

Jottings From Jackson

MAY 2010

A Message from the Principals...

“What Robin Told”

How do robins build their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me-
First a wisp of yellow hay
In a pretty round they lay:
Then some shreds of downy floss,
Feathers too and bits of moss,
Woven with a sweet, sweet song,
This way, that way, and across:
That’s what Robin told me.

George Cooper

During the past several weeks I have watched as a small bird has built a nest on a ledge underneath the eaves of our house. The mother bird has taken so much care to build her nest and now is sitting on it in anticipation of the day when her eggs will hatch.

This entire process reminds me of the process of educating a child. We “build the nest” as we teach the children skills and strategies. We guide them as they practice their new skills and “sit and wait” as they finally hatch into independent learners. It is so rewarding to see students work independently and apply what they have learned!

Thank you for supporting this process and please continue to do so for the next month and throughout their lives!

Sincerely,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principals Message	1
Outstanding Students	2
Warm weather clothes	2
Reminders	3
Safety First	3
Music News	4
Reading Connection	5-6
PTO News	7
NCLB	8
Calendar	9

OFFICE PERSONNEL

MRS. ESHELMAN-
PRINCIPAL

MR. RATHJEN- ASSIS-
TANT PRINCIPAL

MRS. BOLAND-
COUNSELOR

MR. RUNNELS-
INSTRUCTIONAL

SUPPORT

MRS. CORTER §

MRS. ZAPOLA-
SECRETARIES

MRS. GRIECO- NURSE

MRS. GARDNER-
HEALTH ROOM TECH

The School Year Is Almost History!

It is hard to believe that the school year is quickly coming to an end. The last day of school will be Friday, June 11, 2010. **Breakfast will NOT be served on the last day of school.** We will end the year with our traditional awards assembly. The exact time for dismissal will be announced in the June newsletter.

For your planning purposes, the first FULL day of school for the 2010-2011 school year for grades K-12 will be Tuesday, August 31, 2010. Monday, August 30th grades 1-12 will attend school for 1/2 day. It has been a great year and we look forward to another rewarding year!

Outstanding fifth grade students

Each year we honor outstanding fifth grade students for their citizenship, scholarship and service to the community and school. This year we are proud to announce that Abigail Laver and Edward Good have been chosen as Junior Rotarians. They will be honored at a special luncheon in May. Additionally, Louise Lovecchio and Grady Walker were chosen to receive the Yaw Award. They will receive their awards at the Awards Assembly the last day of school. Ian McCann was chosen as Jackson's Outstanding Student. He was honored at the Williamsport Area School District Board of School Directors' meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. We congratulate these students and their supportive parents.



WARM WEATHER DRESS AND SAFETY CONCERNS

When you are buying shorts for your child to wear to school this spring, remember that when shorts are worn to school, they should be longer in length; short shorts are NOT acceptable in school. When arms are put by their side, students' shorts should be as long as their finger tips. Also, clogs, sandals and tank tops are not acceptable for school. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. Please refer to the Jackson Handbook for more details.

Just a reminder that students should not report to school prior to 8:30 AM.



Students who arrive prior to 8:30 AM are not supervised. It is difficult for elementary age students to wait patiently and we have been observing some unacceptable behavior in the mornings. Please help by having your children arrive AT 8:30 and go directly to their classrooms. Thanks.

Safety First....A message to Parents and Guardians,

The Williamsport Area School District engages in an on-going review of the methods it uses to keep its students and schools safe. As we do so, we believe it is important to keep parents and guardians aware of our safety plans and the impact those plans may have on families and the community.

Some of the school safety measures we use may inconvenience you and, if so, we apologize for any difficulties we may cause. However, maintaining a safe environment for your child in the face of potential problems is our highest priority and we take these actions only in order to ensure that safety.

Please know that we have developed our safety procedures in consultation with national experts on school safety, the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety, and local police agencies. Events have taught us that in some instances of concern it is possible to maintain most of the normal activities of the school day, providing a calm and uninterrupted day for children, while securing the buildings to potential outside risks. To do so, we must use what may be called a perimeter lock-down, which prevents anyone outside from entering and severely limits the opportunity for those inside to leave during this process. Such a procedure will only be used during the time of active concern about something happening in the community and will be lifted as soon as conditions return to normal. This action will, however, prevent anyone, even parents, from entering the building during the time it is in force. If it must be used there is the potential for inconvenience to parents and others for the sake of our students' safety. Should such an action be necessary, we ask that you understand that our intent is to protect your child and that you remain patient until we can reinstitute normal access to the schools.

