



# WILDCAT'S ROAR

WESTRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Where  
Children  
Achieve  
Total  
Success

Dear Parents,

One of my very favorite annual activities during this time of the year is to conduct "Student Talks." This is an opportunity for me, as the Principal, along with Mrs. Rose, the Counselor, to meet with every teacher to discuss individual students. We discuss each student's strengths, weaknesses, interests, and overall success in school. We ask ourselves questions ranging from "is the student getting enough support in the area of reading?" to "are the students being accelerated adequately?" We share individual student achievement scores in terms of standardized testing and overall grades. We identify certain traits of a child, for example, being shy or showing signs of leadership and create programs and/or interventions to help each child be successful. Student talks are like our parent-teacher conferences except with the school staff. This exercise allows me to know each one of our students personally and evaluate their progress in school. As a result of these conversations, we invite certain families to participate in either our Care Team process, or a subsequent parent conference, so that we can work as a team for the good of the child. I believe this to be an enriching experience that has had a profound impact on the success of our students. Our students are great and very deserving of this attention.

As we approach the Holiday Season, please be mindful of those that may need extra care and comfort during these times. As a school we will support the neediest families through contributions collected throughout the month.

Please make sure you are checking our calendar for upcoming events, such as the Student Movie Night on December 11 and the Holiday Sing-A-Long on December 23. We invite you to join us for the Sing-A-Long at 11:15 a.m. in our gymnasium as we celebrate the Holiday season with our school community.

Sincerely  
Dr. Meg Brooks

December 1, 2009

**Special dates of interest:**

- \* Early Dismissal  
Papa John's Night  
December 8
- \* 3rd Grade Concert  
December 10
- \* Student Movie Night  
December 11
- \* School Sing-A-Long  
December 23
- \* Early Dismissal  
December 23
- \* No School  
December 24-31
- \* No School  
January 1-3

**Inside this issue:**

Westridge News	2
"Doing Well"ness	4
Library News	4
Counselor's Corner	5
District News	6
Calendar of Events	7
PTO Pride	9



A MISSOURI GOLD STAR SCHOOL

908 Crestland • Ballwin, MO 63011-3110 • (636) 207-2572 • FAX (636) 207-2577  
Meg Brooks, Principal





## Papa John's Pizza Winner

Congratulations to Miss Adam's 2nd Grade class for winning the Papa John's class pizza lunch. Your participation helps fund the RI program at Westridge.

Mark your calendar for the next Papa John's Night, Tuesday, December 8.

## Mark Your Calendar

Early Release:  
 Tuesday, December 8  
 Wednesday, December 23

All students will attend school from **8:23-12:08**. Lunch will be served to **all** students prior to dismissal.

No School:  
 December 24-January 3

## Pumpkin Pie Run Winners

The annual Pumpkin Pie Run was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> with buddies watching each other participate. Lots of cheers were heard as each grade level encouraged their friends during the run. Winners who made the best estimate as to how long they thought it would take were:

Kindergarten  
 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
  
 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
  
 Adult

Ayriana Fico  
 Caroline Hunt  
 Olivia Roberts  
 Claudia Froenicke  
 Melissa Price  
 Amber Hirsch  
 Marissa Van Leuven  
 Lucy Youngblood  
 Jasmine Taylor  
 Erin Beagen



## Westridge Way—Student Council

This year the two community service projects picked by Student Council are Circle Of Concern and Relay For Life. The first helping hand occurred this past week as Westridge students and families contributed hundreds of canned goods and packaged products for needy families served through Circle Of Concern.

Later in the school year Student Council will do fundraising activities for the other community service project, Relay For Life. Coming soon will be Holidaygrams where students can send holiday messages to their friends. These will be sold at the school store closer to the winter break; they will include a candy cane with the note.



What a wonderful fall meal you provided for the staff conference dinner. A Special Thanks goes to Ms. Melissa Hance and Mrs. Christine Boucher for organizing this treat for the staff. We appreciate your time and thoughtfulness!

