

W.O.W.

Word of Walden

August 2008

Volume 27 Issue # 1
Published monthly August through June

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

WELCOME to our new Walden students, and *welcome back* to our returning Walnuts! The first day of school for all students is **Tuesday September 2, 2008**. School will begin at **7:15 am**. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

The most important thing to do is relax.... dress casual and bring paper and pen. **Do not bring back packs or supplies yet!** You will be given a list of supplies by each teacher on the first day. A complete list for 6th graders is provided in this newsletter.

Arrive 10 minutes early. **Go to the main hall and check the bulletin board for your Homegroup assignment.** Middle School students will be on one list, and High School students will be on another. All students will receive their class schedule the first day in homegroup.

In **HOMEGROUP**, each student will develop his/her daily class schedule and receive a locker assignment with a partner. General rules and policies will be reviewed. Students will attend all their classes on a shortened class schedule. Teachers will outline course work for the first quarter and hand out textbooks.

DISMISSAL will be at 2:25. Buses will be parked in front of school on Center and 11th St. Students will need to find their assigned school bus – expect it to take longer the first week while routes are finalized.

LOCKERS are provided, with no more than 2 students to a locker. Middle School Homegroup teachers will make locker assignments on the second or third day of school. Partners will purchase one lock to share – preferably a combination style. Lockers may be inspected in accordance with the Student Code.

WALDEN III

In the Process of Discovery

OPENING DAY SCHEDULE

7:00-7:15	Check Homegroup assignment posted in the main hall
7:15	All high school students report to the Gym until scheduling time
7:15-8:45	All middle school students report to their Homegroup for scheduling. This period is used to review class schedule, discuss rules and procedures, and answer any questions.
8:45-9:50	ALL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY in gym
9:50-10:15	First hour
10:20-10:45	Second hour
10:45-11:15	Third hour
11:20-12:00	LUNCH
12:05-12:30	Fourth hour
12:35-1:00	Fifth hour
1:05-1:30	Sixth hour
1:35-2:00	Seventh hour
2:05-2:25	ALL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY in gym
2:25	Dismissal

SUPPLY PANTRY

Please help fellow Walden students in need by contributing to the Supply Pantry. Donations may be dropped off in the Office. Items most in need are:

- Mechanical pencils
- Plastic-coated pocket folders
- Erasers, both pencil tip and rubber
- Boxes of thin markers
- Glue sticks and Rulers
- Boxes of Kleenex- always needed!
- Band-Aids of assorted sizes
- Ice packs, 4"x6"

PICTURE DAY

School pictures will be taken in the month of September. Information will be sent home with your student giving the date and order information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

STUDENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

PINK CARDS

Please complete and return the enclosed **PINK EMERGENCY CARD** during the first week of school. Parents and Guardians: Please remember to contact the office as changes occur – it is *your* responsibility to provide us with updated information. A confidential medical alert memo will be given to teachers with information taken from this card. Turn all Pink Cards into the Main Office. We depend on your information for the safety of your student.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Wisconsin state law requires that all K-12 grade students be immunized, with exemptions allowed for reasons of health or personal/religious conviction. You must present evidence of immunization to the school in which your student is enrolled. Immunization records are included in the student's cumulative record.

TRANSPORTATION

RUSD BUSES

All students living more than 2 miles from Walden III are eligible for transportation by school bus. Information regarding your specific bus and schedule will be mailed directly to your home from the Racine Unified Transportation Office. If you have any questions, please contact the Racine Unified School Transportation Office at 631-7138.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF OF STUDENTS

- Drivers – please drop off or pick up your student on the **OPPOSITE** (east) side of Center St., or park on 10th or 11th Streets **EAST** of Center St.
- **The front of school is reserved for buses only!**
- Do not park or stop in the Bus Zones at any time – you could be ticketed and fines are costly.
- Do not enter either the north or south parking lots.
- Do not *enter* or *block* the driveways while dropping off your student.

STUDENT PARKING

The parking availability is extremely limited at Walden III. Students may park on the south parking lot during the winter months, or along side streets.

NO STUDENT PARKING IS ALLOWED IN THE NORTH LOT OR IN THE SCHOOL BUS ZONES.

Students riding bicycles are advised to use locks.

Voluntary Student Accident Insurance

Forms are available in the office. Enrollment is optional.

