



Waggoner PAW

October 2009

Kyrene School District
C.I. Waggoner Elementary School
1050 E. Carver Rd.
Tempe, AZ 85284

Office: 480-783-1900
Attendance: 480-783-1997
FAX: 480-831-0616
www.kyrene.org

Dear Waggoner Families,

Our first quarter is quickly coming to a close and parent-teacher conferences are right around the corner. I wanted to take a moment to discuss the importance of parent-teacher conferences and provide you with some tips that you may find helpful.

- It is important for you to develop a relationship with your child's teacher if you haven't already done so.
- Being a team-player in your child's education will go a long way.
- Time is limited, so please prioritize your concerns before your scheduled conference date.
- Collaborate with the classroom teacher. Please remember that sometimes collaboration requires a compromise.

Parent-teacher conferences are an opportunity for you and the teacher to collaborate and discuss your child's strengths and needs. If you have specific questions for the teacher, make a list of the questions ahead of time so you don't forget to ask them. Our teachers are here to help you and your child. Your child's academic and social progress is important to all of us.

Scheduled conferences begin at the end of this month and notices of scheduled conference days and times will go home with your child after fall break. Please take a moment to complete the conference form so the classroom teacher can confirm your appointment. If you have a last minute emergency and you are unable to make your scheduled conference, please call the office or the classroom teacher as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate your help with this.

On Monday, October 19th, our staff will participate in meetings and trainings at our school site. This day provides us with an opportunity to collaborate as a staff and to participate in professional development to help enhance student instruction.

I hope all of you have an opportunity to enjoy fall break. I am looking forward to spending some time with family in Wisconsin and I hope to enjoy some great football weather while I am home! The fall is always a nice time to be back in Wisconsin.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming school events this month!

Respectfully,

Lisa Gibson
Principal

Upcoming Events

October 1	PTO Meeting, 8:15 AM
October 1-2	PTO Fall Fundraiser
October 2	Sock Rock, 6:30-8:30 PM
October 3	PTO Stay-at-Home Night
October 5	Conference Letters Go Home
October 6	Student Council, 2:45-3:15 PM
October 8	Site Council, 5:00-6:30 PM
October 9	Conference Letters Due Back to School End of 1st Quarter
October 12-16	Fall Break, No School
October 19	Staff Development Day, No School
October 20	Waggoner Night Out @ Baja Fresh
October 22	Conference Confirmation Letters Go Home
October 26	Report Cards Go Home
October 28	Family Afternoon Conferences Pumpkin Walk, 6:30-7:30
October 29	Family Evening Conferences
October 30	Fall Parade, 8:15 AM

Important Information

ATTENDANCE LINE

If your child is going to be absent, please call the attendance line and leave a message. Waggoner's 24-hour attendance line is 480-783-1997. Thank you

Learning Begins at 7:40



YOUR TAX INCENTIVE DONATIONS AT WORK:

- *Peaceful Playground Program
- *3rd Grade Time for Kids
- *Sidewalk Chalk Artist

REMINDER:

With the weather getting cooler, please be sure to label all jackets and sweaters with your child's name in case they get lost or misplaced. Waggoner's Lost & Found is located outside the Health Office. Thank you!

WAGGONER WEBSITE

Get up-to-date information on what is happening at Waggoner. Log on to: www.kyrene.org/schools/waggoner/Waggoner.htm. Thanks to Mr. Wallace for maintaining our website.



Fall Parade

Friday, October 30th, at 8:15 am

We will celebrate with our Fall parties and parade on Friday, October 30. We invite parents and family members to watch our parade at 8:15 at the east side of the school by the Ramada.

Please follow these guidelines when preparing a costume for your child to wear to school that day:

Costumes should be age-appropriate and follow guidelines for school dress (i.e. no bare midriffs, short-shorts, etc.).

Costumes should not be bloody, gory or overly frightening.

Make-up that is bloody or frightening will not be allowed.

Students will not be allowed to wear masks at school.

Rollerblades, skateboards, etc. are not allowed on this day.

NO REPLICAS OF WEAPONS of any type will be allowed.

We ask that you help your child choose or "modify" their costume so it is appropriate for school that day.

In order to preserve a "safe school environment", please adhere to the above guidelines so everyone can enjoy the day.

School Updates

MUSIC NEWS

Dear Waggoner Parents,

Welcome back to another school year! We've been having a rockin' good time in the music rooms already this year!

Lately, we have really started thinking about the power and importance of music in our lives and in our schools. Before the advent of the television and Nintendo Wii, many people entertained themselves by making music. In fact, every culture in history has had music...what an important thought! Music must be important in our lives! Creating music and listening to music can both be profound experiences, and luckily your children are doing both and more every day in music class.