## Outdoor Recess

It is important that all students dress appropriately during extreme temperatures. Running will be limited in warm weather and children improperly clothed for cold temperatures will not be allowed outside. The following policy is followed to ensure the safety and health of our students:

<20 degrees      stay inside  
 20-95 degrees      outside  
 >95 degrees      stay inside



Westridge Attendance Recap October 30, 2009—November 25, 2009		
Total School Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Total School Attendance %
398	383.88	96.58

## Winter is on the Way!

School closings or early school dismissals due to inclement weather will be announced on the Rockwood web site [www.rockwood.k12.mo.us](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us) as soon as the decision is made. In addition, parents can find accurate information about district school closings on the following radio and television stations:

KMOX 1120 (AM)	KTVI Channel 2
KTRS 550 (AM)	KMOV Channel 4
KSDK Channel 5	KDNL Channel 30

Parents will also receive an **AlertNow** voice notification message. This message will be sent to your primary household phone number. Your caller ID will display the school's main number. **Important: The successful delivery of information is dependent upon accurate contact information obtained from school records. If your household and/or emergency contact information changes, please let our school registrar know as soon as possible.**

## Bus Stop Safety

The safety of our students is important. While the children are at the bus stop, they should:

- wait in a driveway or on the sidewalk,
- resist the temptation to play and rough-house,
- watch for approaching vehicles,
- never talk to strangers,
- know what to do if a stranger approaches them,
- wait with other children or an adult.

Notify police immediately if you have concerns about strangers in the neighborhood. Notify First Student (636) 458-2044 if you have concerns about the safety of your child's bus stop.

## School Safety Hotline

314-889-7233

## Missouri School Violence Hotline

1-866-748-7047

Report any type of violence that may effect you at home, school, or play.



Below are the students recognized for showing **RESPONSIBILITY** in October.

### Kindergarten

Lydia Boucher	Mia Stahl
Brooke Rogers	James Wu
Taj Smith	Sydney Wurdack

### 1st Grade

Cassidy Barger	Aidan Dee
Emily Costello	Ryan Heubi
Hailey Crabtree	Liliana Sparks

### 2nd Grade

Sophie Coday	Matthew Munson
Claudia Froenicke	Sophie Sanchez
Charlie Katke	Shaezaf Shah
Mason Kirchhofer	Emma Vanover

### 3rd Grade

Rachel Constable	Jacob Schmid
Alley Hoffmeyer	Bryah Trenn
Annah Junge	Kaitlyn Vis
Ross Matzen	

### 4th Grade

Alyssa Adams	Marissa Van Lueven
Corey Cox	Jacob Venegoni
Amber Hirsch	Jacob Wells

### 5th Grade

Kayley Allen	Katie Morris
Gunnar Boucher	Carmen Murphy
Sam Katke	Ashley Reichwein

## Full-Day Optional Kindergarten

Informational Parent Meetings  
For 2010-2011 School Year

These meetings are for parents interested in the program and/or have questions regarding the program. (Adventure Club information will be available.)

The meeting dates and times are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2010  
Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM  
Location: Crestview Middle School (Theatre)  
Clayton Road  
Ellisville, MO 63011

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010  
Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM  
Location: Early Childhood at Vandover (Gym)  
1900 Hawkins Road  
Fenton, MO 63026



## H1N1 Update

On November 11, we held our first H1N1 vaccine clinic. Thirty-six high priority students (those with asthma, kidney and heart issues, etc.) were able to get the shot. On the following Wednesday, an additional 75 students, whose parents indicated "mist" as their choice on the consent, were vaccinated with the flumist.

At this point, we do not know when we will get our next batch of vaccines. We have been asked to let our families know that if you wish to have your children vaccinated as soon as possible, please seek it elsewhere. The next Department of Health clinic will be held at Rockwood Summit on December 5. Line tickets will be given out starting at 7am. The clinic at Lafayette on November 7 was busy in the morning, but was very light by the afternoon.

If your child has the vaccine elsewhere or you have changed your mind, please let me know and I will send the consent form home with them. There are still over 100 students at Westridge who have returned a consent form and have not been vaccinated.

If you have not returned the consent form, you want your child vaccinated, and you are unable to go to the clinic on 12/5, please send the form to school at your earliest convenience.

- Indicate at the top of the form if you wish your child to receive a shot, nasal mist or preservative free shot, initial your choice.
- Return the form to your child's teacher.
- If you need additional forms or your child has already received the vaccine, please contact the school nurse by phone or e-mail [phillipsdian@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:phillipsdian@rockwood.k12.mo.us)

## Medications at School

Do not send medications to school with a student, it is too easy to misplace. **All over-the-counter medications, including cough drops, TUMS, Tylenol, Motrin, etc.,** must have a parent permission slip **and a doctor's note** on file at the school. Doctor's notes may be faxed to 636-207-2577.

