

News From Longcoy School

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Kent, OH 44240

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Janice Swan, Principal

September 10, 2009

Absence Line 6

Darlene Baird, Secretary

Longcoy School Vision Statement

"All Longcoy students will learn...whatever it takes."

Dear Longcoy Parents and Students,

Greetings from Longcoy! Welcome back to a new school year! It has been great seeing familiar faces again and seeing the teachers and students working together to build new relationships. Our students are settling into new grades with new teachers and everything is going smoothly!

There is lots of good news to report beginning first with the wonderful news that Longcoy School received an **Excellent Rating** on the state report card from the Ohio Department of Education. We met 10 out of 10 indicators and we showed "above expected growth" on our Value-Added Measure which is data that analyzes how much growth individual students are making over one school year. This accomplishment is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of our teachers, students, and parents and I thank all of you for your commitment to making academics and learning a priority!

In addition, this year Longcoy School is piloting *Cool Caf*. *Cool Caf* is a vegetable and fruit bar in the cafeteria that introduces students to and provides them with a variety of food choices everyday! Many students seem to be taking advantage of having fresh fruits and vegetables available at lunchtime. Next, in an effort to get to know our families and start off the year just doing something FUN we are hosting a Family Game Night on Thursday, September 24th! For one hour, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., families can bring their favorite board games to the Longcoy gymnasium to play games and socialize with friends and family. Many Longcoy teachers will be here that evening. We hope that one of the outcomes of the evening will be that families will start setting aside one night a week to have Family Game Night. Less T.V. time and more family interaction time is the goal!

Last, our wonderful parent organization, L.S.A., is off to a great start and recently held its first meeting on September 3rd. L.S.A. is asking parents to make a commitment to helping our school by filling out a 2-Hour Pledge Sheet. I hope that every family will make this commitment and that you will get involved! L.S.A. organizes MANY fun-filled activities over the course of the year and they raise money to provide our teachers and students with resources that facilitate learning. We are fortunate to have such an active and productive parent organization!

In closing, I stress the need for students to be establishing consistent routines at home such as doing homework, reading nightly, going to bed on time, and having a good breakfast before coming to school. Parents, please be SURE to check those book bags daily as this is how important information is sent home. Thank you for your support of the teaching and learning process at Longcoy School!

Remember: Students + Parents + Teachers = SUCCESS!

Kindest regards,

Janice Swan, Principal

Newsletters by Email

Beginning in October we will be emailing our Parent Newsletter to those families who provided email addresses on their child's paperwork. The Newsletter will also be posted on our website www.kentschools.net/longcoy/. This is yet another way we are helping teach our Longcoy students about saving our environment by cutting back on the amount of paper we use! The Newsletter will still be available by hardcopy for those who do not have email available.

Benny Cowgill Classic

Benny was an outstanding young man who displayed great courage during difficult times. He was a Kent Roosevelt student-athlete who continually worked hard to achieve success.

During Benny's fight against bone cancer many people became aware of this tremendous determination. Benny was the kicker on Roosevelt's football team and would not allow his illness to inhibit his desire to participate. His right arm was amputated and he underwent intense chemotherapy and radiation treatments and yet, he did not miss a football game. He never made excuses, and he never asked for special consideration. This outstanding young man maintained a B+ academic average during this entire ordeal. His fellow players, classmates, coaches, and teachers were so impressed with Benny's remarkable courage that his football jersey #11 was retired. This is the first time a jersey has been retired in the history of Kent's football program. It helps serve as a reminder of the courage and determination displayed by Benny Cowgill.

When Benny passed in January of 1996, it was decided that his example must serve to motivate others. In addition to retiring #11, the Board of Education asked that Kent Roosevelt have one football game each year to honor Benny Cowgill. RHS asked the elementary schools to choose students from each of their fifth grade classes who displayed some of the same positive characteristics possessed by Benny Cowgill. Students selected to receive the award will be notified by mail by RHS' athletic department. Each student chosen to represent Longcoy Elementary School at the Benny Cowgill Classic will be given a #11 jersey by Roosevelt High School to be worn at the "Benny Cowgill Classic" football game on Friday, October 2nd vs. South East.

Longcoy School Association

Recently parents received the Longcoy School Association (LSA) Welcome Letter. Attached to the Welcome Letter was a 2 Hour Power Pledge Sheet. Please take a moment to fill out and return the form to the office. LSA and Longcoy staff rely on the generosity of parent volunteers for many school activities.

Our LSA officers would like to invite all Longcoy parents, staff, and family representatives to attend the next LSA meeting on Tuesday, October 6th, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Longcoy library and will last approximately one hour.