Thank you.



End-of-the-Year Reminders from the Jackson Office



Medication—

Any parents of children taking medication at school need to pick up the medication at the nurse's office by Friday, June 11, 2010.



Parents of 5th grade students—

Students entering sixth grade in September are required by the state to have physical and dental examinations. Examinations completed after September 1, 2009 will be accepted. Forms for the examinations have been mailed home to the parents. All completed forms are to be returned to the school nurse in August. Medical and dental examinations will be available at school for those students who did not receive private examinations.



Planning to move? Please let us

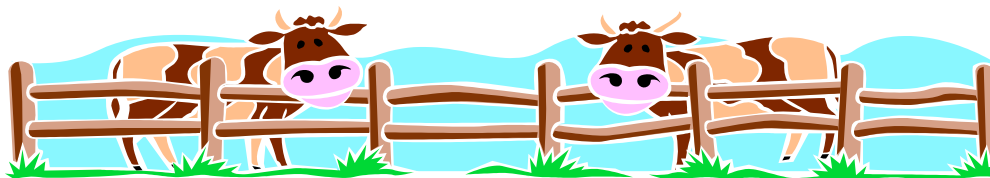
know—If you plan to move to a new address, please let the school office know as soon as possible. We would like to make all corrections for the next year before the end of this school year. Also, please let us know if your phone number changes.

Music News

The band/chorus/orchestra concert will be Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the all-purpose room in Jackson Elementary School. Orchestra students should meet Mrs. Mondell at 7:00 PM. Chorus students should meet Mrs. Fisher at 6:45 PM. Band students should meet Mr. Richards at 6:30 PM. Beginner and advanced orchestra and band students will be performing on this concert.



The 5th grade students of Ms. Campana/Mrs. Grove, Mrs. Greevy and some of Mrs. Stork's students will perform the musical "A Kid's Life" by John Jacobson and Mac Huff. The musical will be performed on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 9:45 AM and 2:15 PM. Parents are invited to attend one of these performances. The story begins with the students using their cell phones, iPods, MP3 players and laptops when everything stops. They just don't know what to do without their "gadgets". Grandma and Grandpa "show up" to "take care of the kids" while mom and dad go out for the day. (Maybe it was planned this way????) Grandma and Grandpa show the kids how they spent their time when they were kids - playing board games, making paper airplanes, watching clouds, playing in a family band and even jump roping. The kids learn that they really don't need their gadgets - but do you think they're going to admit that to the adults? NEVER!!! Come and enjoy this "blast from the past" - Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 9:45 AM and 2:15 PM. I'm sure you'll recognize a game or two that you once played. Hope to see you at one of those performances.



The Kindergarten students of Jackson Elementary will perform the musical "A Barnyard Moosical" on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 9:30 AM and 10:15 AM. Parents are invited to attend one of these performances.

(We will send a letter closer to the date of the show asking you to let us know which performance you will be attending so that we make sure we have enough chairs set for our audience.) It will be a "mooooooving barnyard experience!!!!!!!!!!



Keep on Reading!

