

W.O.W

Word of Walden

January 2013

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!!!

The new doors are being installed at Walden, the exercise salon is humming along, and brain cells are being stimulated and stretched within students and staff, as we move along the school year timeline.

Conference dates are directly ahead – please make sure you get the most out of this very beneficial opportunity to check progress and make adjustments to the course your student is on.

Recently, middle school surveys were collected, and preliminary indications show that our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students have great ideas and enthusiasm for enhancing our Walden traditions. We will be asking our high school contingent for their responses to their survey soon. I have taken great pride in utilizing these surveys over the years to check the pulse of our school and in order to plan for improvements, all along the lines of incorporating the student voice into this school.

As the new year evolves into the second half of this school year, we realize that time moves quickly, and so it is with our plans, goals, dreams, and our lives. We hope you find value to what we, as a staff, do. We appreciate your support.

Peace,

Bob

TRAGIC EVENT IN NEWTOWN, CN.....

The tragic events in the Newtown, CN community have left us stunned to say the least. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are directly facing this tragedy.

Here in Racine we are indirectly feeling the pain and horror of this event. When tragic events happen we have a wide range of emotions. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns questions, and/or thoughts you or your child may have.

Sincerely, Katie (Counselor) 664-6262
Suzette (Social Worker) 664-6261

CALENDAR 2012 – 2013

JANUARY

- 3 School resumes
- 11,17,18 The Outsiders
- 15 PTSA meeting 6:30-8:00
- 18 Early Release – dismissal at 12:31
- 21 Martin Luther King Day – no school
- 24 Conferences – dismissal at 11:28
- 25 Conferences – no school
- 25 Winter Formal 6:00-9:00pm
- 29 Market Day pickup 3:30-4:40pm

FEBRUARY

- 15 Early Release – dismissal at 12:31
- 18 Staff Development Day – No School or First Contingent Snow Day
- 19 PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00pm
- 26 Market Day Pick-up 3:30-4:40pm

HOW DO PARENTS STAY IN CONTACT WITH WALDEN STAFF??????????

1. The Homegroup teacher is the closet staff member to the students in their Homegroup. Try talking, phoning, emailing, or making an appointment to discuss your student.
2. Calling the office at 664-6250 to ask for the Homegroup teacher, and leave a message to ask them to call you back at a convenient time.
3. Make sure to attend all conferences. As these are held at every quarter, this is a great opportunity for face-to-face time – when the application was completed to ask to attend Walden, you made a commitment of support that included attending conferences – other schools do not have the luxury of quarterly conferences, so take advantage of it!
4. Again, call, email, ask for an appointment. Dropping in to see a staff member rarely works (we are very busy teaching) so setting up an appointment is the successful way to go.
5. Don't forget about the assignment notebook in middle school, or any other arrangements that have been made to check progress daily or weekly. These 'old-fashioned' tools to aid communication do work.
6. Help your student organize their folders and lockers if necessary. Everyone can use a little help now and then...help us make this coming semester the best one your student has ever experienced!

WALDEN MUSIC DEPARTMENT.....

“The concerts were fantastic!” “The students performed amazingly!” “Congrats to all involved!!!”

Secondly, the music department is looking donations of money, working instruments, guitar stands, etc..... I am trying to build up our music department here and I would love to add Timpanis and mallet type instruments, but we don't have those yet. And we are always in the

need of band and orchestra instruments that work. And, monetary donations are always welcome!!!

Lastly, we are contacting elementary schools to tour once again!

See you at our next concert! More information to follow.

I am also looking at either NY or TN for the end of the year music trip. Details to follow after winter break.

STUDENTS PERFORM “THE OUTSIDERS”

Friday, Jan. 11th, Thursday, Jan. 17th, Jan. 18th tickets are \$8.00 for adults & \$5 for students & seniors.

WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS.....

The Walden volleyball teams enjoyed a stellar season. They traveled to all 5 of the other middle schools. The 6th/7th grade boys and the 8th grade girl's teams went 5-0. The 7th grade girls were 3-2 as were the 8th grade boys. Sam and Sue (and Nugget and Ric) really enjoyed watching them improve throughout the season. Big thanks and shout out to the parents who did a great job picking the students up from practices and the games on time!!

Boys Basketball season begins immediately following the holiday break. All 6th, 7th, & 8th grade boys are allowed to play. The season lasts 8 weeks. See Sam for more information or to sign up. There is a North and South activity bus that leaves Walden at 4:00pm.