PAPERLESS WOW – read it online

Consistent with Walden's green principles, Walden's monthly newsletter, the WOW, will no longer be mailed to your home unless requested. Produced monthly, it can be viewed online at www.waldeniii.org. In addition you can sign up to receive the Walden PTSA award-winning weekly newsletter the NOW to be sent to your email mailbox. To request that the WOW be mailed to your home or to sign up for the NOW, please fill out the orange form located in this newsletter and return with your pink emergency card to the office.

FEES

Book Rental

Book Rental is due by **OCTOBER 15**, and costs **\$12.00 per semester, or \$24.00 for a full year** if paid before October 15. *There will be a \$5.00 late fee charged each semester that book rental is overdue.*

Make checks out to Walden and write "Book rent" in the memo line. Remit to your homegroup teacher or directly to the Office. Note: If past fees have not been paid a student will not be eligible for senior activities.

Musical Instrument Rental

Instruments may be rented for \$30.00* per semester. Please check with Vanessa.

Athletic User Fee

High school athletic fees are \$60.00* per sport, with a maximum of \$180.00 per student/family.

Middle school extramural fee is \$10.00* per sport.

Lab Fee

All students must pay a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of printing in the lab and library. Please remit to your student's Homegroup teacher.

LUNCHROOM INFORMATION

The lunchroom is open to all students daily from 11:14-11:44 am. Monthly menus can be obtained from your homegroup teacher, the Office, or online at www.2racine.k12.wi.us. Click on Lunch menus.

Prices are:

Middle & high school students:	\$2.00
Reduced price (apply in office)	\$.40
Milk per carton	\$.35
Adults	\$2.75

Ala Carte items are also available.

Free or Reduced Lunch forms are available in the office

**Fees are waived for families that qualify.*

WALDEN III SCHOOL CALENDAR

2008 – 2009

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
2-First Day of School 8-New Parent Night 11-6 th Grade Picnic-N. Beach 11-Picture Day 16-PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 18-Delayed Start – 9:15 am Dine Out at Domino's 23-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 25-Open House 6-8:00 pm TBA-Welcome Back Dance 6:00-9:00 pm	8-9-Bike Trip to Bong 16-Delayed Start – 9:15 am Dine Out at Infusino's 21-PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 21-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 24-Nov 1-Spanish Club trip to Mexico TBA-Make a Difference Day TBA-Sock Carnival 30-31- NO CLASSES - WEAC Convention	6-7-CONFERENCES 6-7- Book Fair 6-Staff Appreciation Lunch 13-Delayed Start – 9:15 am Dine Out at Noodles & Co. 17-26-Harvest Food Drive TBA-Harvest Dance TBA-Poinsettia Sale 18-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 20-PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 26-Thanksgiving Banquet 27-28 Thanksgiving Recess	12-Barnes & Noble Book Fair 9:00 am – 11:00 pm TBA-Cocoa Concert 6-8:00 12-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 22-Jan 2 Holiday Recess	5-School resumes 15-Delayed Start – 9:15 am Dine Out at Domino's 20- PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 23-24-CONFERENCES 23-Staff Appreciation Lunch TBA-Winter Formal 6-9:00 26-Records Day – No school 27-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 TBA-RUSD College Prep Informational Meetings at Park, Case, and Horlick High Schools
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
TBA-Valentine's Day Dance 17- PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 24-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 TBA-Chicago Field Trip 25-Walden Blood Drive	12- Delayed Start – 9:15 am Dine Out at Kewpee's 17- PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 24-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 TBA-Middle School Talent Show "The Showsical" TBA-English Festival 26-27 CONFERENCES 26-27 Book Fair 26-Staff Appreciation Lunch	10-17- Spring Recess 20-School resumes TBA-Penny Wars 21-PTSA Meeting 6:00-6:30 PTSA College Night 6:30-8:00 in the library 28-Market Day Pickup 4-5:00	7- Delayed Start – 9:15 am Dine Out at Shillings 16-Senior Prom 19-PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00 TBA-Ice Cream Social 22-Springing Walden 25-Memorial Day-no school 26-Market Day pickup 4-5:00 29-R.O.P.E. Ceremony	5-Graduation Ceremony TBA-Walden Wheels 9-10 CONFERENCES 9-Staff Appreciation Lunch 10-Last Day of School