Are you musical? Many parents who do not play an instrument or enjoy singing would say no. However, if you are able to distinguish between different musical styles, you are indeed musical! If you are able to explain WHY you like or dislike a piece of music, you are musical! If you have ever listened to a piece of music that has brought about an emotion within you... that's right, you guessed it! You are musical! It is important for every child to know that they are musical in a variety of different ways.

In our quest to encourage every student to believe they are musical, we are up against some pretty big rivals, namely, American Idol. Huh!?! How could a music teacher find fault with American Idol, you ask! While this show is enjoyable and has many redeeming qualities, I also believe that it makes students feel that they will be ridiculed if they do not sing perfectly. We can only ask Waggoner parents to encourage their children to sing, play and listen to music as much as they can. We have amazing talent within this school and we hope that together we can inspire our students musically.

Finally, while music is important for a multitude of reasons, we want to leave you with our top 4 reasons that music is important in our lives.

1. Music encompasses the mind, body and feeling
2. Music is universal, cultural and individual
3. Music is a product and a process
4. Music is pleasurable and profound

--Bennett Reimer

Mrs. Weissberg & Mrs. Visser

ART NEWS

Students in 1st through 5th grade have completed several lessons based on pattern and design with a variety of media including oil pastel and watercolor paints. I am excited to have sent a note home for all students showcasing their work on the website www.artsonia.com/schools/waggoner1. After a student fully completes an art assignment I photograph their work and download the images to the Artsonia website. Student work from all over the world is maintained on this website. Once I download the images I am able to then sort by grade, exhibit and student's name. Students full names are never used and all information about the student is protected. Security codes are used for you to access your child's growing portfolio. This is a fun way for students to share their work with family and friends across the country. All family members can view the work and send positive notes to the student, other viewers of the site often leave positive messages about the artwork as well. There is no cost involved in registering to see your child's work and you can download the image as well. Whenever new work is added you will receive an email alerting you to view the new artwork. Artsonia is an educational company dedicated to integrating technology into the school classroom, developing multicultural education by enabling students to view other student artwork from faraway countries, and increasing parental involvement by enabling parents and relatives to visit the student art gallery and give feedback to the student artists. The children really enjoy seeing their work on the screen. If you ever misplace the codes it is easy for me to look it up so feel free to contact me with any questions. I hope you enjoy this site as well as seeing your child's work published. Mrs. Pope (epope@kyrene.org)

School Updates Continued

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Curriculum

How wonderful to be surrounded by precious children and literature! I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to teach and work with our students in the library each day. We have had a busy start. Kindergarten students have been busy working with ABC order in the library and learning how to take care of their library books. Other primary and intermediate classes have been working with cause and effect regarding library book issues, location of books, and researching specific information. The lessons taught in the library will always implement Kyrene School District's curriculum.

Student Responsibility

This is a great opportunity to talk about lost or damaged books. Accidents do happen. We ask that you inform us of any mishaps. We also ask that your child take responsibly and pay for the damaged or lost book(s). If a book is found within one year, a refund will be provided. Students are not able to check out books if one is overdue. Students are limited to the number of books they can checkout depending on their particular grade level; however, exceptions and modifications are made to accommodate individual needs.

Volunteers

Waggoner's Library Media Center has many parent volunteers who help with various duties. We are always in need of parents helping and could never have too many. If you are still interested in working in the library, a lot or a little, please contact Ms. Rubocki or your child's teacher. You will always be welcomed. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers this year.

Contact Us

I have touched on a few important items concerning the library media center. If you have any questions, suggestions or want to volunteer, please contact us. Feel free to come to the library to look around and see our fabulous collection. Also, if we have not met, please come by just to introduce yourself. Mrs. Holbein, our tech, and I would love to meet you.

Thank you

Thank you for supporting our school's Book Fair. It was a huge success! The library received \$2000 worth of books! We received books from all different genres and reading levels. Each and every book will enhance student reading for all of our students. These books are available to be checked out, and I know they will be constantly off the shelves.

Your support comes at a time when it is needed more than ever. Our book budget is in the process of being determined and it could be a 'not-so-happy' outcome. Your participation by supporting our Book Fair is appreciated more than ever.

Again, thank you for your support.

Janice Rubocki
jruboc@kyrene.org

Important Information

Kyrene Kids Club Early Learning Centers

Tell your friends and neighbors ... Kyrene has options for toddlers, 3 and 4 year olds! If you're looking for a different approach to child care, try Kyrene Kids Club Early Learning Centers. Our programs help children learn through play-based activities. Daily progress reports are provided about your child's growth in many cognitive, physical and social skill areas. Full and half-day options available. Here's what one mom says: "Every time I drop my child off at Kids Club, the staff members are smiling as they greet us. My children have learned so much from the engaging, age-appropriate activities that are planned throughout the day." Go to www.kyrene.org/childcare or call 480-783-7314 for more information.

