



# WGES NEWS

## April 2010



### Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

The Read for Speed Program will be coming to the halfway point for our 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students, and ending soon for our PreK -1<sup>st</sup> grade program. We will have a pit stop on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, at which time students will have fun and continue to be encouraged to read. WGI will be bringing our reading mascot, Max Traxx, with the official WGI pace car and racing modules. Our PTO is sporting the event by bringing back the popular inflatable racecar maze. The coloring contest winners and the current reading standings will be announced. This year's reading goal is 24,000 books read by the end of the program. If this is achieved, the students voted I must dress like Michael Jackson and do the moonwalk on stage. I would like to thank PTO and all the local vendors for their continued support of the program.

Parents, please remember our conference dates are rapidly approaching. On Thursday, April 15, we will hold our evening conferences. April 16<sup>th</sup> is a full day of conferences and there is no school for students. If you do not have a confirmed conference time from your teacher by April 9, please contact the teacher to set one up. I would like to invite all parents to stop by Cafeteria #1 during the evening conferences for some dessert items, and to visit with some community agencies to discover what they have to offer. I would like parents to fill out a short survey about the school during this time. Please stop at the table near the front lobby entrance to sign in and pick up information during conference times. The library will also be open for the Spring Book Fair.

Respectfully yours,

Rod Weeden, Principal



### The Great Body Shop

Our school's monthly themes for our health curriculum are planned to promote **illness prevention**. Please review the information that is sent home with your children. Prevention skills can help your child live a long and wonderful life.

### Annual Emergency Drill Scheduled



Please be aware that the school district, in conjunction with local public safety agencies, will be conducting an emergency drill during the school day near the end of April or sometime in May. This drill is expected to take longer than some of our in-house emergency drills as our community agencies are involved, but it does give us realistic and valuable information about flaws in our current systems. Please know that we continue to be committed to student and community safety within our district.

### Reading Corner

#### In Honor of National Library Week!

There will be a **SCHOLASTIC BUY ONE GET ONE FREE BOOK FAIR** at the Watkins Glen Elementary Library Monday- Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30-3:30. The book fair will also be open during PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES that week.

Scholastic has made available a special book fair with extra titles, including bargain books. **THIS BOOK FAIR WILL BE A BUY ONE GET ONE FREE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE.** This includes erasers, pencils, books, posters, computer games, & CDs. All will be Buy One Get One Free!

#### Turn Off Week

Please look for future flyers about National Turn Off Week. The week will be recognized starting April 12<sup>th</sup>. After reading the articles on how much screen time, and how this screen time can affect children and families, you may seriously consider limiting screen time beyond this week. Please look for flyers about alternative things to do during this time. This is a national initiative supported by the NYS Department of Health, many local agencies, the school and PTO. On the back page, you will find more information.

#### Important Dates:

- Apr 1 Early Dismissal (12:05 Release)
- Apr 2 No School – Good Friday
- Apr 5 & 6: Read for Speed Pit Stop
- Apr 5: BOE Mtg, 6:30 PM, HS
- Apr 9: ES Marking Period Ends
- Apr 9: Kids Night Out
- Apr 12-16: Turn Off Week
- Apr 12-16: Book Fair, ES Library
- Apr 12: Science & Discovery Center 6-7 PM ES
- Apr 13: PTO Free Swim Night – 5:30-7:30 PM
- Apr 14: Math Night 5:30-7 PM ES Café 1
- Apr 14: PTO Meeting – ES Library @ 5:30 PM
- Apr 15: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Swim Meet, 9 AM
- Apr 15: Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Apr 15: Report Cards Go Out
- Apr 16: No School K-4 Only/ Parent Conferences
- Apr 19-23: No School Spring Vacation
- Apr 26: BOE Work Shop 5:45 PM, HS
- Apr 26: SDM Meeting @ 4:00 PM
- Apr 26: Kindergarten Swim Unit Begins
- Apr 27: NYS E.L.A testing begins Gr. 3 & 4



**Student Spirit Day for April**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup> is Wacky Wednesday**  
 Students are encouraged to dress up in their wackiest outfits!

**Kids Night Out**  
**Interact Club is hosting a Kids Night Out**  
**April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM**  
**in the Field House**  
**Activities will promote health, nutrition and physical activity**

**Celebrating and Supporting Schuyler County's Children**  
 Join us for a Free Family Fun Night and Silent Auction  
 Juggling, Karaoke, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Kid Friendly DJ, Crossroads the Clown, Magician  
 Popcorn and Soda for Sale  
 Date: April 15, 2010  
 Time: 6-8 PM  
 Location : Watkins Glen Community Center, Clute Park  
 Offered by the Schuyler County Child Care Coordinating Council (SCCCCC) 607-535-7964



**TURN OFF WEEK RESEARCH**



Screen time has become a big part of our everyday lives and, as parents, we may want to consider the research so we can make some valuable decisions that will impact our children's lives.

1. The American Academy of Pediatrics urges parents to avoid television and other electronic media for children two years of age and under.--AAP statement, August 2, 1999
2. Overweight U.S. babies are more numerous since 1980, a study in the journal Obesity found, growing to 6% from 3% of those under 6 months old. Wall Street Journal 2006
3. Seventy percent of day-care centers use TV during a typical day.--Tashman, Billy, "Sorry Ernie, TV isn't Teaching," New York Times, Nov. 12, 1994
4. In a study of preschoolers (ages 1-4), a child's risk of being overweight increased by six percent for every hour of television watched per day. If that child had a TV in his or her bedroom, the odds of being overweight jumped an additional thirty-one percent for every hour watched. Preschool children with TVs in their bedroom watched an additional 4.8 hours of TV or videos every week.--Dennison, etal, 2002
5. Research now indicates that for every hour of television children watch each day, their risk of developing attention-related problems later increases by ten percent. For example, if a child watches three hours of television each day, the child would be thirty percent more likely to develop attention deficit disorder.--D. Christakis, Pediatrics, April 2004
6. One in four children under the age of two years has a TV in his or her bedroom.--Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers, Kaiser Family Foundation and the Children's Digital Media Centers, 2003
7. The more TV preschoolers watch, the less well they do academically in the first grade; also, the more TV preschoolers watch, the less well-socialized they are in the first grade.--Burton, Sydney, James Calónico and Dennis McSeveney, "Effects of Preschool Television Watching on First-Grade Children," Journal of Communication, Summer 1979
8. Children in households where the TV is on "always" or "most of the time" are less likely to read than are children in other homes. Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers, Kaiser Family Foundation and the Children's Digital Media Centers, 2003

Children six and under spend an average of two hours a day using screen media, about the same amount of time they spend playing outside, and well over the amount they spend reading or being read to (39 minutes).--Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers, Kaiser Family Foundation and the Children's Digital Media Centers, 2003