Arrival And Dismissal Of Students

We ask for your help and cooperation with our students' arrival time at school. Students who are eating breakfast at school may enter the building at 8:20 a.m. All other students may enter the building at 8:30 a.m. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:20 a.m. because there is no supervision before that time. This is a safety concern. Thank you for your help with this.

Students who wish to ride a bicycle to school must be in grades 4 and 5. Bicycle racks are available and

locks for the bicycles are highly recommended. Students are to use bicycle helmets for safety purposes. Please stress bicycle safety with your child. Students are not permitted to ride scooters of any kind to school.

The office must be notified of ANY CHANGE IN A CHILD'S REGULAR TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS HOME. If an emergency arises where transportation by car was not anticipated in advance, the parent must report directly to the office. The child will be called from the classroom at that time. At no time should a parent report directly to the classroom and attempt to have the child released without following the above guidelines. Although these guidelines are rather rigid, they are implemented to insure the safety of your child and to insure that he/she is released only to authorized individuals. *Oral requests by students to ride a different bus, walk to a friend's house, get off at a different stop, etc. will not be honored without parent/guardian confirmation in writing.*

Adults picking up students after school are asked to arrive between 3:10-3:15 p.m. and wait in the foyer area. Please help us reinforce our "silent hall" rule by leading by example while waiting for your child. Once you have picked up your child, we ask that you exit the area, or move toward the outer perimeter of the area so that our bus riders can quickly and safely exit the building as they are dismissed.

Emergency Medical Forms

Please return the Emergency Medical form as soon as possible. This information is very important for not only emergencies, but unforeseen circumstances (i.e. when a student misses the bus). Please call us or send in any changes to the information on the forms including: contacts, doctors, and telephone/cell numbers.

Longcoy's Title I End of Year Performance Data **2008 - 2009 School Year**

We are delighted to have Title I services again this year at Longcoy School. Title I is a federally funded program, which provides additional reading and math support to many of our students. At the end of each school year, we are required to submit a performance report. The information has been compiled from Longcoy's 2008-2009 report:

Last year the Title I program served 90 students in the areas of reading and writing and 43 students in the area of math. Small group instruction took place on a daily basis. Reading Recovery was offered to first grade students along with the continuation of our EDK (extended day kindergarten) program.

The data we collected last spring was based on the following criteria:

- Competency on SBA (student based assessments) and OAT (Ohio Achievement Test) testing
- Report card grades equivalent to a C or better
- Promotion to the next grade

In the areas of Reading and Writing, the passage rates obtained were:

Kindergarten – 78%, Grade 1 – 73%, Grade 2 – 67%, Grade 3 – 67%, Grade 4 – 9% and Grade 5 – 43%.

In the area of math, the passage rates were:

Kindergarten – 87%, Grade 4 – 27% and Grade 5 – 56%.

As our school year is getting underway, we look forward to once again helping many of our Longcoy students. Should your child need additional support, you will be notified of any services available.

Asbestos Information

In accordance with EPA regulations, the Kent City School District maintains information on asbestos – containing materials in the main office of each building. If you wish to review the information, please contact the principal.

Character Education In Kent City Schools

The Kent Community has identified character education as an essential component of their Strategic Plan for Kent City Schools. The Board of Education adopted this plan, and embraced the concept of character education as a critical part of the public education of our youth. A diverse community-based committee developed and defined character traits believed to be commonly held by the community and significant to include in our school curriculum. Strategies for integrating these traits have been designed by a school-based committee.

The character traits will be prominent in the schools and community throughout the school year. A monthly character trait will be described in newsletters during the early part of each month. We hope families will reinforce these concepts at home as well.

The character trait for September is “**WORK ETHIC/RESPONSIBILITY.**” We hope this trait helps everyone begin the school year successfully. The definition and goals are:

The student will:

- Attend to task
- Demonstrate persistence
- Show best effort
- Be able to carry out a duty and be trustworthy
- Exercise sound thinking and good judgment
- Know they are responsible for their actions

Related words include: persistent, accountable, effort, dependable.

Practical applications to encourage are:

- Completes homework
- Completes work around the home without prompting
- Takes initiative in being helpful
- Takes care of property
- Is accountable to family and friends
- Takes responsibility for own actions

Thank you for your interest and cooperation as we continue with this effort. Best wishes to you and your family as you participate in this valuable and rewarding endeavor.

ParentBroadcast System

This system is used to disperse vital school information directly to the homes of our students. This information may be related to weather, school functions, or school closings.