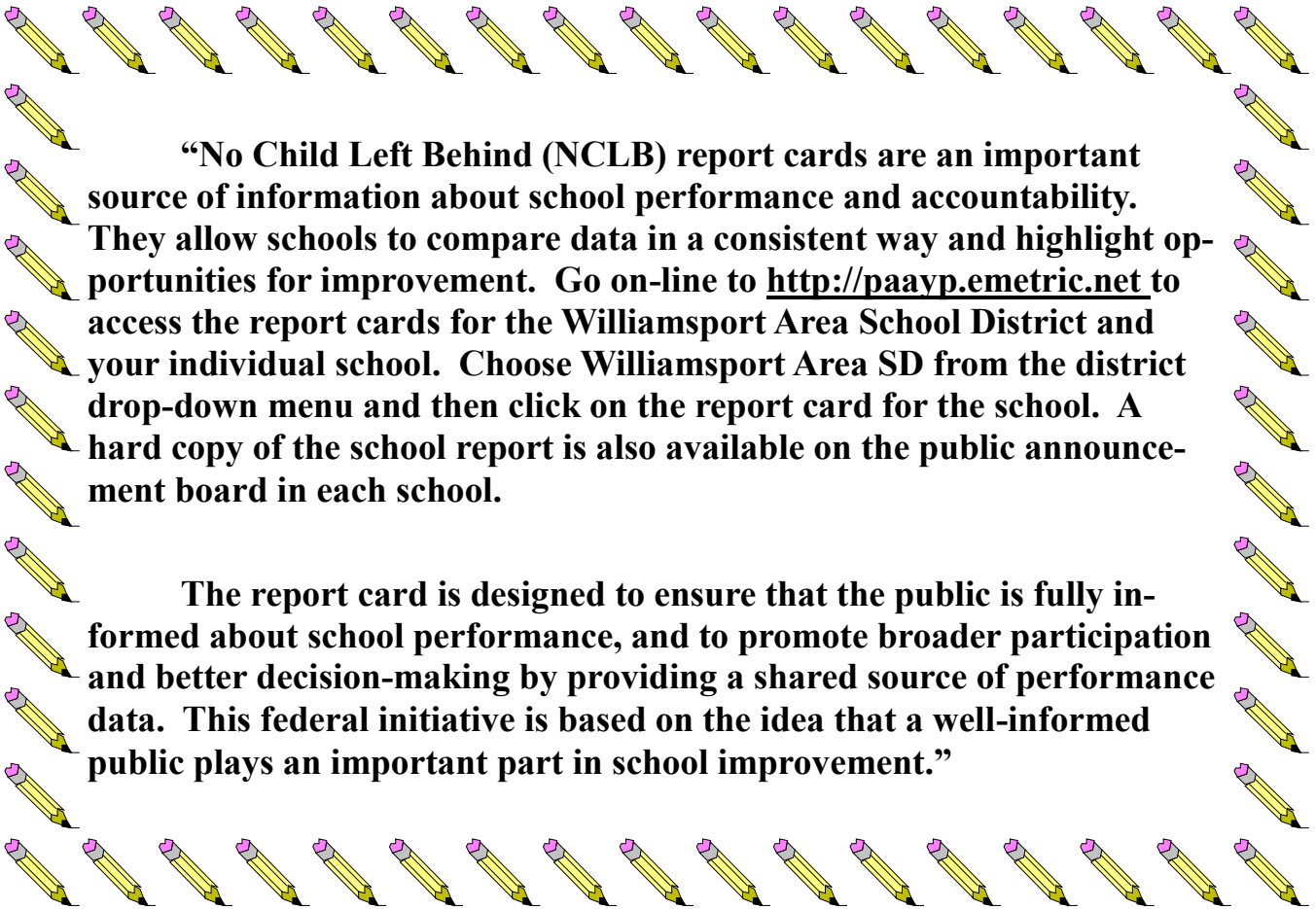
Anytime is a great time to read. Now that spring is here, there is a lot to do outside, but don't forget to take along a book. Whether it is sunny or rainy, set aside 20-30 minutes each day to read to someone or with someone. It will become a good habit and make you a better reader.

Check out some of our most popular books in the school library this year. They are **DIARY OF A WIMPY KID**, **CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS**, **MAGIC TREEHOUSE**, and **DIRT BIKES**. **RAMONA AND BEEZUS** is a new movie coming out and we have some books written by Beverly Cleary, the author of the **RAMONA** books.

So, get caught reading.

Mrs. Hess, Library Aide





“No Child Left Behind (NCLB) report cards are an important source of information about school performance and accountability. They allow schools to compare data in a consistent way and highlight opportunities for improvement. Go on-line to <http://paavp.emetric.net> to access the report cards for the Williamsport Area School District and your individual school. Choose Williamsport Area SD from the district drop-down menu and then click on the report card for the school. A hard copy of the school report is also available on the public announcement board in each school.

The report card is designed to ensure that the public is fully informed about school performance, and to promote broader participation and better decision-making by providing a shared source of performance data. This federal initiative is based on the idea that a well-informed public plays an important part in school improvement.”



Williamsport Area School District is currently seeking substitute classroom aides, substitute custodians, and substitute food service workers. These opportunities offer flexibility and are ideal for parents. To find out more about how to apply contact the Human Resources Department at 327-5500 X 3590.