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 am to 1:30 pm.**

Please help us make this a success!

We encourage *all adults*—parents, grandparents, friends, and anyone 17 or older to come in and donate blood. Call Cathy in the office 664-6250 to make an appointment.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to check in donors and to serve cookies and juice - please help us out for 1-2 hours or whatever you can donate.

To volunteer, contact Chris Semrad at 664-6250.

Please do your part, and donate blood to the American Red Cross.

SUPPLY PANTRY

Flu and cold season is here!

Please send an extra box of Kleenex to your student's Homegroup. Thanks!



CHICAGO FIELD TRIP

NOTICE: The new date for the Chicago Field Trip is **Thursday, February 26**

You must provide your own transportation to the Kenosha Metra Train Station – **Be there by 7:00 am** to check in with Jeanne & Jeff.

Walden students need:

- Student ID
- \$ for entrance fees plus lunch
- Cell phone number of 1 or 2 teachers on the trip
- Reserve cash for a taxi if needed

Students and Chaperones:

To prepare for your trip, you can research online:

- **List of most popular tourist attractions:**
www.chicagotraveler.com/chicagos-largest-attractions.htm
- **Free art you can walk by:**
www.professionaltravelguide.com/Destinations/Chicago
www.associatedcontent.com/article/71657
- **Outdoor sculpture on way to the Art Inst.:**
www.halhgdon.com/picasso/walkingtour.htm
- **Sites for things to do with teens (some free):**
www.chipublib.org/forteens/teenhowto/freechgo.php

Money and permission slips must be in to Jeanne & Jeff by February 18, 2008.

Walden's Winter Formal – Thank you

This year's Winter Formal was particularly enjoyable, with a terrific group of staff and parent volunteers to see to all the details. Thank you to **Steve Platt** and **Chris Semrad** for hosting the dance, and to **Carolyn McNeal** (staff assistant from Gilmore) and her friend **Tiffany**, our own **Sandy Hunt, Julie Fornary, Jenny** and **Damon Jackson**; the students on the committee, **Crystal Barba** and **Kayla Rundle**, police officer **Damon Lowe**, and parents **Bill Wier, Shelly McVeigh, Shanno Royer**, and to our resident photographer, **Vickie Buchanon** who provided a beautiful photograph for each student that attended. Steve Platt took another 200-300 photographs and gave them to students as well. Special thanks go retired staff member Jane Steker – it was great to see you back at Walden!

Correction

The correct dismissal time on conference days is **11:14 am**, not 10:45 as listed in the WOW and NOW. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused families.

COUNSELOR NEWSKatie McCauley

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO SENIORS

SCHOLARSHIP	QUALIFICATIONS	DUE By
Gateway President's Opportunity	Senior, attend Gateway	March 15
Sharon Schumer Memor. Scholarship	Senior, pro-life involvement	April 15
WI Towns Assoc.	Senior, essay	May 27

Additional Opportunities

- ▶ St. George's University, New York, will be offering a Med/Vet Summer Academy program
- ▶ California College of the Arts will offer students the opportunity to study a variety of art programs.

Racine PTA Council \$1,000 Scholarship

Seniors – if you are enrolled in college next fall don't pass up your opportunity to receive a **\$1,000.00 scholarship** from the Racine PTA Council. Applications must be completed by the student and postmarked no later than **March 7, 2009**. See Katie for an application.

ATTENTION: High School Students:

Colleges consider the following when evaluating your application:

- Vigor, or challenge of high school curriculum
- ACT or SAT scores
- High school GPA
- Leadership abilities
- Involvement outside the classroom

EVERY YEAR COUNTS! – not only your senior year.

A high GPA and choosing challenging courses will improve your chances for both scholarship eligibility and getting into the college of your choice.

Keep these points in mind as you schedule your classes.

JUNIORS – Earn College Credit Now

Don't pass up the opportunity to earn college credit at no charge while in high school. **The Youth Options Program** allows juniors and seniors in good academic standing to take college courses at Parkside, Gateway, and other schools.

Both fall and spring courses will be **paid for by RUSD** if the district does not already teach that specific course. **Sign up by February 13 for fall of 2009 classes.**

Counseling for Families

The Racine office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness NAMI, offers monthly support groups to help deal with a wide variety of mental health issues, including bipolar disorder/ depression, survivors of suicide, SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), and others. Teen and Adult support groups are available. For more information, call **637-0582**.

