



# Wendler Ram Page

Principal: Brendan Wilson  
Assistant Principal: Robyn Harris



## Notes from the Principal



September 2010  
Volume 1, Issue 2

WENDLER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2905 LAKE OTIS PARKWAY  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508  
(907) 742-7300

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE	566-8383
SECRETARY	742-7300
ADMIN ASST	742-7311
REGISTRAR	742-7304
FDCC (fines & fees)	742-7316
NURSE	742-7322
PRINCIPAL	742-7315
ASST PRINCIPAL	742-7309
SPECIAL ED	742-7336
LIBRARY	742-7306
CAFETERIA	742-7305

### Upcoming Event

- ◆ 8/19 Cross Country Team 3-4:30 in the gym
- ◆ 8/27 Pancake/Egg breakfast student/parents and staff
- ◆ 8/27 Wacky Olympics
- ◆ 8/30 Girls Flag Football
- ◆ Back to School Night: 9/2 at 6:30pm
- ◆ 9/14 ASAP starts
- ◆ Pictures 9/20
- ◆ 9/23 Back to school dance 3-4:30
- ◆ 10/22 first Lock-In

*"We all have choices,  
we all have hopes and dreams;  
To achieve either,  
you have to have ambition."*

- Kyle Stoddard

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back to school! As you know, our school has been working hard to improve the success of all our students in every subject. Every school in the Anchorage School District has been working on this same goal. We are working to educate all students for success in life. Our mission is that our students can read with comprehension, write with skill, and compute and problem-solve with accuracy, and we are working to achieve this mission with every single student.

The federal law called *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) states that all students must meet *grade level expectations* in reading, writing, and math by the school year 2013 – 2014. In Alaska, this learning is measured each spring when all students in grades 3-10 take the *Standards Based Assessments* (SBAs). On these tests, most students are showing their *proficiency*. When compared to other schools across the country, our district consistently scores above national averages.

When a school is meeting the goals of student learning set by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, that school has made *adequate yearly progress* or AYP. All state identified sub-groups of students within a school must meet the targeted goals and at least 95% of students must have taken the SBAs. Also taken into account is daily attendance and high schools must meet graduation rates. If a school misses meeting a state goal in one or more of the 31 state requirements, then that school did not make AYP.

Our school has not made AYP. Therefore, we have been told we are in Level 5 (third year) status. Of the 31 measures required to meet AYP, Wendler Middle School did not meet the following targets: Language Arts for Multi-Ethnic, Low Income, and students with Limited English Proficiency and Math for Hispanic, Low Income, and students with Limited English Proficiency.

Every year, parents and staff work together to set and achieve school goals. As we continue to work to improve learning for all our students, we will be creating a school improvement plan. This plan will address areas of need in our school, focusing on why we did not make AYP. I would like to invite you to work with us in developing this plan. Please contact the school's office if you are interested in working with us. A copy of our finalized plan will be made available to all parents as soon as it is finished.

One personal goal I have for Wendler this year is to increase the presence of parents in the school. I am excited about the energy I am seeing from our new PTSA board and I invite you to join. You can hear more about our PTSA and meet your child's teachers at our Open House on Thursday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m.

The school staff and I look forward to continuing our partnership with parents and the community in offering the best possible education for all our students. We welcome your comments and questions. Please feel free to call me at 742-7315.

Sincerely,  
Brendan Wilson  
Principal, Wendler Middle School



## Notes from the Assistant Principal

“There is a brilliant  
child locked inside  
every student.”  
-- Marva Collins

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! As assistant principal of Wendler Middle School, I want to take this opportunity to tell you about all the exciting things that we have planned for your child and your family.

Cross Country Running has already begun for the year. Our first practice was held on August 19<sup>th</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Flag Football for girls and Soccer for all begins Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is considered an intramural sport and is at no cost. Just a participation form and physical are needed to participate. Generally practices run Monday-Thursday from 3:00-4:30 PM.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> is our Back to School Night. Please join us and meet your student's teachers at 6:30 PM that Thursday evening.

September 14<sup>th</sup> is the start of our ASAP program. Check your students progress report; if you feel they would benefit, sign your student up to stay after school on Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM each evening (no transportation is provided).

September 23<sup>rd</sup> is our first dance, the Back to School Dance is from 3:00-4:30. Tickets will go on the week of the dance @ \$5.00 a person or \$6.00 for a picture.

