



WILDCAT NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2011

Tis the Month...

*Tis the month of many holidays,
and all through Amy Belle Elementary
School,
the students are up and excited,
and maybe more likely to break a school rule.*

*However, parents,
no need to fear or fret,
the staff will keep the students focused,
so as not to earn low grades they'll regret.*

*The days will be full
with both learning and fun,
math, reading, and writing,
mixed with concerts, parties, and snow play
that has just begun.*

*I hope during this hectic time of year
you can relax and take care,
and with your children,
have wonderful times to share.*

~By Mrs. Kucharski



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR, REMINDERS & UPDATES	2
PAWS, WAY TO Go, BLT UPDATE	3
WHAT'S HAPPENING, OUTSIDE RECESS, SCHOOL CLOSING, SCHOOL CLOSING/LUNCH CHOICE	4
BUS BEHAVIOR, PARENT PICK UP, HELP NEEDED, ATTENDANCE REPORTING, SAFETY PATROL	5
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT, PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SECRET SANTA SHOPPE, SCRIP	6
Campbell's, Box Tops, Ink Cartridges, Milk Caps, Tyson Labels, Free Yearbook	7

PRINCIPAL CORNER—ORGANIZATIONAL TIPS

Now that school has been up and running for a while, your child is likely getting used to some routines at home. If you feel your child is somewhat disorganized, here are tips to try from the National Association of Elementary Principals:

Backpack Cleaning- Every day your child should empty his/her backpack of completed schoolwork, homework, and any notes you may need to ready.

Homework- Choose a consistent time and location, free of distractions for homework completion.

Use a Calendar- Have your child record any special events, activities, project due dates, etc. on the calendar. Quickly review the calendar together each day noting what is coming up and adding new items. Evening Efforts- preparing backpacks, lunches, next day's clothing, etc. before going to bed pays off in a less chaotic morning.

File It or Dump It- Don't let your child get in the habit of being an extreme packrat. When completed work comes home from school, after being viewed or discussed, either file it in one long-term storage place or throw it out.

Goals and Rewards- Set goals related to organization and schoolwork and reward a job well done with some form of incentive to continue. For instance, since time was spared being organized the entire week, now extra time can be spent playing at the park or watching a favorite movie together.

With the daily help of parents in establishing organizational routines, both kids and parents will reap the rewards. Your kids will have less stress and likely better grades. Parents will enjoy calmer, more responsible children.

~By Mrs. Kucharski

School Hours

8:50 a.m. to 3:44 p.m.

Office Hours

7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Teacher Hours

8:35 a.m. to 3:59 p.m.

Early Release Day

Thursday, Dec 22
12:20p
(No Lunch Served)

No School

December 23-January 2
See you Tuesday, January 3rd

TIME TO “PAWS” FOR WILDCAT PRAISE

Please feel free to jot Mrs. Kucharski a note or email message (mkucharski@germantown.k12.wi.us) of brief, positive comments you hear or read about a member of our school community (students, staff, parents) for possible submissions in this news article. We reserve the right to edit as necessary for anonymity and length.

From a student to a student...

“Your shoe is untied. Sit down and I’ll help tie it with you.”

From a student to a parent...

“I must get all the really nice teachers at school. I’ve got X this year, and I had X last year!”

From a parent to a staff member...

“We are just thrilled to have our son having a wonderful experience at school. Thank you all who add to his life in such positive ways everyday!”

Found in a Waggin’ Tales (Publication of the Washington County Humane Society)...

“We are constantly amazed by the generosity of our young people who care so much about the homeless animals in their communities, and work so hard to raise money for our shelter. A huge thank you to these kids for their selfless contributions to our animals at WCHS! These kids collected donations and/or money at their birthdays—Caitlyn B (K).” Way to go Caitlyn!

From Mrs. Kucharski to our families...

“Thank you to all for the awesome donations of food for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. We collected over 1200 items and were able to help so many.”

WAY TO GO WILDCATS!

We have some exciting news! Our 408 Wildcats earned over 200 PAW prints in the month of November. PAW’s, which stands for Positively Awesome Work, were earned by our classes through controlling their volume in the hallways. This has really helped our students and staff working in our hallways have a more conducive learning environment.