WALDEN III

In the Process of Discovery

1012 Center Street

Racine, WI 53403

ATTENDANCE LINE PHONE NUMBER

Please call before 9:00 am to report absences

The answering machine will take messages any hour of the day

664-6259

Walden Main Office	664-6250
Racine Unified Office	635-5600
Racine Unified Transportation Office	631-7138
Walden website	www.waldeniii.org

2008-2009

Regular Class Schedule		
1	7:15 -	8:05
2	8:10 -	8:59
Homegroup	9:03 -	9:23
3	9:27 -	10:16
4	10:21 -	11:10
Lunch	11:14 -	11:44
5	11:48 -	12:37
6	12:42 -	1:31
7	1:36 -	2:25

Delayed Start Schedule			
Sept 18—Oct 16—Nov 13—Jan 15—Mar 12—May 7			
1	9:15 -	9:50	
2	9:55 -	10:29	
Homegroup	10:33 -	10:43	
3	10:47 -	11:20	
Lunch	11:24 -	11:54	
4	11:58 -	12:32	
5	12:37 -	1:10	
6	1:15 -	1:48	
7	1:53 -	2:25	

Conference Day Schedule			
Nov 6-7	Jan 23-24	March 26-27	June 9-10
1		7:15 -	7:42
2		7:47 -	8:14
Homegroup		8:19 -	8:29
3		8:34 -	9:02
4		9:07 -	9:35
5		9:40 -	10:08
6		10:13 -	10:41
7		10:46 -	11:14

2008-2009 Quarters

Q1	September 2—November 7
Q2	November 10—January 23
Q3	January 27—March 27
Q4	March 30—June 10

WALDEN POLICIES

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/TRUANCY RULES

Absence: Parents/guardians must notify the school *on a daily basis* in the event of illness, absence or tardiness. Please call the Attendance Line at **664-6259 before 9:00 am** and the answering machine will take your call. You may leave messages on the Attendance Line any time of day or night. **NOTE:** Unverified absences will be considered **truancies** and will be recorded on your child's permanent record. Don't forget to call!

Tardiness: All students arriving after 7:15 a.m. must sign in at the office before going to class.

Approved Absence: The Principal or designee has the authority to approve a legal excuse for the following reasons:

Religious holidays	Family vacations
Personal illness	Medical appointment
Court appearance	Family emergency
Act of God	Not immunized
Special events /Educational value	
Approved school activities	

State law and RUSD policy state that a student may miss no more that 10 days which include: illness, funerals, vacation, and appointments.

To be excused for an extended absence because of vacation or other reasons, a special form from the office must be signed by all teachers and by Bob Holzem or Chris Semrad. This must be completed in advance, or the absence may be considered unexcused.

PHONE CALLS AND CELL PHONES

Parents – if you need to reach your student, *please call the Main Office*. We will post a notice for your student on the message board outside the office or call them out of class only if it is an emergency.

Your child may phone home from the office as needed.

Cell phones may not be used inside of school. If seen, they will be taken and held in the office for a parent to pick up. Please do not send text messages or call your child on the cell during school hours.

WALDEN NO FIGHT POLICY

Walden III's commitment to nonviolence is a tradition that has been an integral part of its philosophy since the school's inception in 1972. We expect students to resolve problems amicably.

Our **NO FIGHT** policy means that no one may use physical violence against another. Persons who fight will leave Walden for a time determined by the administration and the homegroup teacher. Students may reapply to return to Walden at a later date.

COUNSELOR NEWS.....Katie McCauley

Information for seniors and their parents

AP COURSES: High school students interested in taking advanced classes at Case, Park, or Horlick (such as Calculus, Advanced Physics/Chemistry, or Spanish 5) should see Katie in Room 319 for scheduling information.

Attention Juniors and Seniors:

The **Youth Options Program** provides selected tuition-free classes at UW Parkside or Gateway Technical College. Interested students should see Katie for details. Applications are due **October 1** for spring semester courses.

ACT/SAT TESTS for Seniors

ACT and SAT materials are available in Katie's office, including FREE preparation booklets. Sign up for the ACT at **www.actstudent.org** - the first test date is **October 25, 2008**. Students can sign up for the SAT Reasoning test at **www.collegboard.com**. Walden's code is 501-919.

