

# WACO

## PARENT LETTER

5 March 2009 — Volume 40, Number 24

*"The mission of the WACO Community School District is to develop responsible, productive citizens who view learning as a lifelong process. WACO's educational environment encourages continuous improvement, problem-solving, measurable outcomes, and community involvement."*

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

LINK TO WACO CLASSES, TEACHERS, GRADES, ASSIGNMENTS, MORE:  
<http://powerschool.wacohs.com>

### Read-A-Million Minutes Finale

RAMM wrapped up on Friday, February 27 with a grand assembly. The WACO Elementary students surpassed their reading goal of 250,000 minutes, reading a total of 310,152 minutes. Because they made their goal, two classes were given the opportunity to "reward" their teachers by spraying them with silly string. In the lower elementary, Mrs. Shelman and Mrs. Barnhart's class read the most. In the upper elementary, Mrs. Davison's class read the most. The chant of "Silly String, Silly String!" was taken up as the two winning classes sprayed away at their teacher(s). Mrs. Reynolds then announced that since we made our school goal, two students from the audience would get to throw a whip cream pie in Mr. McClanahan's face. I guess that's the thanks I get for organizing the month of Read-A-Million Minutes. What can I say? It's all in the name of reading.

*Chad McClanahan – Project Coordinator*

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## PARENT LETTER

WACO Parentletter has been published weekly during the school year since 1968 by WACO Community Schools, 706 North Pearl, Wayland, IA 52654. Articles, photos, and calendar items must be submitted by 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday of the week in which they are intended to be published, or two days before distribution on four-day weeks, and must contain the author's name and contact information.

Please submit to:  
Carole Martins, Art Room  
WACO High School  
[cmartin@wacohs.com](mailto:cmartin@wacohs.com)

*"WACO Community Schools will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, ancestry, or any legally protected class."*

### WACO JH Track

WACO will host two junior high track meets this season. The dates are **April 24th** and **May 8th**. The field events will begin at 4:30 pm with the running events starting around 5:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help with the field events and as timers and pickers for the running events. If you would like to help contact Brad Shettler at WACO High School 256-6200, at home 256-8455, or email me at [bshettl@wacohs.com](mailto:bshettl@wacohs.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, March 7**

Coed High School Fine Arts - District Jazz Festival @ IC West

**Monday, March 9**

1:00PM: Coed Varsity Academic/Service - SEISC Science Fair @ WB Mall

**Tuesday, March 10**

6:30PM: After prom meeting for Senior parents

**Wednesday, March 11**

1:40PM: School Event Early Dismissal  
7:30PM: School Event Athletic Booster Club Meeting

**Thursday, March 12**

9:00AM: School Event SEISC HS Select Band Festival @ Van Buren  
7:00PM: School Event SEISC HS Select Band Concert @ Van Buren

**Monday, March 16**

6:30PM: Coed High School Athletics - Winter Sports Awards Night - Potluck

### WACO Soccer League

This is a reminder that all soccer registrations need to be turned into the school offices by **March 7th**. If you have any questions please give me a call 319-217-2005.

*Thanks, Tracie Sedlacek*

### After Prom Meeting

Senior parents, our next after prom meeting will be **Tuesday, March 10th** at 6:30 at the High School. In order to have a successful after prom, all the parents are welcome to attend and help with this event.

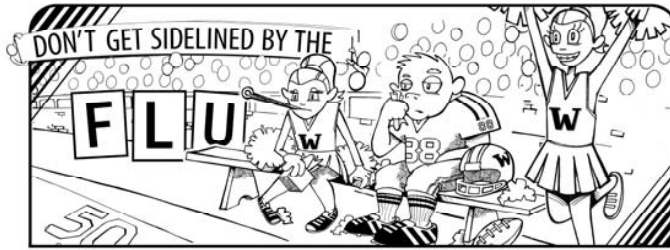
### Join Us for the Preschool Grant Writing

You are invited to write, edit and proofread the State-wide Voluntary Preschool Grant for 4 Year Olds. We will be meeting at the WACO Elementary on **Thursday, March 12** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and on Friday, March 13 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Please call Deb at 319-658-2931 to RSVP so we know how many to plan for. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Reynolds at the elementary.

*Thanks, Diane Rinner*

### April PTO Fun Fest!!!

On **Saturday, April 18th**, the WACO Elementary PTO is sponsoring April FUN FEST from 1:00-3:00 at the elementary school. The cost is 0-2 yrs. free, 3 yrs.- 6th grade \$3.00. Prior to this event we will be selling Fun Fest t-shirts with a WACO emblem on them. Elementary students will bring home an envelope order form. All orders are to be returned by Friday March 13th. Wear your t-shirt and get in FREE! Come and enjoy games, prizes, and snacks. We hope to see you and your family there for an afternoon of FUN! PTO



## WHEN SICKNESS STRIKES: Know When to Keep a Child Home From School

A parent's decision to keep a child home from school when he or she is sick can sometimes be a difficult one. No parent wants to interrupt their child's learning, and for some, keeping a child home means missing work or losing pay. However, if he or she has a serious illness such as influenza, it's important for the child to stay home from school. By taking this step, parents can help their children get better faster as well as prevent the spread of illness to others. Following are some frequently-asked questions and answers to aid parents in decision making this flu season.

**Q: Should I keep my child home from school if he or she has cold or flu symptoms? Is your advice different for cold versus the flu?**

**A: If your child has flu symptoms, you should keep him or her home from school. If your child has a cold, the decision to keep him or her home may depend on the severity of symptoms.** A good rule of thumb is to keep your child home if he or she has a fever of 100 degrees or higher.

**It's also important to know the difference between cold and flu.** Flu is a serious illness, and children who have the flu should always stay home from school. Flu symptoms include fever, along with chills, cough, sore throat, headache or muscle aches. Many people describe it "like being hit by a truck." It is a good idea to contact the child's doctor if he or she has these symptoms. Symptoms of a common cold include stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat and hacking cough. Often, cold symptoms come on gradually. Although the common cold is usually not serious, if the symptoms are severe, it's a good idea to keep your child home to rest and get better.

**Q: If my child does have the flu or a bad cold, how long should I keep him or her home from school?**

**A: Parents should keep their sick children home from school until they have been without fever (temperature under 100 degrees) for 24 hours, to prevent spreading illness to others.** Flu is spread from person to person through coughing and sneezing. Occasionally, people can get the flu from touching a germ-infested surface. Children are one of the biggest sources of flu spread.

**Q: Should I call the doctor if I think my child has the flu?**

**A: If a child experiences flu symptoms, parents should contact their child's doctor quickly.** Some children may benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a doctor and can help lessen the number of days that a child is sick with the virus. To be effective, antiviral medication should be taken within 12-48 hours after flu symptoms begin.

**Q: What should I do to help prevent the rest of the household from getting sick?**

**A: Teach and practice healthy habits.** Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds to help prevent germs from spreading. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, because the virus can spread when your hands touch surfaces that are infested with germs. Also, **consider contacting your doctor** if someone in your household gets the flu. A doctor can prescribe antiviral medication that can actually prevent other members of the household from catching the virus.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE INFLUENZA VIRUS, VISIT [WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU)