College Goal Sunday.....February 22

Feb. 22, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Gateway Technical College

College Goal Sunday is a free event held at Gateway Technical College to help families complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form. This form *is required* in order to apply for federal assistance for college and may also be necessary to receive college scholarship money. For more information, call 866-578-4625, or go to www.wicollegegoalsunday.org. FAFSA applications can be found online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

UW-Parkside ACT Prep Workshop

UW-Parkside is offering 4 weekend classes in February and March to help students prepare for and develop test-taking strategies for the ACT test. The cost is **\$125.00** and includes a practice ACT test held on **Saturday, March 21**, with results consultation available the following week.

There are two sessions to choose from:

Saturdays	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Feb 21 – March 14
Sundays	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Feb 22 – March 15

To register or to get more information, call the UW-Parkside Precollege Program at 262-595-2176, or go online to www.uwp.edu and search under “precollege”.

2008-2009 ACT/SAT TESTING DATES

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
April 4	Feb. 27	Feb 28-Mar 13
June 13	May 8	May 9-22

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
March 14	Feb. 10	Feb 24
May 2	March 31	April 9
June 6	May 5	May 15

Register online to take the ACT and SAT tests at:

ACT: www.actstudent.org

SAT: www.collegeboard.com

The code for Walden is **501-919**.

CREDIT RECOVERY CLASS

Lighted Schoolhouse courses are open to students who need to recover a failed grade or need additional credits to graduate. The next class runs from **Feb. 16 to April 29** and is held Mon. – Wed. for 1.5 hours at the end of the school day. See Katie for more information or call 664-6990.

WALDEN III CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

For a complete listing, pick up a Student Activity Guide from the Office or from the PTSA

WALDEN GREEN SCHOOL

Back by Popular Demand

Now that the inauguration is over what else is there to look forward to? **Dig It!**, the Green School fundraiser and Racine's social event of mid-winter!



Many people who attended last year's sell-out event have suggested that the fundraiser be held again. Like last year, the event will include live music, appetizers and desserts, a silent auction, and wine and beer tasting.

Dig It!, which will benefit the Outdoor Classroom and garden project, will take place at **DeKoven's Great Hall** on **Saturday, January 31st**. The event will last from **7:00-10:00 pm**. Tickets are **\$25 in advance or \$30 at the door** – but don't wait until the last moment; last year had a capacity crowd. Call **Walden at 664-6250** to order tickets, or order online through Pay Pal at www.waldeniii.org.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Silent Auction should bring items to the main office.

As noted in the Racine Journal Times, the solar panels are installed and the data logging system is now online. You can view the output and benefits of the panels by visiting the Green School web site and clicking on the button for Solar Panels.

The rest of the site is near completion and will be regularly updated.

Afterschool Wii.....Sue Sorenson

Using funds generated by Sue's Snack Store, Sue Sorenson purchased three Wii units for Walden.

The Wii units are open to middle school students to use one day a week after school for an hour (6th, 7th, and 8th graders are scheduled separately. New 3rd quarter schedule TBA). Students may then take the RUSD activity bus home.

Sue also has several "Fitter First" balance wheels in her room, which is a fun way to exercise and develop those small "twitchy" leg muscles. This is great strength-building exercise for skateboarders, snowboarders, and all athletes. Thank you Sue, for this fun exercise opportunity for our kids!

This is a Boxtop Label:

Look for them on boxes of Kleenex, General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker products, Ziploc, any many more products (see www.boxtopsforeducation.com for a complete listing) **CLIP THEM!** Clip them all – they are worth 10¢! Please turn them in at the office.



MODEL UN/OAS.....Tom Kohl, advisor

For High School students interested in world issues

Walden's Model United Nation's Advisor Tom Kohl will be taking 32 students to this year's **40th anniversary Model U.N. Conference** at the University of WI-Milwaukee on **Thursday, March 19, and Friday, March 20**. We will be staying overnight at the Doubletree Downtown Center Hotel. Students have made a commitment and have returned permission slips signed by parents – non attendance will be excused for emergency situations only.

Each student should bring

- a **small** piece of luggage
- Money for meals (lunch, dinner, and breakfast)
- Cells phones are permitted.
-

Each student must be dressed according to handbook instructions and must bring a folder containing:

- Country and committee handout
- Culture gram
- Model U.N. handbook
- Position paper on committee topic

A final typed position paper will be due on **Tuesday, February 17**. Parents who are interested in more details should see their children's Model U.N. handbook or call Tom Kohl at 664-6250.

Students must be at Walden by 6:45 am on Thursday, March 19, in front of the main office to board the bus. They will return to Walden at approximately 5:00 pm on Friday.

SKI CLUB.....Annette Terselic

For all students interested in skiing & snowboarding

Our Walden Ski Club is growing! Our first trip had 17 students from Walden and 13 from Case High School. We are going to limit the number of kids on the bus to 30. The trips will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

REMEMBER to bring a bag lunch or \$\$\$ for dinner (food is expensive at the ski hill). Wear warm clothes, hats, gloves, and snow boarders **MUST** wear helmets! Reduced club rates apply to family members, so come join the fun – parents are welcome!