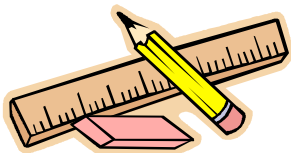
October 18<sup>th</sup> practice begins for Volleyball. This is an interscholastic sport, which includes travel. A participation form and physical form is required along with the ASD fee of \$85.00.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> is our very first lock-in of the year. Our lock-in's are held as a type of fundraiser for school necessities (equipment, uniforms, etc). The cost for this lock-in is \$20.00. This price includes two (2) slices of pizza, three (3) refills of soda, and one (1) trip to the popcorn machine PLUS A WHOLE LOT OF FUN! We will also have other food items for sale for a small price.

The lock-in will include a choice of one or more of the following: dance (a short one for all students) a 3-on-3-basketball tournament, a movie, a Wii tournament, and a cooking or art class. In order to attend the lock-in, students must not receive an In-School or Out-of-School Suspension within the first quarter.

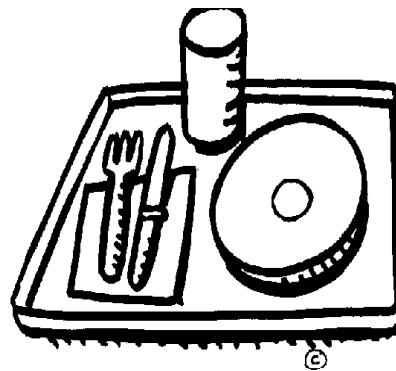
**Please look for the Student Handbook. All students have received one and have read all sections.**

Despite budget challenges, we are ready for an academically focused school year. Our staff will work hard to provide your child the best education possible. I hope you will partner with the school faculty to help minimize any anxiety students may feel as the year progresses. If you have any concerns or questions, I am available to address them. Please contact me at 907-742-7309.



*I hear, and  
I forget.  
I see, and I  
remember.  
I do, and I  
understand*

*-- Chinese Proverb*



## **Cafeteria News**

**Middle School Breakfast \$1.80 - includes milk**

**Middle School Lunch \$3.55 - includes milk**

**Milk only \$0.50**

At Wendler Middle School, we have a computer system where each student has a personal meal "account." Money may be deposited into the account in advance. You may pay into this account with cash or check, and the student may only purchase breakfast or lunch items on this account (including bottled water and juice). During lunch, students enter their student ID number on the pin pad, which is located at the cafeteria counter. The purchases are deducted from the students account. The cashier will let the student know the balance of the account at the time of purchase.

Families in financial need may fill out a one page confidential Free & Reduced Lunch Application. Forms are available at Registration and in the front office. *A new form must be completed each year regardless of attendance at previous schools.*



## **Physical Education student's daily requirements:**

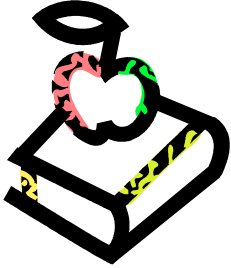
Wendler PE students are required to wear a **green Wendler T Shirt** for \$10.00 and black shorts or sweats for \$15.00. These will be available at registration and from the PE Dept. at the beginning of class during the first two weeks of school. Athletic shoes with laces and good support that will not mark gym floor-separate from ALL DAY shoes are also required.

# ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION

## Notification of an absence/Admit Slip

- Call attendance line the day of absence **566-8383** (24-hour line)
- If ***no call was made***, send a note to the office with your student upon their return. They will be given an Admit Slip to be signed by all of their teachers that day.

## Morning Tardies/Admit Slip



- It is the responsibility of the child and family to get their student to school on time. The first bell rings at 8:10 and the tardy bell rings at 8:15.
- If your student is tardy, send them directly to the office for an admit slip. Please phone in, provide a signed note or walk in with your student to excuse their tardy. ***Late students are never to report directly to class without an admit slip.***
- Excessive tardies, may result in detentions and/or in-school suspension.

## Pre-Acknowledged Absences

- If you plan to be away for 3 or more days, fill out a Pre-Acknowledged Absence form found in the main office.
- Your student will then secure signatures from each of their teachers.
- Completed form must be turned into the office for a principal signature at least 3 days before the absence begins.

*“Obstacles are those  
frightening things  
you see when you  
take your eyes off  
your goal”*

*- Henry Ford*

## Blue Pass (official pass to leave school during the school day)

- Send a note with your student detailing time and reason for blue pass. Have them drop the note off in the office before school.
- You may also phone in to have your student ready for you.
- Please avoid making last minute appointments. ***Plan to give the office at least 30 minutes notice before pickup time.***
- Students leaving school without a Blue Pass are considered truant.

## Automated Attendance Notification System

- Calls and/or e-mails will be sent daily from ASD Data Processing Center, for students showing one or more absences during that day.
- If a call is received in error, please notify the attendance office immediately on the 24-hour message line: 566-8383

### RAM CAMP THANK YOU'S!

Wendler would like to thank our business partners who helped make our **RAM CAMP** a rousing success! Many thanks go to:

- ❖ NECA-IBEW
- ❖ Denali Federal Credit Union
- ❖ USKH



# Important Information Your Wendler Student Should Know...



## Handbooks

The Student Handbook and the Rights & Responsibilities Handbook will be sent home with your child during the first week of school. Please take the time to sit down with your child and read them together. These booklets provide valuable information and procedures regarding student decorum.

## Lockers and Backpacks (see handbook)

Students will have lockers. Students will also be given a list of locker rules. These rules will help keep our school and students safe. If students do not adhere to our locker use guidelines, they may lose their privileges. We will not change lockers for students unless the student's schedule changes him/her to another academic team. Lockers are located by the team pods. Backpacks must stay in student lockers. Students may not carry backpacks to their classes. **NO STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO USE A LOCKER NOT ASSIGNED TO THEM BY THE OFFICE!**

## Buses (see handbook)

All school rules apply on the buses. Students may only ride their own buses. If a student wishes to ride another bus for a particular day, the parent must write a note to that effect and bring it to the office in the morning or at lunch. The student will then receive a bus pass. The driver will not permit a student to board his/her bus unless the student has the official bus permit pass from the office. ***If you do not understand the bus pass procedure, please call 742-7300 for further information.***

Students who disregard the bus rules and/or disrespect the driver will lose their bus privileges. Drivers are encouraged to assign seats. As parents, we want our students to be safe on the bus as well as at school. There are times when a student's behavior causes denial of their bus riding privileges for a period of time or the entire year. Please talk to your children about appropriate bus behavior and following bus rules.

## Appropriate Dress for School (see handbook)

School is preparation for whatever job a student eventually has. School is where every student goes to "work" each day. Every work place has specific dress requirements. These dress requirements are similar to minimums required for most work places. Even though you may feel it isn't fair, what you wear often determines what people think about you.

We take pride in the appearance of our students. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves appropriately, safely, and in a manner not disruptive to the learning environment. Sunglasses, hats/caps, saggy/baggy clothing, hanging belts, chains, pajama pants, exposed undergarments, bandanas, slippers, exposed tattoos, excessive piercing, clothes that are too tight or revealing, shirts with straps less than one inch wide, logos or captions that display or promote prohibited materials are not allowed. Shoes must be laced appropriately. All heavy coats, jackets, outerwear, backpacks, and book bags are to be placed in your locker during the school day. Students with health concerns which may require one of these items during the day must see an administrator or the school nurse.

Clothing that is unsafe or may contain or hide unsafe items is inappropriate. This includes clothing that is too large, baggy, or bulky. Examples include oversize jeans; oversize shirts; jackets, quilted vests, oversize windbreakers, etc., or backpacks, bags or purses. Pants that are too big to stay up above the hipbones without a belt are too baggy for school. Overalls need to have straps hooked correctly. Students may wear a fitted sweatshirt or fitted sweater to help stay warm during colder weather. In fact, it is a good idea to keep one in your locker.

## Jackets/Coats

Students may not wear outdoor jackets/coats to classes, unless traveling outside to a relocatable classroom. These items must stay in their lockers. This too, is a safety issue. Keeping a sweater or sweatshirt in the locker will offer a student a better choice if he/she gets cold.

## Cell Phones/Personal Electronics

Wendler Middle School is a **personal electronic-free zone**. Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2:45 p.m., there are to be no personal electronics visible in the building. If a personal electronic device/cell phone is seen at school between these hours (in use or not), it may be turned in to the main office. First offense; student may pick up item at end of day. Second offense; parent must pick up the item. Further offences may result in the loss of the right to carry electronics to school.

## Lost Items

If a student loses an item, he/she should check the lost and found bins in the MPR. Smaller items may be found in the office. If a theft occurs, the student needs to complete a theft report form in the main office immediately and see security. Please do not allow students to bring valuables to school.

## Peer Pressure

Talk to your child regularly about peer pressure, your family rules, and your values. Parents can help their children choose friends wisely and thus minimize the impact of negative peer pressure. If you have a concern, call your student's counselor, teachers, security or an administrator.

## I.D. Cards/School Pictures

I.D. Cards will be used throughout the entire school year. I.D. Cards will be used for checking out library books, lunch purchases and access to school computers.

School pictures will be taken September 20. Photos of sports teams will be taken throughout the school year, during team practice time.



