

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

It's August already! My, the time is flying by so quickly. Soon, those bells will be tolling for the students and staff as we prepare for the start of the 2005-2006 school year. Hopefully, I can speak for all when I say that I am looking forward to the beginning of the new school year.

Some of you may be new to our community, having moved here recently. If you have school-age children in your home, we respectfully request that you contact the appropriate school office in your area and schedule a time to enroll/schedule your child(ren) prior to August 19th. You will need to take a copy of your child's birth certificate and shot record with you when you enroll them. If you have any questions, please contact the building principal appropriate to your location.

All parents will want to mark their calendars for the Open House or Back-to-School Night in your community. It's a great opportunity for parents and their children to become familiar with their child's environment as the start of the new school year begins. The schedule for the Open House or Back-to-School Nights for our schools is as follows:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH

- North Adams Elementary (5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND

- North Adams High School (5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
- Peebles Elementary (4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
- Peebles High School (3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)
- Ohio Valley Career & Technical Center (5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.)
- West Union Elementary (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)
- West Union High School (5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)

Each of the building principals will be putting out more information relative to their building's Open House as the time approaches. Certainly, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the building where your child attends.

New staff hires for the 2005-2006 school year thus far include the following:

- North Adams Elementary – Tiffany Allen and Cara Vogler (special needs preschool teachers), Karl Boerger (3rd grade)
- Peebles High School – David Vogler (math), Casey Reed (language arts), Rebecca Cox (vo. ag.), Bryani Long (language arts), Aaron Berridge (science), Eric Meredith (principal)
- West Union High School – Molly Tinker (language arts), Tammy Nevil (science), Troy Grooms (guidance counselor), Jennifer Kingsley (special needs teacher), Barbara Crothers (guidance counselor, half-time with W.U. Elem.), Sara Reising (math)
- Ohio Valley CTC – Larry Flinders, Jr. (auto tech)

- West Union Elementary – Sherry Griffith, Roselee Ackerman, and Chris Hadjiyannis (special needs teachers), Debbie Calvert (2nd grade, half-time)
- Peebles Elementary – Joyce Rideout (special needs aide), Tom Reed (6th grade), Jennifer Swayne (special needs teacher)
- North Adams High School – Chris Reed (special needs teacher)
- Administration Office – Joe Wills (personnel), Dee Ann Davis (curriculum)

Applications for free & reduced lunches will be distributed to students on August 23rd (first day of school). As parents, please keep in mind that our universal application allows you to put the information for all of your children on one form. This simplifies the process for all persons involved. Therefore, do not fill out a separate application for each of your children. We ask that you return those forms to the school office by now later than August 30th. Your child will begin the 2005-2006 school year on the same lunch status as they ended the 2004-2005 school year. However, you are encouraged to make sure that all necessary forms have been completed and returned to the school by Monday, August 29th, if not sooner. All forms need to be completely filled out and returned as a group to your child's teacher. Please be sure to sign all forms before returning them to the school.

I would urge you to take a few minutes to sit down and go over the student handbook or agenda book with your child(ren). Also, parents of student athletes in grades 7-12 would want to be certain to review the district guidelines in this area. If you have a questions, or

need further information, contact your high school principal. It is always better to be informed from the start versus after the fact.

I would encourage you to pay particular attention to the expectations and guidelines for student dress. These are printed in the student handbook/agenda book. It would be my expectation that these guidelines be followed closely by students and parents and enforced by the building administration without exception. There is a time and a place for everything. What I might wear to the Great American Ballpark or Kings Island or the beach is not necessarily what would be appropriate to wear at school. As long as the guidelines are followed, then I cannot foresee any problem. No student or parent need be wealthy in order to be in compliance with our dress guidelines. It is really very simple and basic.

Parents of students who will be enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) for grades 1-8, or parents of students in grades 9-12 who plan to enroll in the American School, should contact Richard Shoemaker, Director of Alternative Education Programs for the AC/OVSD. Mr. Shoemaker may be reached at 937-544-4431 at various times between August 1st and August 23rd, when classes officially resume. You may schedule your appointment with Mr. Shoemaker if you are interested in either of these educational options.

So, as the days begin to dwindle down closer to August 23rd, I hope that these “dawg days” will be enjoyable ones for you as we all look forward to that first day of school.

Furthermore, I hope that we will all work together to make the 2005-2006 school year the most productive and enjoyable of all.

Looking forward to my next article, I will be dwelling on the data in our 2005 Local Report Card, which has recently been released by the Ohio Department of Education.

CORRECTION.....

In previous articles, I have reported to you that if you wish to make a donation to P.A.S.S., in support of promoting a future bond levy, this would be tax deductible. The goal of PASS is to raise approximately \$20,000.00 to pay for the costs involved in promoting the bond levy for new elementary buildings. Since sharing the information about tax deductible gifts or contributions with you, we have learned that the cost involved in filing this particular form would be excessive for the amount of money that PASS is hoping to raise. Therefore, your donations to this cause will NOT be tax deductible, as I had previously reported. My apologies to everyone for any confusion that this may have caused. PASS will continue to gratefully accept your generous donations to this cause. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent