

September 2009

J. Henry Cochran Elementary School

1500 Cherry Street, Williamsport, PA
 Phone: (570) 322-9731 Fax: (570) 322-9733
 Check us out on the web: www.wasd.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Day 1 First day of school 	2 Day 2	3 Day 3	4 Day 4 KHZ-Walk AT School	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8 Day 5 4Sight Testing 9/8-18	9 Day 1 4Sight Testing Instrument re- cruiting presen- tation 2-2:40 PM gr. 3-5	10 Day 2 4Sight Testing	11 Day 3 4Sight Testing	12
13	14 Day 4 2nd Grade Parent Work- shop 6 PM CSA meeting 7:00 PM in library	15 Day 5 4Sight Testing	16 Day 1 4Sight Testing	17 Day 2 4Sight Testing	18 Day 3 4Sight Testing	19
20	21 Day 4	22 Day 5	23 Day 1	24 Day 2 Sky Dome Assem- blies 1st Grade RIF Distribution KHZ Kick-Off 7PM	25 Day 3 KHZ-walk at school 	26
27	28 Day 4	29 Day 5	30 Day 1			

More than Words

If you are like me (which I hope you are not), you read the title of this article and your mind automatically, in most cases, will name the artist of a song. In this case, the artists are members of a band called Extreme, which released the song in 1990. I have to admit, I knew the band, not the year ... love the Internet!

Still, this commentary is not about what Williamsport Area School District's Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Don Adams has referred to as my mental parking lot being filled with less than meaningful data. Actually, I think he was upset that my musical mastery was not focused on country music, a genre that you and I both know is already overrated. It is about the collective actions of J. Henry Cochran's learning community backing up the surplus of words and phrases we (I) often use to describe it.

During a recent back-to-school activity, our staff was asked to develop three words or symbols to demonstrate how our building supports the school district's mission statement, "*Developing Responsible Citizens through Excellence in Education*". By the way, we were given 20 minutes to come to agreement on the words/symbols and then transpose them onto a puzzle piece. This piece would then be placed with other pieces to compose a single puzzle representing our district. The men and women of our staff quickly split into three groups and worked toward consensus. It was not a surprise that words such as caring, community, commitment (recycling was in there, too!) were common across our groups, and we quickly developed another Cochran cliché. We determined that we supported the mission statement by being a *Community Committed to Caring!*

We care about our students and are committed to bringing forth our best instructional strategies to support each child at his/her independent level.

We care about our community and want you to be a part of it by joining your child at lunch, stopping by his/her classroom (after contacting the teacher, of course), volunteering your time and having your family participate in our family programs during and after school.

We care about our world around us. By modeling responsible behaviors such as recycling, we are showing our students how to be responsible and think globally while acting locally.

In closing, I would like to welcome all of you to the 2009-2010 school year at J. Henry Cochran. I invite you to join us as we continue to strive to achieve excellence in education on a daily basis. I am confident you will see that **Nobody Does it Better** than Cochran. In case you were curious, Carly Simon released that song in 1977. Obviously there is still room in this parking lot!

Sincerely,
David J. Michaels

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JCH



About J. Henry Cochran

(The following article was featured in the August 2008 Edition of the Pennsylvania School Board Association's (PSBA) *Bulletin*.)

J. Henry Cochran Elementary School, situated in Williamsport's picturesque Vallamount neighborhood, was built in 1928 on a 9.85 acre plot of land. This land was donated by the family of state Senator J. Henry Cochran - a pioneer, lumberman, banker, and philanthropist. Shortly after the land acquisition, the School Board of the City of Williamsport began planning the construction of the original two-story building. When Cochran Elementary opened on August 24, 1928, it consisted of 16 classrooms, a large double room, and a kindergarten. A large Cochran shield, designed by architects Richter and Eller, was located at the front entrance of the school. The architectural firm also developed Cochran's design with future additions in mind.

The first addition to the original building was completed in 1951. At that time, the east-west corridor was expanded with the construction of another floor of classrooms, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. When renovations were completed, Cochran had grown from 16 to 32 classrooms in order to accommodate the city's growing population.