## **NOTICE TO PARENTS:**

In order to comply with FERPA rules, we must notify parents of the district's procedures related to records transfer. As part of this notification, we are changing the language in the student handbook to read as follows:

*"No Child Left Behind requires all school districts to transfer information related to student suspensions and expulsions in addition to academic records when students transfer to any public or private elementary, middle, or high school. When transferring their students, parents do have the right to request a copy of the information that was disclosed to the new school."*

# WENDLER SPORTS



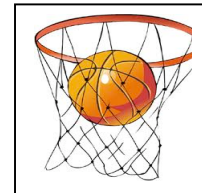
We encourage students to get involved in the many activities to be offered this year. The sports activities program will include both intramural and interscholastic sports. Practices will take place at the school for all sports. Intramural Sports are held at Wendler with Wendler students competing against other Wendler students. There is NO COST for Intramural sports. Interscholastic sports will be competitive between schools. Participants in the competitive sports (interscholastic) must pay an **\$85.00** fee, per sport to help pay for the cost of buses and coaches. Waivers are available for those who are unable to pay the fee. A family cap will be implemented once the students in a family have paid \$335 to participate in any combination of middle and high school activities. **Students can only register for a sport two weeks before the sport begins.** Physicals and Participation forms are required for both the intramural and interscholastic activities and must be turned in to the school office prior to the beginning of the selected activity. Participation and physical forms will be available in the main office. A separate participation form must be completed and turned in for *each* activity. Physical forms need only to be turned in at the beginning of the first activity and will remain on file for one year from date of exam.

Practices are held from 3:00–4:30 P.M. More specific information will be given to you by the coaches. Students must be picked up from practices by 4:45. This is a supervision and safety issue. Please plan ahead. During competitive meets, students will go by bus and return by bus. A parent may drive his or her own student to or from a meet. **The parent may not drive any other student. This is district policy. The parent must see the coach personally before taking his or her student home from a meet.**

## 2010/2011 SPORTS WENDLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Interscholastic Sports 2010-2011

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Practice Start Date</b>
<u>Cross Country Running</u>	Monday, August 23, 2010
<u>Volleyball (girls)</u>	Wednesday, October 18, 2010
<u>Cross Country Skiing</u>	Monday, January 3, 2011
<u>Wrestling</u>	Monday, January 3, 2011
<u>Track and Field</u>	Monday, March 28, 2011



More information available on-line at <http://www.asdk12.org/activities/middle/>

### Intramural Sports 2009-2010

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Season Start Date</b>
<u>Girls Basketball</u>	January 19 <sup>th</sup> 2011-February 12 <sup>th</sup> 2011
<u>Boys Basketball</u>	February 25 <sup>th</sup> 2011-March 26 <sup>th</sup> 2011
<u>Weight Training</u>	November 1 <sup>st</sup> - December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2010
<u>Soccer</u>	August 30 <sup>th</sup> - September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2010
<u>Girls Flag Football</u>	August 30 <sup>th</sup> - September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2010

All required paperwork for interscholastic and intramural sports must be on record prior to participation in that sport. Interscholastic sport registration will close on the sixth day of practice. All students must have their paperwork in at that time or they will be unable to participate in that sport. Please see the Middle School Activities flyer for more information on interscholastic sports through the Anchorage School District.

# The Counseling Corner

We are off to a great start to the 2010-2011 school year! We are working hard to get all schedule changes complete. We appreciate all the patience and support from students, parents, and staff.

## **Counselors**

Chris Brehmer: Excelsior and Prospect, [brehmer\\_chris@asdk12.org](mailto:brehmer_chris@asdk12.org)

Kathy Rowe: Summit and Regal, [rowe\\_kathy@asdk12.org](mailto:rowe_kathy@asdk12.org)

Dan Rufner: Bravo and Steller, [rufner\\_daniel@asdk12.org](mailto:rufner_daniel@asdk12.org)

Counselors are here to support your child throughout the school day. We invite you to come introduce yourself so we know how to best assist your student. If your child is struggling with issues at school or at home please encourage your students to visit with their counselor so we can provide assistance.

## **Student Success:**

As a parent there are numerous things you can do to assist your challenge in academic success. Four key areas you should be involved in include:

- **Check your student's planner** each day. Students should use planners to keep track of what was done in each class and when is it due. If planners are not complete you can also check the Wendler web page at

<http://www.asdk12.org/schools/wendler/pages/> to check teams' web pages.

- Have students complete a **Weekly Academic Update** every Monday. These are a great way to keep track of student's progress in all classes.

- Help your student **organize their binder**. Paperwork should be kept filed by class, homework to be completed and turned in up front, and old paperwork cleared regularly.

