



The WayPoint Way

News from WayPoint...where students discover success!

Reminder that Parent Teacher Student Conferences will be held on Friday, February 27 from 12noon –7pm

Original FREEDOM WRITER, Maria Reyes, to Visit WayPoint Students

What an EXCITING opportunity for us as we welcome to WayPoint one of the “original” Freedom Writers, Ms. Maria Reyes, on Thursday, March 12th. Reyes will be speaking to our students and staff from 1pm to 2pm and then from 2pm to 3pm, students and staff will be able to speak with her and have their books signed. A letter sharing more information is included with this Newsletter (for parents of 7-12th graders; 5/6th have a separate process in place), including a procedure for opting your student “out” if you wish. Please Note: parents are invited to attend Reyes’ presentation from 1pm to 2pm; please RSVP to Mrs. Cantu at ext. 106 if you wish to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to be with us!

Art Students of the Month

Mrs. Olson is celebrating the work and achievement of her January/February “Artists of the Month”: Middle School Artists of the Month: Joe Freriks & Jasmine Bell; High School Artists of the Month: Teanna Love; Samona Mahan; Courtney Strach & Amber Vreden. Way to go, ‘GATORS!

GREEN Dance Coming!

On March 13th, our Student Council is sponsoring a “Green Day” Activity Night for Middle School students from 4pm to 6pm. Later that same evening, our High School students will enjoy a “GREEN DANCE” which will be held from 8pm to 11pm. Music, games, food, prizes and good times with good friends...sure to be a ton ‘o fun for all! Thanks to Student Council for their hard work...and special thanks to Mr. Henry and Mrs. Heacox for advising the Student Council again this year.

Money for College or Tech School

Numerous opportunities exist for our Seniors to find funds to attend schooling or training after they earn their high school diploma. Each year, many funds go unused; we are dedicated to helping our students find the money to be able to go on to Baker College, Muskegon Community College, technical training, or other schools of their choice. Watch for info from the Counseling Office about financial aid possibilities.

Middle School FALL 2008 MEAP Scores Prove Rewarding! Bravo, Students & Staff!

The State of Michigan has released “preliminary” results to schools on their Fall 2008 MEAP scores. They have not yet been released to the public, and when they are, Parent Reports will be sent home so you can see the progress your student is making. Tentative results demonstrate that WayPoint students, guided by the tremendous efforts of their teachers, continue to become more and more proficient, consistently doing better from year to year. We are PROUD of the work that is being done by both students and staff! More to you soon when the final results are released by the State of Michigan Department of Education.

Calling All Parents!

Please help us, help you! Send your suggestions about the type of information you’d like to see us include on the Academy website. We want to keep the website a real tool for parents as well as community members. Please email Ms. Stellard or send her a note with your suggestion(s).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 3RD MARKING PERIOD ENDS ON MARCH 20TH; THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON THAT DAY. STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AGAIN, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON MARCH 20TH!

5th/6th Graders Sponsor Fund Raiser...Going on Now!

Working to earn funds for their end of the year field trips, our 5th/6th graders are again sponsoring a cookie dough fundraiser. Previous customers just RAVE about the quality of the dough and the very delicious cookies it bakes! Get yours today from any WayPoint 5th/6th grade 'GATOR! Contact Mrs. Tulgestke for information or for ordering.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME) Right Around the Corner for Our 11th Graders

Coming on March 10, 11 & 12, our 11th graders will be taking the 2009 Michigan Merit Exam which is a combination of the ACT College Entrance test and additional State of Michigan content area tests. This exam is given to Juniors across the State of Michigan every year. **IT IS CRITICAL THAT OUR STUDENTS DO THEIR VERY BEST ON THE EXAM...**their success on the MME can lead to thousands of dollars for college; can allow them to take college classes while still in high school...FREE...and it serves as a way for staff to assess how effective their instruction has been as we focus on "continuous improvement" in our academic program. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR 11TH GRADER TO DO HIS/HER BEST;** please ensure he/she comes to school, on time, and ready to do great work! Contact Mrs. Brown or Ms. Berryhill if you have any questions about the MME & your student.

8th Graders to Take NAEP Test in Early March

Each year, across the country in randomly selected schools, 4th, 8th and 12th graders are tested in math, science, reading, and social studies. This year, our 8th graders have been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) which is used by educational institutions to track how American children are doing academically. In early March, our 8th graders will be assessed. Letters have gone home to the parents of 8th graders with more information about the test. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Brown, our school counselor at ext. 312.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SOFIE!

Our "furry" Navigator, Sofie, turned 1 year old on Saturday, February 21st! What a WONDERFUL addition our special school dog has been for students and staff...and guests, as she warmly greets them when they visit. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SOFIE!**

Mural Brightens Back Hallway...Thank you, 6th Hour Art Class!

Next time you visit the Academy, take a minute to wander down to the hallway at the East end of the building...a beautiful mural designed and created by Mrs. Olson's 6th hour class will warmly greet you! Thank you, 6th hour art students, for using your talents to beautify our building. Rumor has it that you are planning at least one additional mural...we are eager to see what you come up with!

Successful Basketball Season Drawing to a Close

Congratulations to Coaches Downing and Johnson and the young men on our Boys Basketball team for 2008-2009! What a GREAT first year as WayPoint Navigators...the 'GATORS! We are proud of the work you did to create a team we can be proud of. THANK YOU, too, to the parents and fans who consistently came out to support our team. Thank you, too, to Mr. Henry, voice of the 'GATORS, and Student Council for working concessions. Here's to a GREAT 2010!

CONGRATULATIONS, KEITH & SAMONA!

The results are in for the Class of 2009! Congratulations to Keith Goodman, Valedictorian of the Class and to Salutatorian, Samona Mahan...for a job VERY WELL DONE! Keith will graduate FIRST in his Class and Samona graduates SECOND; both students have done an outstanding job with their academics throughout their high school years. Keith is already attending Muskegon Community College as a Dual Enrolled student and Samona has been accepted by both Central Michigan University and Michigan State University for the Fall of 2009. Go, 'GATORS!

OUR STUDENTS ARE WORTH WHATEVER IT TAKES!