

W.O.W

Word of Walden

November 2011

Volume #30 Issue # 3

GREAT SCHOOLS BY BOB HOLZEM

You may have heard a few weeks ago that Walden Middle School was recognized by the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators as an exemplary middle school, on the basis of high test scores in reading, and/or math. We are happy to be recognized in this way. If there were a similar designation for high schools (Walden is comprised of 6 – 12 grades) I'm sure the high school would also have been recognized as such too. Actually, this is the fourth year in a row that AWSA has given Walden this exemplary status recognition.

I'd like to take a moment to thank those who contribute to making Walden the fine school it is: hard-working teachers, support staff, hard-working students, involved parents, and all the others who help to create a community that cares. As pleasant as it is to hear such nice news, I am more interested in the demonstrations of value and excellence that take place on a daily basis at Walden, for instance, the learning experience Walden was involved in last week – our traditional Make A Difference Day. All students participated, in groups, in learning through volunteer efforts at several places in the community that day, including the Racine Urban Garden, the Zoo Path, Riverbend, Caledonia conservancy, colonial Park, Eco-Justice, West Racine Art, Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, HALO, Lakeshore Manor, Wind Point Lighthouse, the Racine Library, Kids Cove, Caledonia Old Town Hall, and the Walden Rain Garden and Outdoor Classroom. The transportation for this effort was expensive, and Walden paid for it by fundraising efforts, without having to pay through district funds. We're so proud of our student's efforts in helping others out,

and in exchange, these students benefit from learning how and why these venues operate and what they mean to our immediate world.

This is an example of a different kind of exemplariness, if you will, that goes on at this school regularly, among all of the other great experiences students are involved in on any given day. There are also many other such incidents taking place daily at every other school in RUSD. I encourage the Racine community to become more aware of the great efforts educators at every school in the area are making in order to help our greatest resource, our young people, learn valuable lessons to prepare them for the future. As our students become career and college ready the collaborations they've enjoyed in our community serve everyone and help ensure that we have helped produce citizens who are prepared for the future. Thank you for your support – it's necessary in order to create and maintain great schools.

SAVE THE DATE

WALDEN III

4th Annual FAMILY NIGHT

Thurs., November. 10, 2011

Infusion's banquet Hall

Please join us for our 4th annual event to kick off the new school year where we welcome new families, staff and students.

5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Tickets \$10.00 Each

[Click here for more information or to buy tickets online.](#)

Includes Dinner and beverages

Silent Auction / Basket Raffle

Background Music provided by the

Walden III Jazz Band.

2011-2012 Calendar.....

November

- 3 Conferences – dismissal at 11:28
- 4 Conferences – no classes
- 3-4 Book Fair in the Main Hallway
- 10 Family Night at Infusino’s
- 15 Market Day Pickup 4:00-5:00pm
- 15 PTSA Meeting 6:30-8:00pm
- 23 Feast Day
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess

December

- 6 Choir/Orchestra Concert – 6:30 - @ Holy Communion Church
- 8th Cocoa Concert 7:00pm
- 13 Market Day Pick-up 4:00-5:00pm
- 22-Jan. 2 Holiday Recess

SUPPLY PANTRY.....

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

Thank you in advance for you contributions.

SAVE THE DATE

**Barnes and Noble
Walden III Bookfair!
Dec. 2nd**

YEARBOOK INFO.....

YEARBOOKS! It is time to order your beautiful Walden III Yearbooks. Get your order in quickly because they’re going for the low, low price of \$35 in the first quarter ONLY! You may also add a personal name stamp to your Yearbook for the bargain price of \$5.

There are three convenient ways to pay: cash or check to Joe’s mailbox or room 304. Include the student(s) name(s) and homegroup. Or you may go online and order it at jostensyearbooks.com. Remember, hurry and get orders in A.S.A.P.

Prices increase starting second quarter (Nov. 7th). It goes up to \$40.00.

SENIORS.....

Senior Photo due...Wednesday, Nov. 16th SENIORS need to have their senior portraits, in color or in black and white, submitted to the Yearbook before Nov. 16th. Please email your CLEARLY LABELED portrait to waldenyearbook@yahoo.com, or drop off a print in Joe Kane’s room, 304.

PARENTS: “ADS FOR GRADS” are photos and messages from parents to congratulate their graduating senior. Design your own, or give your information to our crack design staff. We will, of course, check with you first for your approval. Prices range from \$25 - \$100 for sizes of 1/4 page to a full-page ad. **Ads are due by February 1, 2012.** If you have any questions, please call Joe at 664-6250, or send an email to Walden yearbook@yahoo.com.



COUNSELOR NEWS.....

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available for the senior with the highest grade point average and does not require an application. In the event of more than one eligible senior with an identical grade point average, the tie-breaking procedures are:

1. The grade point averages will be computed to as many decimal places as needed to break the tie.
2. If the first criterion does not determine the recipient, the student with the higher ACT composite score will be ranked higher.
3. If the first two criteria do not determine the recipient, the student with the greater number of credits used to compute the GPA will be ranked higher.
4. If the first three criteria do not determine the recipient, the student with greater number of weighted credits will be ranked higher.