- **Communicate with teachers**. If you have questions or concerns please contact teachers directly. Teachers are best reached via email through the Wendler website or by addressing to last name\_first [name@asdk12.org](mailto:name@asdk12.org).

- Regularly use Zangle Parent Connect to monitor progress and assignment completion.

## **Weekly Email Newsletter**

Each week, usually Mondays or Tuesdays, counselors send an email newsletter to all parents for whom we have email addresses. This newsletter provides a quick glimpse of events or projects happening at Wendler, notices from each team, and a brief summary of assignments in each core class. If you would like to receive this newsletter make sure the counselor for your student's counselor has your correct email address.

# Middle School Career Guide

Ladies and Gentlemen / Moms and Dads

The Anchorage School District, through a stimulus grant, has a renewed a commitment in developing career awareness in our middle school students and assisting them in determining the best educational pathways to their future. Opportunities will be provided for students to identify academic strengths and aptitudes, so they may explore potential careers of interest, develop relevant programs of study and expand knowledge of high school and post secondary education, training options, and opportunities.

Our mission, at Wendler, is to create, in students a better sense of their career/education options so they are more motivated by what they are doing in school. .

In doing so Wendler Middle School hopes to increase attendance, lower dropout rates, boost academic course taking and improve self motivation amongst students while at the same time developing a larger career ready work force.

- Expand student knowledge of career clusters and pathways
- Lead students through activities, surveys and assessments that inspire them to identify and explore potential career cluster of interest .
- (EXPLORE Testing: September 5<sup>th</sup> -8th)
- Analyze assessment data with students and family.
- Implement Individual Learning Career Plan for both 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Present high school and postsecondary education/training options.
- Identify and remove barriers to greater learning.
- Develop and maintain a catalogue of resources for parents and students.
- Improve school based learning opportunities that a hands on learning.

If you have any questions in regard to your students Individual Learning & Career Plan (ILCP), please contact:

Steve Augustin  
Wendler Middle School Career Guide  
[augustin\\_steve@asdk12.org](mailto:augustin_steve@asdk12.org)  
ph: 742-7375 or 742-7300

## Social Studies with Salzman on Team Prospect

Welcome one and all to another year of studies here at Wendler!! Just to let parents/guardians know, you should have seen a packet of paperwork that outlines some of the rules and expectations that we Team Teachers have of our students. I do hope that you have had a chance to read things over, signed the sheet with your student, and that your student has returned the paperwork back to one of their Team Teachers.

I also wanted to take a little bit of your time just to let you know what's been going on thus far: students have signed out a textbook that is to **remain at home for homework & help study for quizzes/tests until late April/early May** (or if you leave Wendler prior to the end of school please check it back in before you leave), we have begun a strategy of note taking using the Step-Up to Writing program adopted by the ASD, entered ourselves into the TeenBiz on-line reading program, worked on some U.S. geography maps as a review, and have begun to look at the early explorers who added knowledge of the world with updated maps.

Please help me to help you by keeping a consistent set of rules/expectations as it pertains to homework. By being up front with your student as to these expectations, it is an endeavor to hold them to the standards that you are asking of them. And students at this age may seem like they are trying to push you away; please do not be offended by their actions - it is their way of saying that they need you, your guidance, your wisdom, and your support. The more it seems that they "push you away" is a signal of how much they truly need you.

Parents/Guardians are more than welcome to stop in the classroom anytime. I would caution that you might want to contact me, prior to your intended arrival, to see what day would be the best day to stop by; I would hate to have folks come in on a testing day while students complete a chapter assessment. I would like to stay in contact with parents/guardians as much as possible, but I do know that life throws curveballs at us and our intentions are sometimes relegated to the back seat in order to deal with more time sensitive issues. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I will respond back within 24 hours, unless special circumstances prevent that from happening. You can call the school and leave a message at 742-7300 or you can send an e-mail to [salzman\\_arthur@asdk12.org](mailto:salzman_arthur@asdk12.org). Thanks for your help and support! Together I know we can make this one of the most productive years of learning for your student!! Best wishes to you and your family.



# ¡ VIVA ESPAÑOL !

¡ Bienvenidos a la clase de Español !

Welcome to Spanish 1A and 1B! This year we will be exploring Spanish through writing, listening, reading, and most importantly SPEAKING. The class will be taught primarily in Spanish, as research shows, it is the most effective way to acquire a new language. We will also learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries through research, art, and food activities.

REMEMBER...

Students will need to bring your Spanish workbook, a notebook or section in your binder for Spanish notes, a pencil, and loose lined paper to class EVERY DAY! Please be on time. Students are considered tardy if you are NOT in my room when the bell rings.

I am excited to have you all in my class and am looking forward to a GREAT year!!!