There are 3 more Ski Trips scheduled:

Feb 4 Feb 11 Feb 25

PERFORMANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Park Jazz Festival.....Tuesday, March 10
The Jazz Band and 4th hour HHB will be performing at Park High School in the evening of March 14; times TBA.

Solo/Ensemble.....Saturday, March 14
Solo/Ensemble will be held at case High School on March 14. Registration deadline is Monday, February 2. Both high school and middle school orchestras will participate – this is a **required performance**.

Orchestra Festival.....Saturday, April 25
All orchestras will participate in both the morning rehearsal and the evening performance. More information will become available as the time gets closer.

100 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Solo and Ensemble Competition
Saturday, March 14**

High School Students: here's a great opportunity to fulfill your community service requirement for **R.O.P.E.**

Parents – please consider helping out if you can! It takes many volunteers to keep this festival running smoothly.

Please sign up for the following shifts:

8:00-12:00 pm 1:00 – 5:00 pm All day

All-day volunteers will be provided with a free lunch.

Please contact Vanessa at 664-6250 by **Feb. 20** to volunteer.

SPANISH CLUB TRIP TO MEXICO

The Spanish Club's trip to Mexico went very well. We spent the first two days exploring the center of Mexico City and all it had to offer: churches and cathedrals, the Zocalo (town square) Aztec ruins, the Basilica, Teotihuacan (Aztec city), y mas!

From there we flew to Merida and spent four days with extremely nice and friendly Mexican host families that opened their homes to us. We took in a lot of culture and Mayan sight: Uxmal (ancient Mayan city in the heart of the Yucatan jungle), the town square and surrounding markets.

The students' favorite activity in Merida was a city-wide scavenger hunt. The students got into groups and had to find their way from one part of the city to another by taxi or bus, and some markets and specialty goods, and talk to random people on the street by asking them some questions.

From there we took a bus to Cancun, visiting Chichen Itza, swimming in a cenote (underground pool of clear water), and spending a day and a half just relaxing on the Caribbean coast. Some students visited a turtle sanctuary; others swam with a nurse shark, and I even took two students deep-sea fishing. We all formed good friendships and memories to last a lifetime. Many thanks to Cindy Hertzberg and retiree Tom Coe for taking hundreds of pictures and creating an I-movie of them.

Strings

A series of lifelines to help keep kids safe from alcohol.

Curfews work — enforce them.
Lock up your alcohol, count it, track it.
Love as a parent, not a friend.
Set rules — voice them, follow them.
Don't be swayed by what other parents are doing.
Never buy alcohol for kids because you think it's safer.
If you think your child is drinking, they probably are — address it now.
Limit alcohol at your own parties — kids are watching.
Never look the other way when alcohol is being used by underage youth.
Band together with other like-minded parents.
Face it — as a parent, you will be the bad guy sometimes.
Don't be afraid of losing your child's love, be afraid of losing them.
And no, not everyone is going on Spring Break with friends.

Keeping kids safe from alcohol is like flying a kite.

Holding tight — letting go.
And with time, we can watch them fly.
Let them reach for the sky, *but with strings attached.*

focus
on Community™
262-632-6200

Walden Yearbooks

Hurry and buy your Walden III yearbook today! Why wait for the price to rise when you can buy it for only \$38, but this great offer only lasts till the end of 3rd quarter. Make checks out to Walden III (or bring cash). Deliver them to the office or to Joe Kane in Room 304. Please include your child's name and the name of his or her Homegroup teacher. Contact Joe Kane, 664-6250.

WALDEN III PTSA NEWS

PTSA January Meeting Highlights

At the Jan PTSA meeting, we voted to provide \$355.00 to purchase books to be used in English, Math, Science and ROPES classes, and funds to purchase a thermometer for use by the Nurse and office.

We heard two proposals for **the Big Give**, which are:

- Phy. Ed request to purchase portable disc golf baskets
- Outdoor Classroom request for funds for landscaping costs and to purchase plants.

PLEASE JOIN US to cast your vote at our next meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6:30-8:00** in the Teacher's Lounge.

Enter through the breezeway from the North Parking Lot.



The New Online Order Deadline for Market Day is now **11:00 p.m.** Central Time. Paper orders are due in the office by the end of the school day on **Friday, Feb. 17** and can be picked up on **Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 4:00pm** in the school cafeteria.

During the month of February, we can **earn a \$250 Barnes & Noble Gift Card** for books or other resource materials for our library when we **reach our Market Day sales goal of \$3,000.**

Pick up a brochure in the office, or you can view selections online at www.marketday.com.

