

# WACO

## PARENT LETTER

10 September 2009 — Volume 41, Number 2

*"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>

### WACO Orchestra News:

Wow! Can we grow any bigger? The WACO Orchestra program has over 90 students enrolled this fall (up from approximately 80 last year)!! This is another record! About 50 students are participating at the Junior/Senior High with over 40 signed up at the elementary (including beginners who will be starting lessons soon). The orchestra students will be performing at various concerts throughout the year, as well as the Southeast Iowa String Festival at Iowa Wesleyan College in January. If your child is using a school instrument, please remember to pay \$10.00 rent to the school office by October 1st. If you have any violins, violas or cellos around your house that you would be willing to donate to the school or let a student use, please contact me! Thanks!

*Denise Freyenberger, WACO Orchestra Instructor*

### Athletic Booster News

WACO Pocket Calendars are sold again this year. They have lots of information in them including athletic events, music & drama events, "no school" days, snow make-up days, ACT test and registration dates, and much more. They are sold at both the indoor and football concession stands for \$2.00 each. They are also available at the high school office.

The Athletic Boosters also has stadium chairs available. These are navy with columbia blue writing. These are \$35.00. Please contact Jeff & Diane Miller. 256-6011 (leave message) if you are interested.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday, Sept. 10

4:30PM: Girls Junior High Volleyball @ Pekin  
5:00PM: Boys Junior High Football @ Danville  
5:30PM: Girls F/S, JV, V Volleyball @ Columbus

### Friday, Sept. 11

7:00PM: Boys Varsity Football - WMU -  
(Elementary Cheer Performance)

### Saturday, Sept. 12

ACT Test Date  
TBA: Pre All-State Rehearsal @ Muscatine  
9:00AM: Girls F/S Volleyball @ New London  
9:00AM: Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Grinnell

### Monday, Sept. 14

5:00PM: Girls F/S Volleyball - WACO F/S Tourn  
6:30PM: Boys F/S Football VS. Winfield-Mt Union

### Tuesday, Sept. 15

5:30PM: Girls F/S, JV, V Volleyball @  
Iowa Mennonite

### Wednesday, Sept. 16

1:40PM: School Event Early Dismissal

### Thursday, Sept. 17

4:30PM: Girls Junior High Volleyball VS. Cardinal  
5:00PM: Boys/Girls Varsity Cross Country @  
Ft. Madison  
5:00PM: Boys Junior High Football VS. Cardinal  
5:30PM: Girls F/S, JV, V Volleyball VS.  
Winfield-Mt Union

### Friday, Sept. 18

ACT Registration Deadline  
7:00PM: Boys Varsity Football @ North Mahaska

***Let the Athletic Boosters do the cooking this Friday at the football game and join us at the concession stand. This Friday's (Sept. 11) featured sandwich is: smoked pork loin sandwich.***



**WACO Elementary's Project Wisdom theme for the week of 9/14-18 is: "Choices: Doing the Right Thing."**

**Don't Throw Away, Recycle**

For the second consecutive year, Mr. Kaufman's Environmental Science class is handling most recyclables at WACO High School. Every other Friday, these diligent young adults are spending 5th period visiting each classroom in the high school and middle school,

picking up boxes of discarded homework assignments, newspapers, magazines, old text, etc.

After hauling these containers to the science room, all materials are sorted expertly by students into white paper, colored paper, newspapers, and books and magazines. This is a little more complicated than it sounds. Mr. Kaufman explains, "Often there are stapled pages of 2 or 3 types. Students must be able to differentiate the categories, and decide if 1 little corner of colored print makes it qualify for the 'colored' box". Materials to be recycled must be placed in appropriate bins (built by Mr. Dugger's students) on the south side of school property, where they are picked up by The Recycling Company. Students receive a classroom project grade for this activity, which will count as much as a typical exam.

But the most important part of this experience is knowing you made planet earth a little better than it would have been. Since the average haul is about 48 kilograms—a little over 100lbs-this reduces materials going to the landfills, and of course saves a few trees. This ties in with the curriculum under conservation of natural resources. The Recycling Company is an organization run by a local family with a high interest in environmental quality—Mr. Charlie Gibbs is more interested in the life lesson it gives his children than realizing financial gain. This is a rare commodity today. Mr. Kaufman hopes this lesson is one that Waco students will take to heart, as recycling nationwide is much poorer than it was 10 or even 20 years ago. "People are just too lazy, or perhaps unaware of the amount of water and energy conserved by recycling instead of manufacturing. It takes a bunch of both to turn a tree to paper, or oil to plastic, and recycled metals means less mining. Less mining means less pollution, cleaner air and water. I grew up in coal mining country, and it is nasty business."

**Measure of Academic Progress: MAP Testing**

From September 14 through October 2, students in grades 2-8 and some high school students will be taking tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). These tests will be used by the teachers to determine students' instructional levels and to measure growth throughout the school year and from year to year in the areas of language, reading, math and science.

MAP tests are unique in that they are administered on the computer and they adapt to be appropriate for each student's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every student's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and

teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, download the Parent Toolkit at <http://www.nwea.org/support/article/930>.

*Tina Whalen,  
Curriculum  
Coordinator*

**WACO  
PARENTLETTER**

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,*