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Shining Stars

Shining Stars is a Woodlin program to encourage students to recognize daily positive behaviors by other students. Kids are asked to write down when they see a peer do something positive or helpful. The following is a list of students recognized in December for helping others and/or doing something positive for the Woodlin community. You can visit the Shining Stars bulletin board near the front office of the school.

Third Grade: Karina Amaya, Sam Bole, Mikael Jiminez, Elizabeth Olsson, Ravena Ramsaran, Dana Dinn Tandoc, Amiaya Watson, Britney Yomi



Principal's corner

Mrs. Sarah Sirgo



Making summer learning fun

Many of us have fond memories of school summer vacation. Long, lazy days filled with friends and play as well as memorable trips, adventures, or camp experiences. There is value in the many opportunities that summer provides that support the development of well rounded students.

Research also shows that most students experience a "summer slide" that requires teachers to spend valuable time during the next school year helping students "remember" skills. A child's ability to succeed in school takes a partnership—one that begins at home and continues in school. Your children's teachers would like you to know that reading, math, and science skills need exercise in the summer.

Here are some other ideas for you and your children to have a fun, stimulating summer.

- Read. Let your child see you spend time reading, and make sure to set aside time each day for reading. Some parents attach an incentive to reading time: for every 30 minutes they read, they get another 30 minutes of TV time.
- Visit the library often. Sign up for summer reading programs. Find the stacks of children's magazines and take some home for fun reading times.
- Art Projects. Save up loose change and head to the craft store to find an inexpensive project to do together. It might involve counting and sorting, or mixing ingredients to make paint or clay.
- Word games. Grocery stores and discount stores have inexpensive puzzle books with crosswords and word search puzzles. Sit down together and solve a puzzle!
- Plan a vacation together. Visit the library or go online together to find out all you can about the place you plan to visit this summer. Read maps and guidebooks. List the places



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- you want to see along the way. Plan a budget for the trip as well. A fifth- or sixth-grade child can even help calculate gas mileage every time you fill the tank!
- Make a scrapbook of photos and mementos of your summer trip. Have your child write out captions below each item.
 - Write a family newsletter and produce it on the computer.
 - Make cookies together. Have your child read the directions to you. Let him measure the ingredients. For a challenge, double the recipe and have him figure out the new measurements!
 - Make a list of regular summer jobs. Doing household chores provide important life skills and teach responsibility.
 - Plant a garden. If you don't have much room, plant a couple of flowers in pots. Give your child some responsibility for these growing plants, like watering and weeding.
 - Save up loose change and decide whether to get a hamster or goldfish. Have your children write up an agreement about taking care of the animal, cleaning its cage or tank, feeding, etc.
 - Find a summer school class nearby where your child can have fun AND focus on skills that need reinforcing.
 - Summer camps, church Bible schools, and library reading clubs will teach valuable skills and lessons. Sign your child up!
 - **Make every day educational.** Children learn problem-solving, math, science, and vocabulary as they help with groceries, laundry, and cooking.
 - **Roadworthy car games**
 - **Car bingo:** Create a car bingo card with words, shapes, colors, and items that children will likely see during a trip (stop signs, billboards, railroad signs, etc.) to reinforce reading skills, math, and sight words.
 - **The number game:** Look out the window and call out when you see one, two, three, or four of something, and so on.
 - **The alphabet game:** One person chooses the right side of the road, and the other chooses the left. Call out objects that you



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see in alphabetical order (you can use a sign only for one letter). The first person to get to the letter z wins.

- **Capital game:** Take note of each license plate you see, not by state but by state capital. The first to correctly identify 10 state capitals wins.

- **Cow game:** One person takes the right side of the road, the other takes the left. Keep count of all the cows you see. You earn one point for each cow. When you see a cemetery out of your side of the car, you lose all your points.

- **Animals galore:** Decide on a number of points for each animal that you see (cow = 1 point, horse = 1 point, pig = 2 points, etc.). As you drive, add up the points. Play until one person gets 10 points, or for a set time.

- **Math with license plates:** Use the numbers on license plates to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and number patterns and see just how creative kids can get!

We hope you have a summer full of exploration and learning!

Ideas selected from the following:

www.partnershipforlearning.org
www.scholastic.com

INCOMING PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTES



{time to put on your sunglasses and wear sunscreen – summer is almost here!}

First, thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. **Second**, as your incoming Woodlin PTA President (officially starting July 1), I want to personally thank Chris Rutledge for his tenure as Woodlin's PTA President for the past two years. He and each of the PTA Board Members have done a fantastic job working with Woodlin ES Staff in promoting a sense of community among us all and helping our children to experience new and inspiring activities such as the after-school clubs [clap Here]. To continue to support our children through Woodlin ES the way we've grown accustomed, I hope you will personally consider joining me and the other PTA Board Members in any **large or small**