To order, contact Andrea Peterson, apeterson6@wi.rr.com or call 635-1483 after 3:00pm. You can also order directly from Market Day at www.marketday.com.

January's sale benefits **the Music Department**

BOXTOPS For Education Labels

Please continue to clip those Boxtop labels, found on General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, and Kleenex products.

They are each worth 10 cents, and it can add up quickly! Please turn in anything you have on hand by February 15. Contact: Kate Villarreal, at 752-4554.

Clip Those Campbell's UPCs



And Kemp's caps

Turn them in to the office – *Thank you!*

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Walden staff enjoyed a delicious lunch of baked chicken and mostaccoli from Infusino's, and a fabulous selection of desserts and salads provided by parents. *Thank you to:* Ellen Ehleiter, Tina Flynn, Mindy Flynn, Kim Forsman, the Gudbaurs, Reyna Ibarra, Wendy Jenkins, Staci Joers, Karen Kunesh, Penny Mycon, Andrea Peterson, and Donna Sahakian.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Valentines's Day Dance.....Feb. 13**
Time: 6:30-9:00 pm Contact: Jane, 681-1962
3-5 chaperones are needed to help monitor halls and other duties. Staff advisor is Michael.
- **Walden Blood Drive..... Feb. 25**
Time: 7:00 am-1:30 pm Contact: Jane, 681-1962
Volunteers are needed to check in donors and serve juice and cookies. Staff advisor is Chris
- **Chicago Field Trip.....Feb 26**
All Middle school students MUST have a chaperone. WINGS form required Contact: Jeanne

To volunteer, contact Jane Finkenbine at 681-1962, or email j.finkenbine@yahoo.com

Scrip

Use Scrip to pay for everyday items like groceries and gas, dinner out or gifts. Order online at www.shopwithscrip.com or drop off your order form in the office by **2:00 pm on Mondays**. You will receive your Scrip back as early as Wednesday. Contact: Pam Heitfeld, 884-0752

Fundraising Totals

Fundraiser	December	Current Totals
Barnes & Noble Bk Fair	Tips & Sales	\$1034.00
Box Tops	\$177.60	\$421.10
Campbell's Labels	4,490	5,3010
Kemps Milk Caps	975	1899
Dine Out-Domino's	\$62.44	\$3,051.32
Market Day	\$231.00	\$1341.59
Scrip	\$415.65	\$1471.79
PickN'Save Our Acct. #910560		\$75.11

How to Contact the PTSA

Phone: Lisa Scott Ptacek, President, 681-2414

Email: lisascottptacek@aol.com

Email: PTSA@waldeniii.org to contact all board members

2009 Academic Decathlon Results.....Thomas Feeney

The Walden III U.S. Academic Decathlon team coached by Tom Feeney has scored **30,632 points** at the Waukesha CESA #1 Regionals Competition on Friday, January 9, and will advance to the Wisconsin U.S. Academic Decathlon **STATE FINALS** in Madison on March 16 – 17. Walden is making its second consecutive trip to the state finals; its fourth in eight years.

Walden came in 5th at the CESA #1 event, but some statistics offer an interesting perspective:

Walden's score was 10th overall statewide, had the second highest score of the five Division III schools that qualified for the state finals, and – most interesting – outside the CESA #1 powerhouse Regional, Walden's score *would have* won first place trophies in CESA #s 4, 5, 9, and 10; 2nd place trophies in CESA #s 6, 7, and 11; and 3rd place trophy in CESA #2.

The Walden superheroes that made it possible include:

Honors: **Sam Braun**, senior, **Armand Grabowski**, senior, and **Rachel Pettit**, junior.

Scholastic: **A.J. Stibbe**, junior, **Caracal Keithrafferty**, sophomore, and **Beau Wishner**, junior.

Varsity: **Keifer Baker**, senior, **Theresa Schmidt**, senior, and **Bill Justus**, senior.



Eight Individual ribbons were won by:

Sam Braun, who took home 3rd place in Language and Literature, 2nd place in Economics, 2nd place in Interview, 2nd place in Social Science, and 2nd in Art.

Kiefer Baker: 3rd place in Social Science.

Theresa Schmidt: 3rd in Essay, 3rd in Language and Literature.

Mirabile dictu.

Academic Decathlon is considered the premier academic competition in the United States.

Students complete six written tests in academic areas, an oral relay test, a prepared speech and an impromptu speech, and interview evaluation, and an essay.

Academic areas include: Mathematics, Social Studies, Language and Literature, Economics, Art, Music, and Biology. The overall theme for this year's U.S.A.D. curriculum was Latin America and Mexico