The most current addition is a 2000-01 project which includes a new library, computer lab, multipurpose room with stage, cafeteria, large-group instruction area, music rooms, Internet capability, art room, and total handicapped accessibility to all floors. Many steps were taken to match the original architecture with the newest addition, including outside lighting.

Today, Cochran serves a diverse student population of approximately 530 students. Much like its namesake, J. Henry Cochran Elementary School has become a "trail blazer" in education. The school staff has committed to becoming the first in Pennsylvania to implement the Ohio State Literacy Collaborative framework at the primary and intermediate levels. Cochran has also been identified as a Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) Keystone Healthy Zone school for two consecutive years because of its commitment to the wellness of the entire school community.

For more information about J. Henry Cochran Elementary, or the entire Williamsport School District, please access its web site at www.wasd.org.



PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTER, OR RETURN IT TO SCHOOL AND WE WILL DO IT FOR FREE!

INFORMATION FROM THE CAFETERIA

Dear Parents/Guardian,
Welcome back to a new school year. Please review the new lunch menus with your child. There are several different choices each day to choose.
Fill out and return the free & reduced lunch application as soon as possible. Also, please remember that until your child (children) is approved for free/reduced meals, you are responsible for sending in money to pay for your child's meals.
Please call 322-1854 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Cochran Cafeteria

Breakfast & lunch are available daily. On 2-hour delays - no breakfast will be served.

Costs: Payer, breakfast \$1.00/lunch \$1.90

Reduced, breakfast .30/lunch .40

Milk - .45

"YOU CANNOT CHARGE MILK"

You can charge lunch for three (3) days. After 3 days, you will receive a peanut-butter platter.

"PLEASE DON'T TAKE CAF-CARDS HOME"

Please put your child's first and last name on his/her money envelope and send to the cafeteria in the morning. We accept cash, checks and money orders. We can send a receipt if you need one. You can bring money to the cafeteria if you choose. Your child's lunch account is similar to a debit account. You can put any amount of money you choose into his/her account. When your child purchases a meal or milk and presents his/her caf-card to the cashier, the account will show activity.



COCHRAN IS ON THE WEB!

Check us out @ www.wasd.org under schools!



Giant A+ School Rewards

J. Henry Cochran will once again participate in Giant's A+ Rewards Program. Our participation allows community members to earn CASH for our school each time you shop at any GIANT store using your BONUS-CARD. Even though we participated in the program last year, **re-designation is required for all BONUS-CARD holders.** For more information, go to www.giantaplus.com.

NOTE: Cochran earned over \$700 dollars last year through its participation in this program. Our School # is 00632!

Right On Target:

J. Henry Cochran welcomes Target to Williamsport and invites our community members to help us take advantage of their **Take Charge of Education** program. Check it out at Target.com under the "Community" link. Our school code is 91761.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Williamsport Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990.

For more information regarding civil rights, grievance procedures, or services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped individuals, contact:

Debra J. Savage, Esq., Director of Human Resources, Williamsport Area School District, 201 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, telephone number (570) 327-5500 extension 3541.

SAFETY FIRST



Dear 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. In doing 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 these 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.

Connect with Cochran

1-First Day of School

3-Open House grades K-5, 7:00 PM

4-KHZ Walk at School 8:15

7-Labor Day—No School

9-Instrumental recruiting presentation 2:00 PM gr.3-5

11-National Day of Service & Remembrance

14-2nd Grade Parent Workshop—CSA meeting 7:00 PM in library

17-KHZ kickoff 7 PM

24-Sky Dome assembly; 1st Grade RIF Distribution

25-KHZ Walk at School

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MR. EDLER

Welcome back! I am very excited to have another school year under way. I developed a list of ideas that may help your child have a successful start to another year.

Visit Cochran: This will help your child ease any anxiety he or she may have in returning to school. You can have your child introduce his or her teacher to you and tour the building. Hopefully, you were able to do this during our open house. If not, it is never too late!

Get back to the routines: It is easy for children to get out of their normal routines over the summer. Make sure your child gets back to his or her normal bedtime. Remind your child of after school routines (break, homework, dinner, etc.).

Back to school shopping: By now, you should have most of the items your child needs for school. It may be a good idea to check in with your child and make sure he/she has the necessary items for back-to-school what they need. New clothing and school supplies will often help make the beginning of a school year more exciting.