Kyrene Parent Portal

The Kyrene School District has implemented a Parent Portal. This secure web-based system allows parents to access and view a variety of information about their student(s). Depending on the grade level, some of this information may include student absences, demographics, parent email addresses, etc. The system will continue to evolve over time to include additional information. At the beginning of September, specific directions about the Kyrene Parent Portal, which included your secure log-in and password, were mailed to you in a self-sealing envelope. If you have not logged on yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Please follow the instructions to be sure that everything works properly. If you have misplaced the mailer or did not receive one, please send an email to sis@kyrene.org. A link to Parent Portal Frequently Asked Questions is available by clicking on Parent Center in the lower left-hand corner of the District home page.

Introducing...

Debbie Long — Math Instructional Assistant

My name is Debbie Long and I am a Math Instructional Assistant. I am originally from South Dakota and have lived in Arizona for 21 years. I received my degree in Elementary Education from ASU. I worked in the Kyrene and Tempe School Districts as a short-term and long-term substitute teacher. Last year, I was a Math Instructional Assistant at Ninos.

I live in Tempe. My husband and I have four children. All of my children attended Waggoner. Now, one is in college, one is in high school, and two are in middle school.

I like to ski, hike, and spend time with my family, and I am happy to be joining Waggoner as a staff member.

Influenza News

Influenza (including H1N1) is a respiratory virus spread by coughing/sneezing and direct contact with nasal and throat secretions of infected persons. The CDC has reported widespread influenza activity in Arizona. Kyrene continues to follow the advice of the Maricopa County Health Department. In September, Kyrene sent a letter home with all students informing you that we will notify a school community when 10% of the school population is absent due to flu like symptoms. Education and prevention are the best ways to control the spread of influenza. As a parent you can do the following:

Talk to your medical provider about getting flu vaccines (both the seasonal and H1N1 vaccines) for your family.

Recognize symptoms of the flu---fever 100 or greater and sore throat, cough, body aches, headache, fatigue, vomiting or diarrhea.

Keep your child home if they are sick, and keep them at home until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.

Practice good hygiene

review hand washing with soap and water and/or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers

cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze ; cough/sneeze into your elbow (not your hands)

Keep your emergency contact numbers current and have a back-up plan if you are unable to pick-up or be with a sick child at home.

Stay informed about the flu. Information is available at www.kyrene.org and www.StopTheSpreadAZ.org and www.flu.gov.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to minimize the spread of influenza in our community.

C.I. Waggoner
Site Based Council Minutes
September 3, 2009

SBC Members Present: Mary Goldman, Tracy Phelps, Wendy Rosen, Jennie Dorsett, Betsy La-Canne, Jim Frazey, Lisa Ross, , Scott Shelberg, Lisa Gibson, Traci Estenson, Jonathan Lambros,

Member Absent: John Gibson

Members of the Community Present: Chuck McDevitt, Lisa Zyriek, Chico Hunter

Presentors: Ellen Abbadessa, Jenny Hunter

Introduction

The meeting began with everyone introducing themselves.

By Laws

Lisa passed out the By Laws and verbally highlighted key language from each section. Decisions included:

Lisa Gibson will be the chairperson

Time & Place (see “Future Dates / Times” section for specific dates and times).

Consensus will be the main form of decision making. If a fall-back is needed, Lisa Gibson will make the final decision.

Some conversation occurred around students contributing to the student mission statement. Mrs. Gibson indicated that she will ask Student Council liaisons to coordinate those efforts.

Peaceful Playgrounds

Ellen passed around a handout and provided background surrounding Peaceful Playground. A lunch time program designed to promote safety and sportsmanship. The goal is to provide a healthy active environment where students solve problems productively. It is more of a philosophy, than just a set of activities.

The six pillars of character are incorporated into conversations with students. Recess is about kids making decisions about what they want to do. Peaceful Playground components enrich their lunch-time experience by providing other options that possess parameters and boundaries.

Students are taught to use “I Messages” & Rock, Paper, Scissors to communicate effectively and solve problems.

Compare and contrasted distinction between duty supervision and Peaceful Playground.

Jonathan shared that the leader’s job is to facilitate the play of kids. This can be 4-5 activities on any given day. As a result, the PE equipment is fully utilized, not just during scheduled PE time.

Questions were raised related to the connection between lunch time sports at for 4th and 5th and Peaceful Playground. Another question focused on the number of staff paid to implement Peaceful Playground. Jenny Hunter is the main person even though Ellen will fill in on days when Jenny is out.

A question was asked about any other schools implementing Peaceful Playground.