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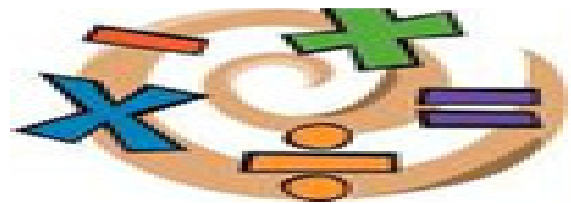
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way this year. In hopes of inspiring you, I plan to maintain an open dialogue with you about PTA planning and activities. For example, in order for next year to run smoothly, the PTA will be active during the summer doing the following: June – seeking parents to serve on PTA Committees; July – setting the activities calendar for the upcoming school year; August – planning next year's PTA budget. So, stay connected to the PTA over the summer through the listserv and website [woodlinpta.org] for news and updates, and if you personally know of new, incoming families to Woodlin, please steer them towards our PTA community. Lastly, did you know that not just YOU can join the PTA – in other words...you, your spouse, grandparents, friends, community members...can all join the PTA. Anyone who cares about supporting our children and Woodlin ES can join the PTA. It helps tremendously, and if you don't feel well informed about your investment, then I haven't done my job. Please think about joining, rejoining or encouraging others to join each year. For many of us, Next Year's PTA begins in June. For you, **it begins when you say yes!** Thank you for reading this far. (email me if I've encouraged you, or if you have questions or

suggestions anytime:
perrygayaldo@hotmail.com)

PERRY

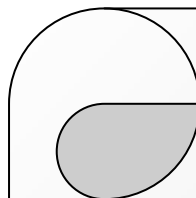


Thank you to math night volunteers

We had a great turnout for math night. It was wonderful to see so many kids having fun playing games that required them to think about probability, basic facts, geometry, estimation, measurement, patterns, strategy, fractions, and the concept of pi. Having gummy bugs/worms and pie added to the fun. The night would not have been possible without the help of Sean and Jane West, Glen McWright, Monica Kerns, Brad Edge, Sheila Maith, Sarah Osborne, Abbi Lichtenstein, Vickie and Catherine Rocha, Max Webster, and Jeff, Zoe and Ben Abramson, as well as some other parents who pitched in to help at the last moment.

Thank you!

Anne Mutti and Bob Webster
Math night co-chairs

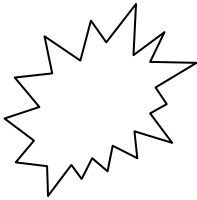




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Suggestions from Readers' Lunch Bunches

The following kids' book suggestions come from Shannon Parkin, a Woodlin mom who spends time at the school each week reading to students of different grades and who has a lot of knowledge about children's books:

Third Grade Favorites –

Escape by R. A. Montgomery.
Choose Your Own Adventure
Race Forever by R. A. Montgomery. Choose Your Own Adventure
Lewis and Clark: Prairie Dog for President
Step Into Reading 3 by Shirley Raye Redmond
Graphic Biographies: Jim Thorpe: Greatest Athlete in the World by Jennifer Fandel

Fourth Grade Favorites All from Interactive History Adventures

Ancient Greece by William Caper
Ancient Egypt by Heather Adamson
Life of the Viking by Allison Lassieur
Battle of the Bull Run by Allison Lassieur



Summer Reading Dessert Group

Last summer I organized two readers' dessert bunches (one for older kids and one for younger kids) that met in the homes of various Woodlin families most weeks of the summer. The parents of kids who attended the groups would volunteer to host and/ or bring dessert various nights.

Last summer we held the groups from 7-7:45. I am trying to gauge how many people might be interested in attending at least some of these dessert bunches over the summer. If you think you would be interested, please email or call me with your child's name, the grade they will be entering in the fall, your address, phone number and preferred night of the week.

Shannon Parkin (mother of Heather 4th and Carl 1st and volunteer reader to 3rd and 4th graders at lunch for much of the last two years)
shparkin@verizon.net
301-466-1266



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Geography Bee was one for the Records!

The 10th annual Geography Bee was a great success! Students completed their Geography Bee packets at a high participation rate -- this means a great many Wizards learned more about our fascinating world! We congratulate all the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teams – they really knew their stuff. The winning classes were: Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Grant (first time!!) and Ms. Jones. Students loved the water bottles and Geo Wizard T-shirts, too!

Special thanks to Alice Witt for her incredible knowledge and help throughout the process. Thanks to our MC extraordinaires Lynne Yao and Joe Hibbeln, and our judges Mrs. Schweitzer, Mrs. Athanas and Mrs. Tencer. Special thanks to Ed Alton for our official Geo Bee Logo, Lisa Tenley for suggesting the water bottles and t-shirts, and Anne Mutti for her creative ideas on the new formats that included adding a “lifeline” and “Magic 5.” Thanks to Robin Brady for her proofreading and help during the Bee. We are

grateful to the power packet assemblers: Ellen Airozo, Joey Curtin, David Curtin, Victor Chupka, Nathaniel Alton, Teddy Beamer.

Thanks also to: Abbi Lichenstein, Sharon Bisk, Robin Brady, Alexis Ruffin, Melissa Polito, Casey Anderson, Mr. Vasquez, Krista Middlebrooks, Sheila Maith, Monica Kearns. It takes a village to teach our kids about the world!

If you have ideas for next year or would like to be involved, contact Jane Curtin:

jane_curtin@yahoo.com