Listen to your child: If your child is sad or worried about returning to school, allow him or her to talk. Allowing your child to share these feelings out loud may help him/her feel better. You may even be able to share a personal experience from your school days. If you find things are not getting any better, do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to offer my help.

Read to your child: Pick topics that are relevant, such as **First Day Jitters**, **The Night Before Kindergarten**, **Friends: Making Them & Keeping Them**.
Have a great day!

Mr. Edler

Be Safe - Say Something!

J. Henry Cochran Elementary

2009-2010 Staff

**Denotes new staff member*

Principal

Mr. David J. Michaels

Assistant Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Kunkle

Mr. Gary Gonsar

Secretary

Mrs. Nel Stoudt

Mrs. Kim Cillo (AM)

Kindergarten

Mrs. Lori Beiter

Ms. Michelle Bennett

Mrs. Julia Edler

Mrs. Vanessa Follmer

Mrs. Wendy Kelsey

First

Mrs. Renee Bower

Mrs. Erin Brouse

Mrs. Peggy DiFrancesco

Mrs. Ann Potter

Second

Mrs. Michelle Boyles

Mrs. Barbara Davis

Miss Kristiann McQuown

Mrs. Sandra Ritter

Third

Mrs. Barb Adair

Mrs. Erin Hamilton

Mr. Gary Michaels

Mrs. Charisse Sick

Fourth

Mr. Justin Beatty*

Mr. Andrew Bennett

Mrs. Julie Campbell

Mrs. Deb Goff

Ms. Kaya Loehr

Ms. Brianna Nau

Fifth

Mrs. Carey Taddeo

Mrs. Barb Rizzo

Mrs. Amy Twist

Special Education

Mrs. Michelle Bitner

Ms. Michelle Cappa

Mrs. Barbara Dalena

Mrs. Jeanne Goodell

Ms. Melissa Hessel*

Mrs. Patricia Jones

Mr. Jeffrey Pelly

Mrs. Betsy Yost

Counselor

Mr. Erick Edler

IST

Mr. Dennis Logan

Reading

Mrs. Sondra Fisher

Mrs. Vanessa Follmer

Mrs. Anne Leshner

Dr. Shelley Litz

Mrs. Tracy Mitstifer

Ms. Brianna Nau

ESL

Ms. Lydia Heiser

Art

Mrs. Julie Hammond

Mr. Edward Jonassen*

Music

Mrs. Beverly Schmidt

Mr. Kevin Henry

Mr. Matthew Radspinner

Physical Education

Mr. Keith Veldhuis

Speech

Mrs. Linda Runnels

Mrs. Donna O'Brien

Gifted

Mrs. Patricia Bower

Mrs. Anna Rader*

Primary Literacy Coordinator

Mrs. Wendy Kelsey

Intermediate Literacy Coordinator

Mrs. Deb Goff

Library Aide

Mrs. Sue Litz

School Nurse

Mrs. Diane Demott-Thompson

Health Room Tech

Mrs. Karen Miller

Aides

Mr. Richard Andy*

Mrs. Jessica Beckman*

Mrs. Angela Deitrick*

Mrs. Jennifer Gray

Ms. Alicia Hess

Mrs. Holly Lanahan-Livermore

Mrs. Faith Lovell

Ms. Shanika McCorey

Mrs. Kathie Saar

Ms. Amber Seasholtz

Mrs. Ann Zerbe

Parent Coordinator

Mrs. Billie Hardy

Custodians

Mr. John Springman (Head)

Mr. Tim Bodewes

Mr. Jerome Harer

Mr. Anthony Humphries

Mr. Dan Phillips

Cafeteria

Mrs. Kathy Dulaney (Director)

Mrs. Nancy Beamer

Mr. Lee Carpenter

Mrs. Kathy Hess

Mrs. Sandra Johnson

Ms. Cecelia Lisboa

Mrs. Catherine Tommor

Mrs. Roseann Wolfe

E-MAIL: All professional employees and secretaries have been assigned Internet E-Mail accounts and have Internet E-Mail addresses. In order to contact an employee through Internet E-Mail, simply type in the first letter of their first name followed by their complete last name (no spaces). Then add "@wasd.org". The Williamsport Area School District Internet E-Mail address for a person with the name of Tony Jones would be as follows: tjones@wasd.org

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Williamsport Area School District **does not** provide medical or dental accident insurance for school related student accidents except for athletic programs.