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.

ACT Registration Dates for 2011-2012

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Date (Fee Req.)
12/10/2011	11/4/2011	11/5-8/2011
2/11/2012	1/13/2012	1/14-20/2012
4/14/2012	3/9/2012	3/10-23/2012
6/9/2012	5/4/2012	5/5-18/2012

SAT Registration Dates for 2011-2012

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Date
12/3/2011	11/8/2011	11/20/2011
1/28/2012	12/30/2012	1/13/2012
3/10/2012	2/10/2012	2/24/2012
5/5/2012	4/5/2012	4/20/2012
6/2/2012	5/8/2012	5/22/2012

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**.

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.

MISSED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

You may receive your child's homework assignments if s/he has been home ill for 2 or more days. Call the attendance line (664-6259) to put in a request, and assignments can be ready for pickup at the end of the day.

REMINDER: You must call every day that your child is home ill, or s/he will be considered truant. After 3 or more days, a doctor's excuse is required. RUSD and state law state that a student may miss no more than 10 days per year.

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

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR HOMEGROUP BASKETS.

Looking for items to include in Home Group Baskets for Family Night. If you can contribute to one or more of our themes, please bring items to the school office and indicate to which basket.

Chris HG= "Cooking" basket

Chris Senior class = "Dorm Room" Basket

Elena's = "Sweet Life" (candy basket)

Joe Kane = "Chocolate Overload"

Steve = "Philosophy/Life"

Sue = is donating 4 baskets:

Sue = "No Whining" (wine, glasses & UnCorkt gift cert)

Sue = "Sports" (to incl. Dick's Sporting Goods gift Card)

Sue = "Sandwiches"

Sue = "Books" (to incl. Barnes & Noble gift cards)

Pam's = "Movie Night"

Kate's = "Doggie & Human Treats"

Janet's = "Art Basket"

Michelle S. = "Fun Basket"

Sandy H. = "Comfy-Cozy Basket"

Michael S. = "Relaxation Basket"

Brian T. = "Beefaroni Basket"

PTSA = "The Great Outdoors"

"Simply Racine"

Also accepting unique baskets from Alumni, Families and Friends. All proceeds will benefit academic enrichment at Walden III. Contact fundraising@waldeniii.org for drop off information. Deadline is Nov. 7th.

FALL SPORTS AT WALDEN.....

What a great Cross Country season. The Walden Cross Country runners had quite an All City Meet performance. The 7th & 8th grade girls took first place overall, and the 7th & 8th grade boys teams both finished second...way to go!! Super individual performances were made by everyone but a few standouts were: 1st place from Braiden Murray (12:22 for 2 miles), 2nd place by Nick Urban (9:38 for 1.5 miles), and 2nd place by Alexia Kach (10:51 for 1.5 miles). Thanks everyone for a super season! Sue & Kate (coaches).

Looking ahead Volleyball begins on October 24th

FIRST QUARTER CONFERENCES..NOV. 3-4

Parent-teacher-student conferences for the first quarter will be held Thursday, Nov.3 and Friday, Nov. 4. Students sign up for a conference time with their homegroup teacher – all students must be in attendance for their conference. Dismissal on Thursday is at 11:28 with conferences in the afternoon, and there is no school on Friday, Nov. 4.

HORLICK HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY FAIR

Visit the Horlick High School Holiday Fair, Saturday, November 19th, 9am to 4pm, hosted by the Horlick Student Council and school.

WKCE STANDARIZED TESTING

Students in grades 6,7,8, & 10 will be taking the standardized tests on November 8 - 11. Please help your child get a good night sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and make an extra effort to arrive on time. Students in grades 9, 11, & 12 will report to classes on the days of testing. Regular classes will be held.

ART DEPT.....

If you could donate shoeboxes, we use them all the time! Also, old washcloths and towels you were going to throw out because they have a stain or tear, please don't throw them out! Donate them to the art classroom; we would love to use them. We also need containers with snug fitting lids, well rinsed out butter, cool whip, sour cream, or frosting containers are great! If you have any of these things and could donate them we would greatly appreciate it. Just tell your students to drop them off at room 221. Thanks so much!!!
Amy

HARVEST FOOD DRIVE NOV. 14 - 23

Walden will soon begin its annual food drive for the Racine County Food Bank. This has become one of Walden's signature events, one in which staff, students, and parents join to help people in our own community. This year, the food drive competition between homegroups will start on Monday, November 14th and will run through Wednesday, November 23rd. The food drive will conclude with an assembly where Walden presents food and money to the Food Bank in the morning, then celebrates with a Thanksgiving feast at noon on the 23rd.

How can parents help this be a success?

- Walk with your child through your neighborhood to ask neighbors for contributions.
- Let your child go with to the grocery store to help pick up items for the food drive.
- Hold a food drive at your place of work and bring the items to your child's homegroup.
- Help your child raise money which he or she can donate or use to purchase food items.

