



Green Woods Charter School

THE WORLD IN OUR HANDS

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Welcome back to all of our families and a great big welcome and hello to all of our new families that have joined us this year. We are ready to start another exciting school year at Green Woods!!!!

Once a week each of our families will receive a plastic envelope with your child's name on it that we call the "Wednesday Folder". This is our way of communicating with all of our families. This folder will contain information from the administration and your child's teacher. If you have more than one child, the youngest child will get the entire contents of the Wednesday folder and your older child will get only what's related to their grade. This folder should be emptied on Wednesday evening and returned to school the very next morning. Thank you for your cooperation.

Welcome: We would like everyone in our community to take a moment and welcome our new 4th grade teacher Ms. Kate Langdon and also our new instructional support person for grades 1-2, Ms. Nancy Braitman. We are very happy that they have chosen to join us. Welcome!!!!!!

Thank You: Thank you again from the entire staff to the Home School Committee for a delicious breakfast on Thursday, August 30th. We appreciate you thinking of us and it was a really nice way to start what we know will be an exciting school year.

Clean Up Day: On Saturday, August 18th many families (new and old) came out to help us clean up by painting, setting the fence up for the playground area, spreading mulch, etc. We would like to thank everyone who came out to lend a helping hand.

School Uniforms: Thank you to Stephanie Gongon for taking on the responsibility of keeping an abundance of school uniforms on hand for all our families. This was a huge undertaking and we appreciate her time. All families should send in uniform order slips by Friday, September 14th for the winter months.

Transportation: Leahy will be our bus company this year. We will be working very closely with Leahy to make sure that all children are being picked up on time each morning. We will also be working together to make sure that all the children will be following the bus rules for their safety. Please be patient in the next couple of weeks as we work out the possible kinks in the bus schedule. Any and all questions can be directed to kbirkmire@greenwoodscharterschool.com or the office phone is (215) 482-6337.

Work Session: There is a board work session scheduled for Wednesday, September 5th. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Board Meeting: There will be a Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Health Forms : All required health forms were due in school by August 1st. In order for your child to participate in the required class hikes and Friday activities, these forms must be in school immediately.

Pretzel Money: A reminder that there is a \$10 charge for each child at school to receive a soft pretzel every Tuesday during the school year starting on Tuesday, October 2nd. Pretzel money is due by Friday, September 7th. Thank you.

8th Grade Parents High School Night: All 8th grade parents should attend the meeting. This meeting is to gain a better understanding of the high school application process. Join the administration and guidance counselor on Tuesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. as we also welcome Mr. Chris Lehmann, Principal of The Science Leadership Academy. Mr. Lehmann will hold an informal question and answer session with the 8th grade parents providing some direct insight into the application process as well as talk about school life at SLA.

Back to School Night: On Wednesday, September 26th, we will be hosting our Back to School Night. A presentation will be held in the auditorium for parents of children in Grades 5 to 8 and will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. A presentation will be held in the auditorium for parents of children in Grades K to 4 and will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please remember that back to school night is an opportunity for parents to learn about their child's academic year and children should not be in attendance. Thank you for your understanding.

Car Visors: All families were issued a lavender colored car visor with their family's last name on it. These visors must be used while in car line and throughout the entire school year. We ask that all families have their car visor displayed on their dash board. By having your car visor clearly visible our staff can identify parents and their cars and it is truly for safety purposes.

Outward Bound 8th Grade: Our 8th graders are preparing for an exciting five-day, four-night Urban Expedition with Outward Bound from September 10th through September 14th! Students will be tracking their trek through the city. Look for highlights of their exciting expedition in an upcoming newsletter. Green Woods SLT worked for months to solidify this incredible partnership. Our goal is that Outward Bound will remain a core component of our program for all incoming 8th graders. The mission of Outward Bound and the mission of GWCS mesh so well that we couldn't wait to get started! To learn more about the Outward Bound program, visit their website at www.outwardbound.org

Outward Bound 4th Grade: On September 11th and 12th, our 4th grade students will be taking part in an introductory Outward Bound program that will include two, one-day expeditions. As the leaders in our elementary school setting, we are confident that the leadership and teambuilding skills gained through this experience will encourage and support their efforts to be positive role models for our K-3 students. As with our 8th grade program, our goal is that this exciting Outward Bound program will remain an integral component of our 4th grade curriculum. Please make sure all forms and payment are received by Green Woods no later than Thursday, September 6th.

Terra Nova Tests: For parents of current 2nd and 3rd grade students, the results of your child's Spring Terra Nova exam can be found in a separate envelope in today's Wednesday folder. If you have any questions about these results, contact your child's teacher, Melinda Coughlin, or Jean Wallace.

Recycling Tip: Welcome new families! We have a weekly Recycling tip that covers different ways to recycle by following the 4 "R"s. Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Restore. It also hits on other environmental subjects. This is open to anyone that would like to contribute their own thoughts and ideas. Please send them to joan.l.carr@ssa.gov and/or kbirkmire@greenwoodscharter.org.

Looking for an Earth friendly back pack? Did you know most vinyl in backpacks are made with dioxins (a leading cancer causing agent according to the EPA)? Earthpak has back packs made from recycled plastic soda bottles. They also have fanny packs, duffle bags, sports bags, fashion bags, purses, baby bags, and lunch sacks. AND all are made in the USA. Their site is www.earthpak.com. If you don't order them on line then the closest store that carries them is Student Cooperative Store at 57 Lipman Dr. New Brunswick NJ. Also Livity hemp backpacks www.livity.org; Revelations at 711 s. 4th St, 215-925-4022, www.revelationsboutique.com; Pure Hemp Sport at www.hempest.com and Eco-bags at www.ecobags.com