**Prescriptions** need to have the label attached to the medication bottle. Doctor signature is not required if prescription label is included, parent permission is required. A parent (or adult designated by the parent) may

administer any medication to his or her own child at school. Please come to the health room and the student will be called out of class.

## Stay Home When You are Sick!

This continues to be an issue. If your child has fever or flu-like symptoms (listed above), they need to remain home for a full 24 hours symptom free without the aid of pain or fever reducing medicines. If an ill student returns too early, they risk infecting additional students which compounds the problem.

**Please take the extra day!!**

## Illnesses at Westridge

Lately the flu has seemed to taper off some. Please continue to inform the school if your child is ill and the doctor tests for flu.

Symptoms of the flu begin with a headache and low grade fever. Often the fever spikes to over 101° within a couple of hours. In addition to headache and fever, students have had any number of the following symptoms: chills, aches, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and cough. Most are better within 3-4 days.

## Screenings

**Hearing** - follow-up hearing screenings for those students who failed the initial screening or who were absent are almost complete. The DOH has changed the parameters for the hearing screening, so this year we had several students not pass at school. Referral letters were sent home with the student. If you received a letter, it does not necessarily mean that your child has a hearing issue. At your earliest convenience, please follow-up with your own doctor or call SSD for a free comprehensive hearing screening at 314-989-8875. Please let the nurse know the results. **Vision** – if your child failed the vision screening at school and you received a follow up letter, please let the nurse know your course of action or if you need help getting an exam.

## Library News

By Mrs. Melissa Twombly

Things are busy in the library! Kids are reading, reading, reading! They have already checked out 6% more books this year than they did in August, September, and October 2008.

First, second, and third grade students have been listening to some of the Show Me Reader award nominees. Have your child tell you about Badger's Fancy Meal by Keiko Kaska. Ask him what Badger considered a "fancy meal." We've also finished The Orange Shoes

by Trinka Hakes Nobel. Your student can tell you what happened to Delly's orange shoes. We talked a lot about the character traits and whether we wanted certain characters to be our friend.

Fourth and fifth graders are reading four of the 12 Mark Twain Award nominees by March so each can vote on his/her favorite. There are many exciting stories to entertain even a reluctant reader. For all 12 titles, visit the Westridge Library website.

Fifth graders have also been using library resources as they completed projects on explorers. Many of them also used our subscription to Grolier Online <http://go-passport.grolier.com> to help them find information. Each of them should have a label in the front of their planner with the home login information .

As students are working on their AR goals, don't forget about all the books available at your local public library. Daniel Boone is the closest St. Louis County Public Library and is located on Clarkson Road between Clayton and Manchester. They have a great website which allows you to search the library catalog at home and put books on hold. Many students received new library cards through the library card campaign, so please make good use of the resources there. They also have Overdrive, which allows you to download audio books onto a computer or MP3 player for 2 weeks. There are many juvenile fiction books available. What a great way to "go over the river and through the wood" during the holidays, listening to fabulous audio books. Check out the St. Louis County website out for more details <http://www.slcl.org/>.

## Counselor's Corner

By Mrs. Theresa Rose



### December Character Trait—Caring

Caring During the month of December we will focus on the Character Education word, Caring. Caring is simply defined as putting someone else's needs above your own. This also includes showing compassion or consideration of another person. One of our main goals at Westridge Elementary is to maintain a caring environment. We strive daily in our character to show one another that we care for them on many levels. This can be as simple as holding the door open for someone, including someone at a lunch table, or even donating items for a cause. Our hope is that when we take a month to put a strong emphasis on Caring, it will spill over into every other day of the year.

### Veterans Day Assembly

On November 11, Westridge had the great privilege of hosting over 52 veterans and their families to a delicious breakfast provided by the staff and an assembly planned by the students. It was such an honor to listen to the men who protect our country share their stories with us. The assembly included a Fife and Drum Corps, Special Chorus, student readings, presentation of the flags by the Boy/Girl Scouts and a Flag Folding Ceremony led by some of the Veterans. We plan to continue this tradition at Westridge as a way of giving back to the community by honoring our Veterans.