We will be celebrating this great accomplishment on Friday, December 2nd with a Pajama Day and Hot Chocolate Treat for the whole school. Please note that students can bring their slippers, robes, lounge wear, and long sleeved shirts, and pants. Please, no boxer shorts this time, it is suppose to be rather chilly. Remember your gym shoes too!

BLT UPDATE

The BLT (Building Leadership Team) met on November 8, 2011. Below is a brief description of the items that were discussed:

- MAP Roll-Out—currently working on MAP web page for parents .
- PBIS Update—a website will be created that includes our action plans, t-chart, PBIS process chart, videos, volume meter. We are well on our way to our first “school reward” of hot chocolate and pj day! Check out our Paws for Praise bulletin board outside the office. Ask your child what a volume 0 is.
- Vision Work—discussed trends in the feedback document that was handed out.
- Future Agendas—we will look at staff comments collected at the fall in-service and compare it to our current vision, mission, and beliefs.

The purpose of the BLT is to develop strategies for addressing current educational systems or practices in order to produce an improved learning environment. You may contact your parent representatives: Mike Alburg at 414/331-8678 or malburg@dyensol.com or mlalburg@ameritech.net or Tom Becker at 414/640-6589 tom@beckertechnology.com.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30 a.m.



*Way to Go
Wildcats!*

WHAT’S HAPPENING at the BELLE?

Guidance—Mrs. Wolff & Mrs. Nettesheim

The “DeBug System” is a problem solving technique to help kids deal with other students who are “bugging” them. The steps in the DeBug System are: 1. Ignore, 2. Move Away, 3. Talk Friendly, 4. Talk Firmly, and 5. Get Adult Help. These steps are a great way to encourage kids to try dealing with situations themselves before seeking adult help – this helps them hone their problem solving skills.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding problems that might be affecting your student’s learning. Mrs. Wolff is at Amy Belle on Tuesdays and Mrs. Nettesheim is at Amy Belle on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Music—Mrs. Grosse

In kindergarten, we continue to practice our steady beat using our bodies and our classroom instruments. We have also been using our voices expressively in “I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly” and “One Day Turkey Went for a Walk.”

In 1st grade, we have learned ta and ti-ti rhythms. We are practicing reading the actual music notes and making rhythm connections to speech pieces we learned earlier in the year. We have also been working on best singing voices with “Autumn Leaves” and “I Like Thanksgiving.”

In 2nd grade, we have been preparing for our concert! The 2nd Grade Holiday Play & Concert is on Wednesday, December 14 at 2:30pm in the Amy Belle Elementary Gym. We have been working on using our best singing voices and learning some challenging movements to go along with our songs!

In 3rd grade, we have been working on several different rhythms through playing instruments and doing rhythm dictation. We also celebrated Veteran’s Day by singing “American Every Day.”

In 4th grade, we have started our recorders! We have been working on proper playing technique (using gentle air, correct hand position, covering holes tightly and tonguing to separate notes) and have learned 3 different pitches. Starting in December, students will be allowed to bring their recorders home to practice. Please help your 4th grader remember to bring their recorder & music to school every Tuesday and Wednesday so they are ready for music class.

In 5th grade, we have been preparing for our holiday performance coming up at the Germantown Senior Center on Friday, December 9. We have been practicing blending our singing voices and memorizing a recorder song for our performance.

Physical Education —Mr. Osieczanek & Mrs. Redies

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. In Physical Education classes, we will be working on Basketball, Fitness, and special Holiday themed games.

Art —Ms. Braggs & Mrs. Cheung

Mrs. Cheung is due back December 12th or 13th. My last day will be December 9th or December 12th. The students will be working on the PTA art fund raiser projects through Square 1 Art during the month of December.

OUTSIDE RECESS—Wow IT’S COLD!

Our practice here at Amy Belle School is that students go outside whenever possible. Yes, even on cold days! We follow the district guidelines that the wind chill factor must be above 0°. As a result of this policy, children spend most days outside at recess. We ask that you dress your children appropriately. As the snow and cold come, so should boots, snow pants, hats, gloves and warm coats. Students can NOT play in the snow without boots and snow pants. If a child is healthy enough to come to school, then it is our expectation that the child is healthy enough to go outside for recess and get some fresh air and exercise, of course, a doctor’s excuse does influence our decision making.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In addition to the Alert Now telephone system, severe weather bulletins regarding school closings and delays will be issued over the Germantown School District website at www.germantownschools.org and the following television and radio stations:

Local television stations:

WTMJ 4—NBC	WISN 12—ABC
WITI 6—Fox	WDJT 58—CBS

Local radio stations:

94.5 FM LAKE FM	106.1 FM 106 WMIL
Milwaukee’s 95.7 FM WRIT	104.9 FM WTKM
96.5 FM WKLH	106.9 FM WFMR
97.3 FM THE BREW	620 AM WTMJ
99.1 FM THE MIX WMYX	920 AM WOKY
100.7 V100 FM WKKV	1130 AM WISN
103.7 KISS FM WAMG	1250 AM WEMP

SCHOOL CLOSINGS/LUNCH CHOICE

When it comes to a school closing, please be advised that Food Service prepares the food the day prior, so the food is set and ready to go. So if there is a closing, the lunch menu goes back to the day we were off. For example, if we were closed on Tuesday and return on Wednesday, the menu for Tuesday would be served, Wednesday’s choice would be skipped and normal menu would be followed come Thursday. Contact Food Service with any questions 253-3420.

BUS BEHAVIOR

Please remind your student that riding on the bus is not a chance to jump around a moving vehicle. Just because there are no seatbelts, does not mean we can be unsafe. Students should be reminded that they need to stay in their seat, talk at a normal level, and keep their hands and feet to themselves. We will not tolerate inappropriate behavior on our buses. Thank you for your help in making our bus riders safe.

PARENT PICK UP LINE

We need your help parents! There are a few days when we have a plethora of parents picking up their children after school. Please remember – **DO NOT** block the driveways stopping our staff from leaving for the day. There are staff members that leave between 3:30–3:45 each day. We have cars that are blocking parking stalls and driveway throughways. Also, if you see parents coming south and trying to turn left into the parking lot, please be polite and let them in. We need to keep the road clear. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

HELP NEEDED

Sometimes we are in need of a substitute to help supervise open positions in the lunch room and on the playground outside at recess. The approximate times are 11:00 to about 1:00. If you are able or interested in being added to our substitute list, please contact Mrs. Kucharski at mkucharski@germantown.k12.wi.us or call at 262/253-3470. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE REPORTING CHANGE

State law defines an absence as being gone for all or part of one day. Attendance on report cards has been reported in half-day increments, which is not consistent with state law. Therefore, beginning with last year's report card, attendance will be reported in full-day increments (ex: 1 AM absence on Monday and 1 PM absence on Tuesday counts as **2 full days absence** where it was previously reported as 1 full day absence (.5 + .5)).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact Mrs. Nan Weymier-Killeen 262/502-7121 or nweymierkilleen@germantown.k12.wi.us.

SAFETY PATROL UPDATE

Even as the weather turns colder, the 5th Grade Safety Patrol will continue to help students safely out of their vehicles onto the playground and help with morning bus duty. As a parent, please continue to follow these safety precautions:

- Pull forward cautiously to one of the designated drop-off points. Do not allow your student to get out of the car until you are in the designated spot.
- **PLEASE DO NOT** get out of your vehicle. If you need to exit your vehicle, please park your car in an open spot and do this.
- Have your child ready to exit; hats/mittens on, backpack ready, etc.
- **PLEASE** have your child exit from the **PASSENGER SIDE** of the vehicle always.
- **PLEASE WAIT** until the 5th Grade Safety Patrol Member has stepped back away from the vehicle before you pull away.
- **DO NOT** pull out and around another vehicle. **WAIT** until the vehicle ahead of you pulls away. We ask for your patience in this matter.
- Follow the flow of traffic through the parking lot to exit.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe!



Thanksgiving Food Drive—2011
Mackenzie N, Zach F,
Logan R, Muen W

SAVE THE DATES...

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
Friday, December 16 5:30pm-9:00pm
PANCAKE BREAKFAST/SECRET SANTA SHOPPE
Saturday, December 17 9:00am to 11:30am Breakfast/9:00am-1:00pm Santa's Shoppe

Parents Night Out Friday

Give yourself the evening off! Go shopping, out to dinner, whatever suits you! The PTA volunteers of Amy Belle will entertain your children from 5:30pm-9:00pm. We'll have the basketball courts open, movies, games, arts and crafts. Lots to keep your children busy. And, we'll feed them dinner, too! Watch for a sign-up sheet to come home with more detailed information. During this time, we can help your children shop at the Secret Santa Shoppe as well!