A list of items needed by the food bank and used in our competition is enclose in this mailing and will be available from your child's homegroup teacher at conferences as well. Let's all work together to make this a year of generous and joyous giving!!! Kate

**NEWS FROM THE MUSIC
DEPT.....**

November 4th – Orchestra Clinic Concert at UW-Whitewater fieldtrip – bus leaves at 7:00am, back between 2:30 & 3:00pm. For more info, see Zach.

POINSETTIA SALE

The Music Dept. is having their annual poinsettia sale. Our poinsettias come from Milaeger's and come in three colors and four different sizes. We also are selling 24" wreaths and hanging evergreen gaskets. The poinsettias are always beautiful and last a long time. Order forms are available in the main office or from a music student. **They are due back to Zach by Friday, Nov. 18th.** They can be picked up at our Cocoa Concert on Thursday, December 8th – 7:00pm.

COCOA CONCERT is on Thursday, December 8th, 7:00-8:30pm in the Walden gym. All Bands & Orchestra perform.

If you're a parent of one of our musicians, please consider volunteering that night! We need people to: set up the gym, prepare and serve the hot cocoa, & a cashier. We could use your help!

The music department would like to do a silent auction at the Cocoa Concert to raise money for the department. If any parents are interested in coordinating this please contact Zach at 664-6250 or zachary.fell@rusd.org.

CHOIR/ORCHESTRA CONCERT is Tuesday, December 6th, 6:30pm at Holy Communion Lutheran Church.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND- the elementary school tours will be announced soon!

MODEL UN/OAS.....

Walden's Model O.A.S./U.N. Club will be attending the Model Organization of American States Conference at UW-Parkside on November 10 & 11, 2011 and the Model United Nations Conference at UW-Milwaukee on March 22 & 23, 2012. The Model U.N. Conference will be an overnight fieldtrip. Advisor is Tom Kohl & the Asst. Advisor is Michelle Nichols. This years delegates are: **Nick Vantubbergen, Katelyn Flynn, Jacob Spiegelhoff, Paku Thor, Matalin Schoone, Sergio Reza, Coral Buchaklian, Henry Clickner, Emily Weiss, Ethan Bloom, Erin Peterson, Tyler Smith, Keith Thompson, Willard Kwak, Ryann Thilleman-Kosterman, Breanna Vanderplow, Isabel Orno, Heba Ali, Lauren Instenses, Alejandro Maldonado, Alex Hampshire, Mariah Breckenridge, Arthur Gasca, Angela Martini.**

LIBRARY NEWS.....

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held on Thursday, November 3rd from 12:00-7:30pm and Friday, November 4th from 8:00-10:00am in front of the Office during conferences. A large selection of great books will be available, including suggested reading for English classes. This is an important fundraiser for the Library, so please stop by during conferences and bring your cash, checkbook, or credit card!



4th Annual PTSA Sponsored

WALDEN III FAMILY NIGHT

Thursday, November 10th, 2011 - 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

INFUSINO'S ITALIAN VILLAGE BANQUET HALL

3201 Rapids Drive

TICKETS: \$10.00 Each

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE!

Includes Dinner, Beverages, Door Prizes, Entertainment and much more!

All proceeds benefit the Walden III PTSA and individual clubs. Please support those and thank our contributors.

WIN A IPAD!

Tickets \$5.00 each



Win a Apple iPad!

Tickets also Available at:

The School Office

Home Group Teachers

Conferences Nov. 3-4th

Background Music provided by Walden III Musicians

SPECIAL Silent Auction Item:

Authentic Green Bay Packers Autographed Super Bowl XLV Helmet

- THAT'S RIGHT! This is NOT A REPLICAL but a ORIGINAL SUPER BOWL HELMET!



To honor the accomplishments of the Super Bowl XLV Champion Green Bay Packers this very special Super Bowl XLV Logo Helmet was created

The members of the Championship Packers have made this rare collectible very special for their fans by adding their autographs to the helmet.

You can't find an autographed helmet like this in any store - The Walden III PTSA is pleased to offer this Limited Edition special collectible and piece of Super Bowl XLV memorabilia. **Silent Auction will start at \$150.00 and has a retail value of over \$1500.00!**

This is a CASUAL event... Wear your Walden Spirit Wear! Wear something that says "Walden".



All proceeds benefit the Walden III PTSA and the individual clubs listed. Please support and thank our contributors.

Once a month the Walden PTSA sponsors a **FUND Night** to raise monies that support academic enrichment

We encourage all families to attend. Not only does this help raise needed funds, it helps bring our Walden Families together.

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR BASKET RAFFLE or SILENT AUCTION

If you can contribute a door prize please contact us at: fundraising@waldeniii.org

Don't know what to donate? BUY SCRIP and donate to the Family Night!

You can order scrip online at www.shopwithscrip.com. Walden's enrollment code is 821C398F11528.

Open to ALL Walden Families, Staff, Students, and Alumni & Friends!

Please join us as we kick off the new school year, welcome new families, staff and students.