# Westridge Way

We would like to provide individual recognition in our monthly newsletter of special achievements made by Westridge Students, Parents, or Staff Members. If you have something to share (ex: Scouts, Community Service, etc.) please let us know by completing this form, submitting a note to the office, or by sending an e-mail to Mrs. Rose ([neytheresa@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:neytheresa@rockwood.k12.mo.us)).

Name of Student, Parent, Staff Member: \_\_\_\_\_

(If accomplishment is for a team, please list all members from Westridge)

Tell about the accomplishment:

---

---

---

---

# District News

December 2009



## Missing AlertNow Messages?

A new feature available to recipients of AlertNow messages provides an online replay and review of voice or e-mail messages received during the past 15 days.

To receive a replay of school and district messages sent to your phone and e-mail, go to this Web address:

**[www.alertnowmessage.com](http://www.alertnowmessage.com)**.

You'll be directed to the AlertNow system and a prompt asking you to enter your 10-digit phone number or your e-mail address in the boxes provided.

Be sure to enter the phone number designated as your household phone number to be sure you access all phone calls sent to you via AlertNow. Informational messages from the school are sent to students' household phone numbers.

Find out more on the Rockwood Web site:

**[www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/alertnow](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/alertnow)**.

## Inclement Weather Information

School closings, or early school dismissal due to inclement weather, will be announced using the AlertNow automatic notification system.

**School closings** – Parents will receive an AlertNow message on their household phone when school is canceled prior to the opening of school.

**Early school dismissal** – Parents will receive an emergency AlertNow message on their designated cell and work phone, along with the household phone, when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.

In addition, school closings and early dismissals will be announced on the Rockwood Web site as soon as the decision is made by administrators. Accurate information about school closings will be sent to the following radio and television stations:

**KMOX 1120 (AM)**

**KTVI Channel 2/11**

**KMOV Channel 4**

**KSDK Channel 5**

If you have questions about school closings, visit the district Web site for answers to a list of frequently asked questions. Or post your question on **[askthesupt@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:askthesupt@rockwood.k12.mo.us)** for a response.

## Dare to Succeed -- Be a Dream Catcher!

The Rockwood Schools Foundation is proud to continue the Dream Catchers scholarship program designed for students in grades 4 – 11. This year, the scholarship cycle opens on November 16 and will close January 12, 2010.

A wealth of opportunities exists for young adults in the areas of arts, leadership, community awareness, history and the sciences. The scholarship money can help pay for camp, lessons, conferences or specialized courses of study.

The Foundation has given out nearly \$50,000 in Dream Catchers scholarships during the past two years. The mission of the Foundation is to enhance educational opportunities for Rockwood students, to help teachers develop positive innovations and to enrich the communities it serves.

For more information call the Foundation at 636.207.6800. To view a scholarship application, go to this Web site: **[www.rockwoodschoollfoundation.com](http://www.rockwoodschoollfoundation.com)**.



*Providing Innovative Opportunities for Kids*

**Rockwood Mission: We do whatever it takes to ensure all students realize their potential.**



# December 2009

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<b>1</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  5th Grade Crestview Music Concert 10:00  PTO MEGA Party 3:30-5:45  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>2</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Broadcast Club 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>3</b> Abilities Awareness Day  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  2nd & 3rd Grade AW Support Dogs 1:35-2:40  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20	<b>4</b> CCL	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Spanish 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>8</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  1st Grade In School Field Trip Magic House 9:30  EARLY DISMISSAL 12:08  Papa John's Night	<b>9</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  School Assembly Pets Go to School Purina Farms 1:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20  Market Day 5:30-6:30	<b>10</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20  3rd Grade & Special Chorus Concert 6:30	<b>11</b> CCL  Student Movie Night 6:00	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Spanish 3:20-4:20	<b>15</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>16</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Club HOPE 3:20-5:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>17</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>18</b> CCL	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Wildcat's Roar</i>  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  DARE Graduatouon 9:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>22</b> Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	<b>23</b> End of 2nd QTR  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Buddy Picnic 10:30  Holiday Sing-A-Long 11:00  EARLY DISMISSAL 12:08	<b>24</b>  NO SCHOOL	<b>25</b>  NO SCHOOL	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  NO SCHOOL	<b>29</b>  NO SCHOOL	<b>30</b>  NO SCHOOL	<b>31</b>  NO SCHOOL		