Both "School Time" and "24-Hour" insurances are available for students in grades K-12 through American Management Advisors, Inc.. The premium for "School Time" coverage is \$28.00 for the school year. The "24 Hour" coverage carries a premium of \$124.00 for a full year (365 days). Acci-Dental Insurance is available at \$7.50 if purchased with the "School Time" or "24 -Hour" plan.

Applications may be obtained at all school offices.

DISMISSAL

Afternoon announcements will begin at 3:25, walkers will be dismissed at 3:27, and car riders and bus riders will be dismissed at 3:30.

STUDENT PICTURE DAY

The student picture day has been scheduled for October 5, 2009. Please make sure that the picture form is completed and money is sent to the teacher for that day.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR MRS. HARDY

Hello and welcome to another great year here at Cochran Elementary!

While you're out doing your last minute back to school shopping, don't forget one of the most important stores, the grocery store! Getting back into a routine with waking up, going to school, and doing homework can be hard for children. So stock up on healthy food choices that will help keep your child focused in school. Here are some things to try.

Improves Memory: Eggs, Nuts, Oatmeal, Foods High in Vitamins A, C, and E

Improves Cognitive Function: Tuna, Avocado, Walnuts, Almonds

Improves Mental Alertness: Poultry, Spinach, Beans, Dried Fruit, Whole Grains

I hope these suggestions help get your school year off to a great start!

COCHRAN CALENDAR

PLEASE POST THE CALENDAR ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER AT A LOCATION THAT IS CONVENIENT FOR YOU, SUCH AS YOUR REFRIGERATOR, IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND DAYS THAT SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION.

Each newsletter will have a monthly calendar marked with important dates.

DRESS CODE

Guidelines have been established for a warm weather dress code. Short shorts or tight shorts are not permitted. A guide to measuring shorts length is to hold your arm straight down and wear your shorts no shorter than your fingertips.

Tank tops, halter-tops and muscle shirts are prohibited. Sandals should not be worn because of potential injury in school and on the playground. A parent will be notified in the case of a dress code violation.

All pants worn by boys will need to be at their waists. Please provide your child with a belt or the school will provide one. Thank you for your help and support.

COCHRAN IS IN THE ZONE

Learn more about Cochran's commitment to the Keystone Healthy Zone Schools Program by attending our KHZ Kick Off on Thursday, September 17th beginning at 7 PM.

YMCA CHILD CARE SERVICES

Kathie Saar is the sight coordinator at Cochran's YMCA Child Care Services before and after school program. Parents interested in this service may contact the child care office at 323-7134. This service provides supervision before and after school.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

Students are **NOT** to come to school before 8:45 AM unless they are breakfast students. Please do **NOT** drop off your child in the morning any earlier than necessary as supervision is **NOT** provided until 8:45 AM. Students must be picked up promptly after they are dismissed at 3:30 PM. If you are in need of child care or "Latchkey" services before or after school hours, this can be arranged through YMCA Child Care Services which operates a program at Cochran. For more information, call 323-7134.

"FAMILY" EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips during scheduled school days must be approved in advance by the principal. There is a form provided for this purpose available in the office. **Approval should be requested one week in advance in order for your child to get assignments.** Please remember to have the form filled out and returned to the school in order to have the absences legally excused. The total number of days is not to exceed 10 days per year in order to participate in educational trips.

WATCHA GOT???

Hopefully, you have received the following information via your child in his/her Cochran folder:

Lunch Calendar
Emergency Cards (2)*
Free/Reduced Lunch Application*
Tylenol/Tums Card*
If you did not receive any of these items, please contact us at 322-9731.

Items marked with * should be returned as soon as possible.

REVIEW OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The cooperation of our students is a vital aspect of a positive learning experience. One of the reasons they are cooperative is that our expectations are clearly explained to every child from the first day of school. A copy of the Cochran Handbook will be sent to you. Please read it, become familiar with our expectations, and discuss them with your child. Please sign and return the last page of the handbook. This document will come home during the first week of school.

Show your "NRG" - Be Active!