## Title VII Indian Education

**Hello from Title VII Indian Education. Are you, your child, or his/her grandparent an enrolled member of an Alaska Native Group or American Indian Tribe? If so, your child may be able to enroll in Title VII Indian Education Program. Enrollment will increase academic opportunities and cultural enrichment activities available for your Native student. C. J. Lewis is the Title VII Community Counselor and Kim Haller is the Youth Development Tutor. The office is open during lunches for students to come in to eat, visit, to use the computer and work. There are some school supplies for those who need them. Ms Kim will be providing assistance in classrooms as well as tutoring during lunch hours. C.J. Lewis will focus on student's social, academic, and cultural needs, as well as work with students, parent/guardians, teachers, school administration and members of the community.**

**They can be reached at 742-7327. Leave a message or contact them via email at [lewis\\_christopher@asdk12.org](mailto:lewis_christopher@asdk12.org) or [Haller\\_Kim@asdk12.org](mailto:Haller_Kim@asdk12.org).**

# Sound Tracks!

## *SING A JOYFUL NOISE*

Mr. Lindsay (band) and Mrs. Boring (orchestra) would like to welcome Mrs. Melissa Fischer to our music Dept. Mrs. Fisher is a long time Alaskan, raised in Anchorage, and attended Rogers Park Elementary and Wendler Junior High. She is a well-known musician in our city as both a pianist and choir director. Last year she helped jump-start the music program at the newly opened Clark Middle School. We are so happy she has transferred to Wendler to work with and build the choral program here. Please join us in welcoming her to Wendler.

**WELCOME, MRS. FISCHER!**

## *STRINGS SESSION*

Wendler Orchestra classes are off to a grand start. Students were given a supply list of materials they should have for these classes. If you haven't seen this list, parents, please ask your string student to show it to you. Much is the same as last year.. But there are a few new items that are needed now, or in the near future. Concert attire will be discussed with the students in the next few weeks and after decisions are made, that information will be sent home to parents. At this date, the first orchestra evening concert is December 7th...but there is a possible conflict that night... So please put both Dec. 7th and December 8th on your calendar as TENTATIVE concert dates... And I will let you know ASAP which date as soon as it is confirmed. BB

## *Greetings from the Music Department!*

*The Wendler Choirs are in full voice and making great music in Room M01. I am so very pleased to be Wendler's new choir director and I begin this school year with great enthusiasm and excitement. I can already see that there are some OUTSTANDING voices at our school, and look forward to many performance opportunities that will arise during the school year.*

*All choir students need the following supplies everyday:*

- ✓ 1-inch binder
- ✓ sheet protectors
- ✓ pencil
- ✓ a positive attitude and the desire to SING!

*Please stop in and introduce yourself to me, give our choirs a listen and stay tuned for concert dates.*

*Sing on!*

*Mrs. Fischer, Wendler Choir Director*

# PTSA

Hello Wendler,

My name is Ron Kruse and I will be your PTSA President for the 2010-2011 school year. I would like to introduce myself and give you some of my background. I held the office PTA President for 4 years and Secretary for 1 year at Lake Otis Elementary. I have coached BGC girl's soccer for 9 years and I am Precinct 460's Municipal elections chairperson. I would also like to recognize and thank Shelia Harris, Past PTA President and major committee chairperson at Rogers Park Elementary, for stepping forward as our treasurer. A big "hurray" goes out to student teacher Delaina Burrow, past PTA President in the Mat-Su valley, for stepping forward as our VP of membership. I would also like to thank Wendler's **SUPER SPECIAL** choir teacher Melissa Fischer for volunteering to head up the 2010-2011 Reflections Program. If you don't know what the Reflections Program is please visit [www.PTAReflections.org](http://www.PTAReflections.org) for more information. The theme for Reflections this year is "Together we can..." and I believe this also applies to us as parents, teachers, students and staff of the Wendler PTSA. It may sound corny but "**TOGETHER WE CAN...**" do amazing things for our family, community and school.

Speaking of "**TOGETHER WE CAN...**" we still need to fill the position of Vice President and Secretary. There are also many PTSA programs that we could participate in if we had the volunteers come forward. If you don't know how to get started or don't think you can because you never have before all you need to do is send your questions to [ram.pts@yahoo.com](mailto:ram.pts@yahoo.com). We will help you get started on your way to doing great things for our school and community. Remember you are not alone, **TOGETHER WE CAN!!!**

In closing I would like to thank the fifty new members, students, parents, teachers, staff and grandparents, for signing up during registration. You all should be receiving periodic emails from the PTSA. If you have not received any emails by now please email us at [ram.pts@yahoo.com](mailto:ram.pts@yahoo.com) so that we can get your email corrected. If you did sign up and pay your dues during registration you can pick up your PTSA membership cards in the office starting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> during the open house from 6:30-8:30 pm. The Wendler PTSA meetings will be held in the new PTSA conference and parent resource room, aka counselor conference room, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:30. I look forward to our first meeting and I have great faith in the fact that "**TOGETHER WE CAN...**"!