AFTER SCHOOL FITNESS PROGRAM: New this year...Sue will be having an after school fitness program in the new fitness room. You will be able to ride the bikes, use the elliptical, and work out with the weights. Some days we will have a Zumba day. This will be on Mondays and Wednesdays right after school until 4:00 (you can take the activity bus home only if you are already a bus rider). Talk to Sue if you are interested. We will have a maximum of 20 per night.

COUNSELOR NEWS...Katie McCauley

ATTENTION PARENTS of students in Advance Placement classes: Information on AP testing will be available in January. Registration and the test fee will be due in February. See or call Katie McCauley, AP Coordinator, for more information(262)-664-6262.

COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

There are many websites to search for information about colleges and scholarships. Go online to **Fastweb.com**, **collegeboard.com** or **anycollege.net**. For financial aid information, try **finaid.org**, **ed.gov**, or **fafsa.ed.gov**.

HONORS INFORMATION

RUSD Central Office sends honors information to the Racine Journal Times, using the following criteria:

- High honors = GPA of 3.5 and above
- Honors = GPA of 3.25 – 3.49

ACT Registration Dates for 2012-2013

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Date (Fee Req.)
2/09/2013	1/11/2013	1/12-18/2013
4/13/2013	3/8/2013	3/9-22/2013
6/08/2013	5/03/2013	5/4-17/2013

SAT Registration Dates for 2011-2012

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Date
1/26/2013	12/28/2012	1/11/2013
3/09/2013	2/08/2013	2/22/2013
5/04/2013	4/5/2013	4/19/2013
6/01/2013	5/02/2013	5/17/2013

Register online to take the ACT test at www.actstudent.org or at www.collegeboard.com for the SAT. The code for Walden is **501-919**.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO SENIORS

A variety of scholarships are available to seniors. They should stop and see Katie McCauley for more info and deadlines in room 319.

COLLEGE GOAL WISCONSIN is a free event held annually at Gateway Technical College and other colleges in the area. The program is designed to help families complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)**

form, which is required to apply for federal assistance for college fees. The event takes place Saturday, February 23, 2013 & Sunday, February 24, 2013. Go online at www.collegegoalwi.org for more information and locations.

Selective Service: All 18-year old men must register for Selective Service. If you fail to register, you cannot qualify for federal student grants or loans for college. Registration is easy and can be completed in less than two minutes via the Internet at www.sss.gov. Register today!

RACINE PTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

All seniors enrolled to attend an accredited college or university in the fall of 2011 are eligible to apply for a \$1,000.00 scholarship form the Racine PTA council. Applications must be completed by the student and postmarked no later than March 7, 2013. The scholarship recipients and two guests will be invited to attend the Annual PTA Council Banquet at the Racine Marriott. See Katie in room 319 for an application.

PTSA RESULTS ARE IN.....

The PSAT results are in! Any student who took the PSAT can stop in to room 319 for their results. Parents if you have any questions please contact me at 664-6262, thanks, Katie McCauley, Counselor.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID APPLICATION

Seniors can apply online at www.fafsa.gov for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the form needed to apply for government aid and may be required by your college. Seniors & their families can apply after Jan. 1, 2013. See Katie in room 319 or call 664-6262 for more information.

THE YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM allows juniors and seniors in good academic standing to take college courses at Parkside or Gateway. Fall courses will be **paid for by RUSD** if the district does not already teach that specific course. Current Sophomores & Juniors should see Katie for an application. **Sign up by March 1st for fall of 2013 classes.**

CREDIT RECOVERY CLASSES

Lighted Schoolhouse course are open to students who need to **recover a failed grade in order to graduate**. Priority is given to seniors. See Katie for an application or more information.

BADGER BOYS & GIRLS.....

Current juniors that are interested in government should consider applying for Badger Boys State Or Badger Girls State. Badger Boys is held at Ripon College June and Badger Girls is held at UW-Oshkosh June. Juniors must qualify to attend these programs. They must be in their junior year of high school, be a U.S. citizen, be interested in government and citizenship, rank in the top third of their class, have outstanding qualities of leadership, good moral character, cooperativeness, dependability, participate in extra-curricular activities and be in good health. More information can be found online at www.badgerboystate.com (for boys) and www.badgergirlstate.org (for girls). Juniors who are interested need to see Katie McCauley for the application process.

PTSA DINE OUT FOR WALDEN.....

Dine Out for Walden at **Domino's** on Thursday, January 17, form noon – 11:00pm. A voucher is required for us to earn a percentage of each sale. This voucher can be downloaded from our website or a copy will be coming home with your child a couple of days before the event. Make sure to note student's homegroup o the voucher as the winning homegroup will get a free pizza party Domino's!