# January 2010

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

					1 NO SCHOOL	2
3 	4 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	5 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Spelling Bee 9:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20  Papa John's Night	6 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  4th Grade PIE, Environscape 12:30  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	7 Reading Store— Beach Party  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20  Market Day 5:30-6:30	8 CCL	9
	11 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00	12 Mobile Science Lab  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	13 Mobile Science Lab  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kindergarten PIE, Winter Safety 11:00  Kindergarten PIE, Winter Safety 1:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	14 Mobile Science Lab  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	15 CCL— EARLY DISMISSAL  WES— EARLY DISMISSAL	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL	19 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20  PTO Meeting 6:30	20 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Broadcast Club 3:20-4:20  Club HOPE 3:20-5:00  LEGO League 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	21 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	22 CCL	23
24	25 <i>Wildcat's Roar</i>  Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	26 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	27 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  LEGO League 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	28 Knowing Math 7:15-8:00  Kids Corner 3:20-4:20  Knowing Reading 3:20-4:20	29 CCL	30 



# NEWS

## From the Westridge PTO

Next Meeting is Tuesday, January 19th

### Presidents' Message

Thanks to the hard work and organization of Teri Downs and Liz Ogelsby, our Book Fair was a success! Thank you also to those who were able to volunteer and participate.

The staff expressed their appreciation for the dinner provided by PTO during conferences. A big thank you to Melissa Hance and Chris Boucher who planned the event, and to everyone who provided a dish. Our teachers work very hard preparing for and staying late during conferences. It is so nice to be able to show our appreciation!

Please continue to save box tops! We are so far on target to meet our goal for the year! Thank you, Angie Reszinski!

Our next PTO meeting will be in January! Happy Holidays!

### FALL BOX TOPS DRIVE

Here are the final results for our winners in the fall box tops drive!

K:	Areeba Abbasi	360
1st:	Caroline Reszinski	614
2nd:	Lindsey Bekebrede	290
3rd:	Kaitlyn Vis	937
4th:	Sean Moran	115
5th:	Amy Marrott	121

We estimate that the fall collection raised \$905.00 for our school. Way to go and thank you so much for participating! Don't forget to keep collecting those tops for our spring drive. They really add up for our school.



### DECEMBER IS COOKIE DOUGH BONUS DAYS WITH MARKET DAY

Let's sell 250 boxes of Cookie Dough and we could raise \$825 in profit to help pay for new technology, field trips, etc.

The top selling class will receive a cookie party!!!

### FALL BOOK FAIR



Teri Downs and Elizabeth Oglesby would like to thank the following volunteers for their help, donation of time, and efforts in making

the Fall Book Fair a big success:

Meralee Ikemeyer	Christa Kirn
Jennifer Blanke	Christy Katke
Carolyn Miller	Jason Oglesby
Lauren Craft	Debbie Craft
Tammy Moran	Heather Hicker
Rita Bub	Julie Herzon
Suzanne Lyons	Amanda Eaton
Paris Clark	Terri Morrison
Holly Perryman	Michele Arthur
Tammy Palko	

Also, we would like to thank Mrs. Twombly and Mrs. Zenk for letting us use the Library.

We are grateful for all those who have helped. You are wonderful for giving your time. Volunteers are a huge part of why our school is so successful.

Thank you also to the teachers for finding the time in their busy day to bring the classes down to preview the books and for attending the teacher preview. Fun was had by all.

### PTO Funds Hard at Work

This month was a busy period for the PTO. From October 20th through November 17th our Fall Fundraiser was wrapped up resulting in profit of \$10,159. The Scholastic Book Fair generated over \$4,000 in sales resulting in cash profit to the PTO of 1,000. \$475 was collected from Buzz Books and \$410 from Escrip, Spirit Wear, Market Day and Entertainment Books. Below is a summary of how some of these funds have been spent:

Babysitting Fees	\$10	Fall Family Night	\$114
Field Trips	\$394	Room Parties	\$40
Spirit Wear (Cost of Clothing)	\$2,213		

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."  
~William Arthur Ward

*You are the gift given with love to our students.*