PSAT TESTS FOR Juniors

Take the practice SAT test at Walden on **Saturday, Oct. 19**.

WisCareers is a computer-based program to help students explore colleges and occupations as well as take an interest inventory. Students can access this program at school or at home. Opportunities to set up an account will be provided throughout the year, or call Katie to schedule at 664-6250.

9th grade Freshman

As 8th graders you received information on the WI Covenant – a pledge made to set goals prior to high school so students can be prepared for higher education. It's not too late to sign up! You have until Sept. 30, 2008. Sign up online at **www.wisconsin covenant.wi.gov**, or see Katie.

Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities

The School District Code of Rights and Responsibilities applies to all students. Copies of the code book will be given to and reviewed with all students during a special assembly on the first or second day of school for High School and in Homegroups for Middle School.

Extra copies will be available in the Main Office. Please review the codebook with your student

INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURES

In the event of a snowstorm or other emergency condition, Walden follows RUSD policy for closing procedures. The decision to close the schools will be made as early as possible (usually by 6:15 am). Weather conditions could cause a delayed start (usually 2 hours) or an early release. WRJN (1400 on the AM dial), TV, and other media will broadcast conditions and closings.

Make sure your child knows how to contact you and where to go in case of early release.

WALDEN III CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

Walden III offers a wide variety of cultural, academic and Middle School athletic activities. Your child will be introduced to the clubs and after-school activities available at Walden on the first day of school.

For a full listing, pick up a **Student Activity Guide** from the office or the PTSA.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government elections are held in September and October. All students are eligible to run for election; nominations are taken through Homegroups. Nine senior high and six middle school students are elected to serve a one-year term. Student government representatives meet once a week during the lunch hour to work on student activities, community outreach, fundraising for charity, and school policy issues.....Michael Seyller, Advisor

WALDEN GREEN SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Walden's Green School is committed to improving our environmental footprint by promoting a school recycling program, and by encouraging sustainable living practices.

This year the Green School eagerly anticipates the placement of solar panels on the roof of Walden. Our new project this year will be to develop an outdoor classroom in the park behind Walden. Weekly meetings are held during lunch hour. All students and their families are welcome.

.....Tom Rutkowski, Advisor

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Walden has active music and drama activities. If your child is interested in playing an instrument, see Vanessa. See Michael Seyller (high school) or Kate Potter-Barrow (middle school) if your child has in interest in drama or singing.

US ACADEMIC DECATHLON

An outstanding learning experience where students study for test in six academic areas: math, literature, economics, music, art and social science. Speech and interview components are included in competition at both regional and state levels.....Tom Feeney, Advisor

BIKE TRIP TO BONG

This is a **first quarter** elective class for Middle School students, which culminates in an overnight camping trip to Bong. Students learn about bicycles, bike safety, and riding techniques, and must train prior to the trip. Bike helmets are mandatory. One student writes:

“As you go through this class you learn all about bike safety procedures. You go on group training rides and train on the weekends. Finally, at the end of the quarter, you ride the 35 miles to Bong!

If you go on this trip, you must work really hard, but if you do, you will have tons of fun. Everyone I have talked to that has been on this trip has enjoyed it and wants to go again.”

If your child would like to go on this highly anticipated trip, advise him/her to **sign up on the first days of school** for the class. Join us - chaperones are needed!

Organized by Pam Veenstra and Cindy Hertzberg.

KARATE CLUB

Walden III has it's own Karate Club, which is open to all Walden students and their families. The instructor, Roy Moralez (Walden's former Building Engineer) is a Fourth Degree Black Belt in Tai Kwon Do. Along with Karate, Roy teaches self-defense, discipline, respect, and patience.

Classes meet **Tuesday and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 pm** in the Walden gym. The cost for students is \$10.00/month. Family rates are available.

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL: Through the month of September, you can get one month of lessons and a Karate uniform for only **\$20.00**.

Please come and observe a lesson, and feel free to ask questions. You can contact Roy at 886-1058.

MODEL OAS.....Tom Kohl, Advisor

Model OAS is a club for high school students that simulates the Organization of American States General Assembly. Students practice debate and mediation techniques while they present resolutions on issues that affect the Western Hemisphere. Meetings are held during lunch.

WALDEN FAMILIES are invited to participate in the Karate Club and Ski Club at Walden.