Mrs. Gibson proposed that a Peaceful Playground subcommittee be developed. This group will provide periodic updates at future SBC meetings.

A suggestion was made that there might be parent volunteers who would like to learn to facilitate Peaceful Playground and help Jenny out.

Budget

Mary passed out the 08-09 Budget ledger and a basic outline for the 09-10 school year. Beginning balance is \$37,400 carrying forward to the 09-10 school year. Agreements from the April meeting last year regarding expenditures for the 09-10 include:

\$8 per child for field trips. One field trip per grade level.

One Peaceful Playground staff person would be funded as well at \$4,076.

In light of a \$5000 grant secured from Freeport McMorRan to increase science achievement, an agreement was made to hold the previous two thousand dollars allocated harmless, and then roll those funds over to the 2010-2011 school year.

Inquiries were made about committing additional funds for a second or third field trip. The SBC will wait and see what the legislature decides regarding the continuation of tax credit funds.

Proposal: 3rd grade would like to have SBC purchase Scholastic's, Time For Kids periodical which supports literacy and social studies standards. The cost is \$493.75. The proposal passed.

Proposal: To bring in a renown sidewalk chalk artist to WES. 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are requesting SBC to pay for the artist to come and paint a pastel chalk mural on the sidewalk with student help. The same artist was brought in last year. \$800 cost to SBC with PTA subsidizing additional costs. The group approved the proposal.

Lisa Gibson suggested bringing in Karin Smith at a future meeting to speak to the appropriate use of Tax Credit funds.

Future Dates and Times

Future meetings will be held on Thursdays. 5:00 – 6:30pm on non-KEA days. Here are the meetings for the rest of the year:

Oct 8

Nov 12

Dec 10 (5:00 – 6:15pm due to music performance)

Jan 28

March 11

April 29

Other Topics

Plus / Delta sheets were handed out to gather feedback to improving meeting effectiveness.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

SOC update

Mission Statement

Peaceful Playgrounds

Budget

Entertain Proposals

SUPPORT VITAL WAGGONER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

RECEIVE TAX SAVINGS EQUAL OR EVEN GREATER THAN DONATION

In 2004, Arizona State Legislature revised the law allowing Arizonans to contribute money to a public school for extracurricular programs and receive a dollar for dollar tax credit. The new law increased the amount to allow a couple (filing jointly) to contribute up to \$400 and an individual to contribute \$200 (filing single). In addition, the contribution is deductible for federal income tax purposes as a charitable contribution. The result is that most taxpayers actually save more than the amount donated, while helping schools maintain important programs not funded by the school district/state.

Example:

You donate up to \$400 to Waggoner..... \$400.00

You are credited the amount you contribute on your Arizona income taxes...(\$400.00)

You reduce your federal income taxes – as much as.....(\$112.00)*

Total tax savings – Up to(\$512.00)*

*(Please consult your tax advisor for how this program affects your individual tax situation)

YOU MAY ACTUALLY SAVE MORE THAN YOU CONTRIBUTE WHILE HELPING PROVIDE QUALITY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN!

This benefits our school, our students and your family. However, the law also allows any Arizona taxpayer to contribute to the program and receive the same tax benefit, whether they have children in Waggoner or not. Just think how much more we can do to enrich our children’s education, if we circulate this information to grandparents, other relatives, friends and neighbors.

Here are some examples of the terrific programs that have been sponsored by this program in the past:

Educational Field Trips/Transportation

Intramural Sports Programs/Equipment and Supervision

Life Skill and Character Development Programs

School Assemblies, Science Programs and more!

Your donation may be made in cash or by check and can be delivered or mailed. Contributions must be received at Waggoner School by December 18, 2009 or if mailed, postmarked before December 31, 2009. You will be mailed a receipt for your tax records. Funds are allocated by the Site Council according to the statutory guidelines. For more information, contact Waggoner’s Administration at 480-783-1900.

Thank you for your generous tax credit contribution to the Waggoner School.

Taxpayer’s Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City _____ AZ Zipcode _____

Contribution Amount:\$ _____ Make Check Payable: Kyrene School District - Waggoner

Mail or Deliver to Waggoner Elementary School – 1050 E. Carver Rd. – Tempe, Arizona 85284

Create our future one child at a time.



Your \$400 tax credit donation could...

provide students with Bully Prevention or Drug Abuse Awareness Presentations.

Or, help students attend extracurricular activities like athletics, art and music programs, character education and field trips.

These programs develop well-rounded students who in turn build strong communities.

Donate at your local Kyrene school or the Kyrene District Office:

8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe 85284

Mon - Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

State law allows a maximum tax credit of \$400 per joint tax return or \$200 for individuals. Must submit school receipt with taxes.

www.kyrene.org/taxcredit or, call 480-783-4060