STUDENT PARKING

Students may use the South parking lot during 2nd (Nov. 7-Jan 19) and 3rd (Jan 23-March 30) quarters for parking.

ALL DRIVERS: Please **use caution** when entering or leaving the parking lot! The safety of our students depends on it!

Also, no driving from the south to north parking lot to exit

Emergency Notification E-mails – valuable source for Snow Day information

You wake up to 12 inches of snow outside your window. You're at work in the afternoon and blizzard conditions are quickly approaching the Racine area. Want to be among the first to know if school will be closed? Subscribe to the RUSD Emergency Notification e-mail list, and you will receive an e-mail as soon as a decision is made to close schools for the day, delay the start of schools, close schools early or cancel activities.

To join the emergency notification list, visit the District's website: news.rusd.org/RUSDe-news (case sensitive). School closings or delays will also be announced to local media outlets and will be posted to the District's website, but by joining our emergency notification e-mail list, updates will be delivered directly to your inbox.

You may also check any of the local news stations to find out about school closings or delay starts.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION.....

Yearbooks are on sale for the low, low price of just \$45 through the second quarter. Prices increase in the third quarter.

Parent Ads – Parents, if you would like to purchase an ad congratulating your senior in this years Walden III Yearbook, contact Joe room 304. You may design it yourself, or work with our crack design staff. Prices are \$100 for a full page, \$50 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page. Our e-mail is waldenyearbook.yahoo.com. The deadline is Wednesday, January 16, 2013.



Monday, Dec. 17, 2012

Dear Racine Unified Parents/Guardians,

Last Friday, the entire Racine Unified school family was shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. This senseless loss of lives, especially very young lives, is a stark reminder of the importance of school safety plans, procedures and drills.

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. While there is no indication that Friday's events are anything more than an isolated incident, we are taking the opportunity to remind all school staff of their school safety plans. We also want to remind all RUSD families that we conduct regular drills, including those for a building lockdown, and that all visitors to our schools must enter through a controlled main entrance and must sign in with the school office. All school staff must wear identification badges at all times and visitors must have a visitor pass. These are just some of the procedures that we have in place to help ensure student safety and security.

We know that your children may raise questions and concerns about this tragedy. The American Psychological Association (APA) provides several tips on their website for parents to consider:

- **Talk with your child.** Talking to your children about their worries and concerns is the first step to help them feel safe and begin to cope with the events occurring around them. What you talk about and how you say it does depend on their age, but all children need to be able to know you are there listening to them.
- **Keep home a safe place.** Children, regardless of age, often find home to be a safe haven when the world around them becomes overwhelming. During times of crisis, it is important to remember that your children may come home seeking the safe feeling they have being there. Help make it a place where your children find the solitude or comfort they need. Plan a night where everyone participates in a favorite family activity.
- **Watch for signs of stress, fear or anxiety.** After a traumatic event, it is typical for children to experience a wide range of emotions, including fearfulness, shock, anger, grief and anxiety. Your children's behaviors may change because of their response to the event. They may experience trouble sleeping, difficulty with concentrating on school work, or changes in appetite. This is normal for everyone and should begin to disappear in a few months.
- **Take "news breaks."** Your children may want to keep informed by gathering information about the event from the internet, television, or newspapers. It is important to limit the amount of time spent watching the news. Constant exposure may actually heighten their anxiety and fears.

You can find more helpful information on the APA website: www.apa.org/helpcenter/aftermath.aspx. We've also posted some helpful resources on the RUSD website: www.racine.k12.wi.us. If you have any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to contact your school principal or a District administrator. Please know we have a team of counselors who can assist parents in talking with their children or answering questions.

Our thoughts go out to all of the families affected by Friday's tragedy.

Sincerely,

Ann Laing, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Principal



Order Tonight To Support Your School!

Domino's Pizza® is very excited to become a part of your school family by helping raise money for your school's needs. We hope to have a very busy night and raise a lot of money for your child's school! Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...

• On the date listed below, 20% of your total order price will be donated directly back to your child's school by Domino's Pizza®. (Valid with these offers or any other offers.)

• Just fill out and give the Pizza Purchase Form below to your Domino's Pizza® representative upon delivery or at pickup and we'll take care of it from there!

AS AN ADDED BONUS FOR YOUR CHILD. The class with the greatest participation will receive a FREE PIZZA PARTY compliments of Domino's Pizza®!



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1 Large With Your Favorite 3 Toppings

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2 Large 1-Topping Pizzas, Your Choice of 2 Bread Sides, 1 Order of Buffalo Wings OR Domino's Pizza Buffalo Chicken Kickers® & a 2-Liter of Coca-Cola®

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Date & Day Of Event: _____

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