PTSA President,  
Ron Kruse

## Tips for Communicating With Teachers Effectively from Your Wendler PTSA

Parental involvement enhances student success. A first step toward involvement is **communicating with your child's teacher**. Effective communication consists of meeting with the teacher, being a positive partner in the learning experience, and keeping lines of communication open, according to Suzanna Smith, an associate professor at the University of Florida. As part of the university's Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, she offers these tips for communicating effectively with teachers:

- 1. Offer to help by signing up to donate items or volunteer your time.
- 2. Provide information that will help the teacher get to know your child as an individual. Include relevant information such as allergies, behavior issues (tendency to be distracted, for instance), learning issues, or changes in family life.
- 3. Ask the teacher about expectations regarding homework and what to do if there are problems with homework.
- 4. Find out the best way to contact the teacher. Ask for times when it is convenient to talk. Don't expect them to be able to talk if you happen to be at the school and run into them.
- 5. Write short notes (written or as an e-mail, if allowed) and follow up with a phone message to the school if you don't get a response in a few days. Be sure to include your phone number and/or e-mail address.
- 6. Be diplomatic, especially in e-mail. Choose words carefully and avoid criticizing the teacher.
- 7. In e-mail communication, be brief, stick to the point, and don't use animation, pictures or graphics. Stick to school-related information in e-mail.
- 8. Be positive and curious. Open with phrases such as "Can we talk about...?" Use "I" statements such as "I'm confused about..." so you don't put the teacher on the defensive.
- 9. Don't be afraid to talk to other school personnel if needed. A school counselor might be able to intervene if you are unable to communicate with a teacher.
- 10. Be a partner in your child's learning. Assist with homework, help your child learn time management skills, talk about school matters at home.
- 11. Send a note of appreciation to the teacher when things go well in class (and mention this to the principal).
- 12. It may be difficult to hear what teachers have to say if they deliver bad news about your child. Try to focus on solutions and work with the teacher to come up with a healthy plan to help your child learn.

**WENDLER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2007-2008 Parent Fact Sheet  
School Phone - 742-7300  
Fax - 742-7307**

**Please keep a copy of these important numbers for future reference.**

**Principal's Office**

Brendan Wilson, Principal - 742-7315  
Robyn Harris, Assistant Principal - 942-7309  
Ceci Rosende, Administrative Assistant - 742-7311  
McKenzie Uscola, Attendance/Discipline Secretary - 742-7300  
JoAnn Price, Registrar - 742-7304  
Sue McMillan, Financial Data Clerk - 742-7316

**Library**

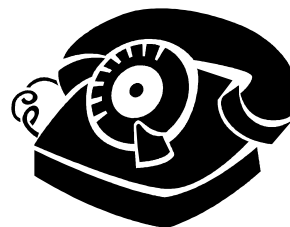
Susan Koiki, Librarian - 742-7306  
Kathy Jolley, Library Assistant - 742-7306

**Nurse**

Tarsha Jenkins, Nurse - 742-7322

**Counseling Department**

Dan Rufner, Counselor - 742-7338  
Chris Brehmer, Counselor - 742-7334  
Kathy Rowe, Counselor - 742-7353



**Special Education**

Karen Sikora, Special Ed Chair - 742-7336

**Cafeteria**

Pat Nielsen, Cafeteria Manager - 742-7305

**Contacting Teachers**

If you have a question for a teacher or have a concern that you would like to discuss, the quickest way to contact staff is through their school district e-mail account. You may also call the school and leave a message with the secretary and the teacher/team will return your call.

**Grading Periods**

October 15, 2010	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Ends	Parent/Teacher Conferences - Week of October 27 <sup>th</sup>
December 17, 2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr Ends	Report Card mailed home 1 - 3 weeks later
March 4, 2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Ends	Parent/Teacher Conferences - Week of March 24
May 19, 2010	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr Ends	Report Card mailed home 1 -2 week later

August 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back to school! As you know, our school has been working hard to improve the academic achievement of all our students in every subject. Every school in the Anchorage School District has been working on this same goal. Because we are working to educate all students for success in life, our mission is that our students can read with comprehension, write with skill, and compute and problem-solve with accuracy, and we are working to achieve this mission with every single student. On state tests, most students are demonstrating their proficiency. In national comparisons, our district consistently scores above national averages.