WALDEN III PTSA NEWS

JOIN THE WALDEN III PTSA

Now more than ever, while your child is developing his/her independence, parents need to remain a guiding presence in their child's life. The Walden PTSA allows you to know what is going on in your child's school, and to contribute to making these important years the best they can be.

Our mission is to foster collaboration among parents, teachers, and students to create the best academic and learning environment for our children.

Our goals are to build parent involvement to aid our mission, and to establish good communication between the home and school.

Membership dues are only \$6 per person and \$5 for students. **We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Teacher's Lounge at 6:30 pm.** We welcome you to join us anytime (membership is not required) and learn how you can help your child make the best advantage of an education at Walden III.

PTSA provides:

- Support for staff
- Volunteer involvement
- Fund raising
- Communication

VOLUNTEER AT WALDEN

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer throughout the year at Walden. Sign up at the PTSA table at the Open House, and we will contact you by phone or email. You can also go to Volunteers@Waldeniii.org to sign up, or check the PTSA page in the WOW each month for a listing. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Chaperone at a dance – usually one a month
- Donate a dish for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon – 4 times/year at conferences
- Help with Picture Day, Make A Difference Day, Walden Blood Drive, or other school event
- Help at the wrapping table at the Barnes & Noble Book Fair on Dec. 12.

Please remember – we need your involvement to make these events a success! For further information, contact Jane Finkenbine, 681-1962.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED to help with Market Day calls. This involves making phone calls once/month on Monday night to remind customers to pick up their orders Tuesday. To volunteer, contact Andrea Peterson, 635-1483.

FUND RAISING AT WALDEN

Your participation in fund raising at Walden helps enhance your child's school experience. In the past we have been able sponsor:

- \$1500.00 to the Green School Solar Panel Project
- English Fest author visit to Walden
- Guest artists and programs
- Snacks for our students taking WKCE tests
- Matching funds to purchase a new piano
- Purchased materials to build a ramp for the piano; built by parent volunteer Mike Holding
- Retirement gifts for departing staff

Please give your support to the PTSA fund raising efforts at Walden by participating in any of the following:

- Market Day – monthly sales of quality foods
- Scrip – gift cards sold weekly
- Dine Out – scheduled on Delayed Start days
Eat out and restaurant donates to Walden
- Barnes & Noble Book Fair on December 12

Due to Post Office guidelines, we are unable to promote Walden fundraisers in our mailings. Please read our notices online for full information.

BOXTOPS AND CAMPBELLS LABELS

PLEASE clip the Box Tops for Education coupons from General Mills products and turn them in to the box in the Home Tech room to earn **FREE MONEY** for Walden.

NOW, THE EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Whether you join the PTSA or not, subscribe to receive a weekly email newsletter **NOW (News of Walden)** to stay up-to-date on special events, urgent notices, and general information. To sign up, go to www.waldeniii.org and sign up on the main page.

PARENT HANDBOOK

The Parent Handbook is a comprehensive handbook for parents new to Walden that includes information about Walden traditions, values, and maps of the school. Pick up a copy at the PTSA table at Open House on Sept. 27.

CONTACT THE PTSA

Email: www.waldeniii.org

Phone: President, Lisa Scott Ptacek at 681-2414

Join us for the first Franklin Park Neighborhood Picnic

All food, soft drinks, and music are FREE!
You may also buy tickets for raffle items and the Dunk Tank.
Green School merchandise will also be sold.

When: September 20, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Franklin Park (located behind Walden III School , 10th and Center Streets)

Who: Organized by Alderman Jeff Coe and Walden teacher Alex Mandli

For more information please contact Alderman Jeff Coe (e-mail: jeffalancoe@yahoo.com)
or Alex Mandli (email: muddauber@alexmandli.com)

Contributions gratefully accepted and can be mailed to:
Walden Green School- Picnic, 1012 Center Street Racine, Wisconsin, 53403

All proceeds to benefit Walden III Green School and the development of this park space.
All donations are tax deductible.

Please send me the WOW!

You must fill out this form in order to receive the WOW mailed monthly to your home

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Student's Name: _____

**Sign me up for the NOW (News of Walden),
a weekly email newsletter**

Email Address: _____

Student's Name: _____

Return this form to school with your student's Emergency Pink Card. Thank you.