Pancake Breakfast Saturday

Mmmmmm, enjoy a wonderful pancake breakfast *with* your children on December 17 from 9:00am-11:30pm. Watch for more information to come home on breakfast times and the small charge to enjoy this scrumptious breakfast!

Secret Santa Shoppe Saturday

Santa's Elves have been busy throughout the year collecting gifts for the Secret Santa Shoppe. The gifts range in price from \$.50-\$6.00. Bring your child Saturday, December 17 from 9:00am-1:00pm to shop for gifts for the entire family. Elves will be on hand to help your children make their special purchases.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Please contact Melissa Timmerman at 628-3690 or datimmermans@wi.rr.com for more information.

AMY BELLE PTA SCRIP PROGRAM

The holiday shopping time is here! What better time to start to utilize the **Amy Belle PTA Scrip Program**.

How does it work? Purchase gift cards at full-face value. The gift cards are then ordered through Great Lakes Scrip with a percentage per vendor offered back to the **Amy Belle PTA**. All you need to do is fill in an order form, send the order form to school with full payment by the due date and time, and the scrip is delivered to you either by your child or you can pick up your order from the school. It couldn't be easier!

Why not give it a try? The proceeds go to support the programs and events sponsored by the **Amy Belle PTA**.

Order forms available at the Amy Belle PTA website or in the Office.

November/December 2011 Scrip Order/Delivery Schedule

All orders due by 10:30 a.m.

<u>Order due date</u>	<u>Approximate Delivery Date</u>
Monday, November 28th	Monday, December 5th
Monday, December 5th	Monday, December 12th
Monday, December 12th	Monday, December 19th
Wednesday, December 21st	Monday, January 2nd, 2012

After the holidays the scrip program will resume the normal order dates of approximately the 1st and 15th of each month.





AMY BELLE SCHOOL

3294 Willow Creek Road
Colgate WI 53017
Phone: 262/253-3470
Fax: 262/253-3490

E-mail: aboffice@germantown.k12.wi.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://
WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG)



CAMPBELL'S SOUP UPC'S

A great, big Wildcat "THANK YOU" to all the families that turned in the Campbell's soup UPCs to Amy Belle School. The program was able to replenish the much needed playground equipment; playground balls, soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, two sets of throw-down bases, tether balls, and jump ropes with points still in our Campbell's UPC Bank account to use in the future. To help with the program, just simply clip out the Campbell's UPCs from soups, juices, crackers, etc. A complete list can be found at labelsforeducation.com. The items have the Labels for Education logo. Simply cut on the dotted line, turn in, and you will be able to help the school earn items needed for our Amy Belle students. Have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving and keep an eye open for those labels!

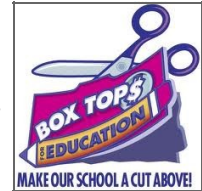
De Anna Ayer, Campbell's Label Chairperson



BOX TOPS COLLECTION & CONTEST

Thanks for everyone's participation in the Box Top Collections and Contests we've had so far this year! There is no contest or collection in December but remember to save your Box Tops for the class challenge that runs January 9th-13th. Winning class gets a cupcake decorating party!

Cara Gierach, Box Tops Chairperson



INK CARTRIDGES, MILK CAPS, TYSON LABELS

Let's do some cleaning before the holidays. Please send in all empty ink cartridges, milk caps, and Tyson chicken labels. Have them sent down to the office for collection in a bag marked Patti Claas.

Have a great Holiday Season!

Patti Claas, Ink Cartridges, Milk Caps & Tyson Labels



FREE YEARBOOK!

Don't forget to turn in your classroom photos to your child's teacher for an entry into the drawing for a free yearbook! Every CD you turn in counts toward 1 entry. Simply request a blank CD from your child's teacher, load the photos on it, mark it with "Yearbook Photos," the teacher's name, and your name, and send it back with your child to be turned into his/her teacher. Simple as that and you could win a FREE yearbook & have some of your photos included in the yearbook! *Remember, photos with more than 1 child are the best!

Dawn Koutsky, Historian & Yearbook

NO PTA Meeting
in December
Happy Holidays!

See you
Thursday, January 19th
6:30 p.m. Library
Childcare Available

Save the Date!
Dinner with the Arts
Thursday, February 2nd
Remember to shop for
classroom basket themes!