The federal law called the *No Child Left Behind Act* requires that schools make progress in increasing the percentage of students who are proficient, or on grade level, on state exams until reaching the 100% proficient mark by the 2013-14 school year. This progress is referred to as “adequate yearly progress” or AYP. The state of Alaska has established annual student achievement targets in language arts and math to determine whether schools and districts have made adequate progress. Every state-identified subgroup of students in the school must meet the achievement targets, and at least 95% of the students in each identified group must take the test, or the school will be designated as needing improvement. Additionally, high schools must meet or exceed the state goal for graduation rate, and middle and elementary schools must meet or exceed the state goal for average daily attendance.

Our school has not made adequate yearly progress by those state measures because we have not met all 31 of the state requirements. Consequently, our school has been designated as being in Level 5, Restructuring Status. Of the 31 measures required to meet AYP, Wendler Middle School did not meet the following targets: African America Students in Language Arts and Math, Alaska Native/American Indian students in Language Arts and Math, Low Income Students in Language Arts and Math, Students with Disabilities in Language Arts and Math and Students with Limited English Proficiency in Math.

Every year, parents and staff work together to set and achieve school goals. As we continue to work to improve achievement for all our students, we will be formulating a school improvement plan in accordance with state law to address the specific areas where we did not demonstrate adequate yearly progress. If you are interested in working with us in developing that plan, please contact the school’s office to express your interest. A copy of our finalized plan will be made available to all parents upon its completion.

The Wendler staff is committed to working within our school community to improve our student’s performance as measured using AYP indicators under NCLB. As we do so it is important to remember that Wendler students did meet AYP in 21 of the measured categories, that many of the students who did not gain proficiency showed more than 1 year’s growth on these tests and that in a significant portion of the areas that we missed AYP we were close. My impression of the Wendler School Community is that we can meet the challenge for next year and I look forward to working with students, parents and staff to significantly improve our performance as measured under NCLB.

The school staff and I look forward to continuing our partnership with parents and the community in offering the best possible education for all our students. We welcome your comments and questions. Please feel free to call me at 742-7315.

Sincerely,  
Brendan Wilson  
Principal, Wendler Middle School



## Nurses Corner

Hello Wendler Parents and students. I hope you had a wonderful summer vacation. Here are some upcoming events from the nurse's office.

### TB and Health Screenings:

We will be conducting our mass screenings for **7<sup>th</sup> graders** on **September 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you signed a permission form for **TB screening** your student will be tested. If not, I will be sending home a permission slip for you to sign in the next week or so. Please return permission slip ASAP. The results of TB screening will be sent home with your student once results are read. We also will be conducting **7<sup>th</sup> grade health screenings**, which include **height/weight checks, vision and hearing screenings**. These screenings will be completed during your child's PE or Health class.

**I am in need of parent volunteers for these screenings.** I will need help between the hours of **8:00 am - 2:45pm, September 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Volunteer days and times are flexible. Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping please contact myself at **742-7322**. No experience necessary, will train. Thank you in advance.

### Immunizations:

The district and state has a strict Immunization requirement in order for your student to be enrolled in the Anchorage School District. It is imperative that if your student has received any immunizations recently that you provide the school nurse with an updated copy of their shot record. Otherwise, if your student is delinquent on the minimum required shots to be enrolled in school your student can be disenrolled until they meet the minimum requirements. Please obtain the required shots if you should receive a notice home stating your student is delinquent.

### Illnesses at school: Please keep ill students Home!

Flu like symptoms is already affecting students in the Anchorage School District. If your student is not feeling well prior to coming to school it is better that your student remain home until feeling better. This protects the entire student body and staff from exposure to airborne viruses that can be prevented. Flu like symptoms include: **Fever (100 or greater), Headache, Tiredness, and cough. Sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, Body aches, and Diarrhea/Vomiting.** If your student has any of these symptoms prior to coming to school, please keep them home until they are **24 hours fever free without fever reducing medications.** Your student will recover quicker at home and prevent you from leaving work to come and pick them up. Flu vaccines will become available late September please check with your medical provider for availabilities.

**Tarsha Jenkins, RN, BSN**  
**Wendler Middle School, 742-7322**

Anchorage School District  
Wendler Middle School  
2905 Lake Otis Parkway  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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Anchorage, AK  
99508

**Don't forget**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL** Thursday, September 2

**NECA / IBEW** donated backpacks with school supplies for Back to School. We would like to thank them for their generous donation and their continued support of our students and community.

**THANK YOU !!!!!**