Please note the importance of keeping in contact with the school regarding a change in your family’s primary phone number. Additional phone numbers may be added to this system by calling the **ParentBroadcast Family Hotline at 1-800-510-5805** and simply following the telephone prompts.

Student Conduct Code

The Board of Education has adopted a Student Conduct Code. Copies of the code have been posted in appropriate locations in each school building and are available to parents on request. Students in grades K through 12 receive a copy of the code as part of the student handbook. Please take some time to review the Conduct Code with your children. Thank you!

Student Grievance Procedure

Forms are available in the principal’s office of each building outlining student grievance procedures. Any student wishing to file a grievance may obtain the procedures and forms from the office.

Standards Based Assessments

Standards Based Assessments (SBAs) are given throughout the school year to all students in reading, writing and math. These assessments, which are required by the State Department of Education, are one way that your child's progress is monitored in these subject areas.

Progress will be reported to you in reading, writing and math through interim reports, report cards and conferences. At the end of the school year, a language arts folder will be sent home indicating your child's competency in reading and writing. The folder will contain some work samples and the required writing competency tests given throughout this school year.

If you have questions about our SBA program, please call the office at (330) 676-8350.

Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act

Under the Family Rights and Privacy Act, parents and adult students should be aware of the following:

1. Upon written request to the building principal, parents and adult students have the right to inspect and review the student's school records.
2. Parents and adult students have the right to challenge the contents of a student's school record.
3. Disclosure of information contained in a student's school record is limited to directory information, which includes pupil's name, address, telephone number, place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weights and heights of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, date of graduation, and awards received. A parent or adult student who does not want such directory information to be released may notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing within seven days of the first school newsletter, and the request will be honored.
4. Parents and adult students have the right to report violations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act to the Department of Education.

Identification Of The Gifted

The State Board of Education requires school districts to identify children in kindergarten through grade twelve who may be gifted as defined by the rules of the State Board of Education. In order to meet this requirement and other state testing requirements, students will be given the appropriate tests during the school year such as the Metropolitan Achievement Test, the Otis-Lennon Ability Test or other tests as needed. Please be aware your child may be involved in the testing procedures as described above. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office.

Guidelines Regarding Student Medication

Only **prescribed** medication can be administered to students. (School personnel are not permitted to dispense non-prescription medication of any kind.) If a child must take medication at school, a **STUDENT MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION** form must be completed by the parent and signed by the physician. In addition, all medication must be kept in the clinic in the original pharmaceutical container. (Any changes in medication during the school year must be accompanied with a new authorization form, which should include the following information.)

- NAME OF MEDICATION
- DOSAGE
- TIME
- SIGNATURE OF YOUR PHYSICIAN

For the safety of all children, students are not permitted to keep aspirin or other medication in desks, lunchboxes, etc.

Attached for your convenience is a **STUDENT MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION** form. Parents may want to detach this form and keep it in a place of access, should your child be in need of medication at school during the school year.

Directory Information

All records, which concern students in the Kent Public Schools, are kept confidential in accordance with the Family Rights and Privacy Act. Exceptions to the above consist of so-called directory information, which includes pupil's name, address, telephone number, place of birth, major field of study, weights and heights of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, date of graduation, and awards received.

A parent or adult student who does not want such directory information to be released may notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing with the next seven days from the beginning of class and this request will be honored.

Student School Records

Parents in Kent may inspect and review official student records and related information upon request to the principal of the building to which students are assigned. An appointment for the review of the records will be made at a mutually convenient time as soon as possible.

Important Dates

09/08-14	Kindergarten Screening
9/14	5:30 p.m. – Market Day Pick Up
9/15	7:00 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting at Board Office
9/21-9/25	LSA Fall Book Fair
9/22	6:15 p.m. Join Scouts Night
9/24	7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Family Game Night
9/21-10/01	Kindergarten DIBELS Testing
9/25	Band / Orchestra Lessons begin Gr. 5
10/01	Picture Day
10/06	State Achievement Reading Test – Grade 3-Please do not schedule appointments! 7:00 p.m. – Longcoy School Association Meeting
10/12	5:30 p.m. – Market Day Pick Up
10/15	1:00 p.m. – Early Release Day – Students dismissed at 1:00 p.m. (no PM Kdg)
10/16	NEOEA Day – No School
10/19-30	SBA Writing #1 – Gr. 1-5; Rigby Benchmark Assessment #1- Gr. 1-3
10/20	7:00 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting at Davey Elementary School
10/30	2:15 p.m. – Harvest Parties End of 1 st Grading Period