W.O.W
Word of Walden

December 2014

News from the Principal Rob Kreil.....

Over the last month my family and I have had the opportunity to fully embrace the Walden community. On Saturday, November 8th my family and I had the opportunity to march in the Racine Christmas parade with 25 student government and band students along with Kate, Zach, and Sue. It was nice to see so many Walden fans along the decorated streets of Racine cheering and supporting our school and community. Likewise, my wife and I experienced our first Family Night which was a huge success and a wonderful opportunity to meet so many parents and witness the generosity of so many people. My wife mentioned that without the kids it felt like a date night and we even came away with a basket of our own. I would especially like to thank Kim Leslie for all her work this year and over the past couple of years. Her dedication and support of Walden does not go unnoticed.

On Wednesday, November 26th Walden concluded our 2014 Food Drive and the Thanksgiving Feast took place. I am overwhelmed how supportive and caring our students, staff, families, and Walden community are when helping those that need our support. Henry Drummond, author of "The Greatest Thing in the World" stated "there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving." Our students and community truly embrace this idea and understand the importance of giving. Not just giving of money or food but the giving of their time, energy, and compassion. With the holidays approaching we should all look at the generosity and compassion of our students and learn from them what the true meaning of the holiday season is all about. From my family to yours I wish you Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

APPLICATIONS for Walden are due December 19, 2014 for the 2015-16 school year. Mandatory parent information nights will be held January 6 & 8, 2015.

CALENDAR 2014-2015

December

9	Winter Band Concert
12	Early Release – dismissal at 12:26
16	Winter Orchestra Concert
16	Market Day Pick-up
22-Jan.2	Holiday Recess

January

6 or 8	New Parent Night 6:00pm
19	MLK Day – no school
21	PTSA Mtg.
22	Conference Day ½ day, dismissal at 11:26
23	Conference Day no school
23	H.S. winter Formal
27	Market Day Pick-up

NEW BUS APP.....

Durham School Services is currently piloting the Durham Bus Tracker (DBT) app. This free app allows RUSD parents to monitor their child's bus route. Download Durham Bus Tracker from your app store and create an account to begin monitoring your child's bus.*

Please be aware that this is a pilot program. Adjustments will be made to improve the app along the way. Parents should always rely on the route information (drop off/pick-up times) provided by your child's school. Even if the app shows your child's bus is running behind, please be sure your child is at the bus stop at their regular pick up time.

*Not all bus routes are available via the Durham Bus Tracker app.

COUNSELOR NEWS.....

You are invited to attend.....
Spotlight on AP/PLTW Night
Thursday, January 15th, 2015
6:00pm in Park's Library

The Park counseling Staff will present information about the Advanced Placement (AP) and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program at Park High School, including the benefits of taking AP and PLTW courses (college credit, standing out in the college admission process), steps to prepare student to take AP and PLTW courses (planning ahead, pre-AP classes), the difference between IB and AP programs and which AP and PLTW course we currently offer. Some of our AP and PLTW teachers will also be available to showcase a little glimpse of what their classes entail.

For additional information on the AP Program, you can visit www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html https://www.pltw.org
You can contact one of Park's Counselors at 619-4400 with any questions you have concerning Park High School and the AP or PLTW Programs. We hope to see you on the 15th.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available for the senior with the highest grade point average and does not require an application. In the event of more than one eligible senior with an identical grade point average, the tie-breaking procedures are:

1. The grade point averages will be computed to as many decimal places as needed to break the tie.
2. If the first criterion does not determine the recipient, the student with the higher ACT composite score will be ranked higher.
3. If the first two criteria do not determine the recipient, the student with the greater number of credits used to compute the GPA would be ranked higher.
4. If the first three criteria do not determine the recipient, the student with greater number of weighted credits will be ranked higher.

YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM

Racine Unified, in conjunction with Gateway and Parkside, have created a Youth Options program, which allows juniors and seniors in good academic standing to take college courses. Both fall and spring classes can be paid for by RUSD if the district does not already teach that specific course. Deadlines for applications are 9/24/2014 for spring courses and 2/20/2015 for fall courses.

COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

There are many websites to search for information about colleges and scholarships. Go online to **Fastweb.com**, **collegeboard.com** or **anycollege.net**. For financial aid information, try **finaid.org**, **ed.gov**, or **fafsa.ed.gov**.

ACT Registration Dates for 2014-2015

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Date (Fee Req.)
2/07/2015	1/9/2015	
4/18/2015	3/13/2015	
6/13/2015	5/08/2015	

SAT Registration Dates for 2014 - 2015

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Date
1/24/2015	12/29/2014	1/9/2015
3/14/2015	2/13/2015	2/27/2015
5/02/2015	4/462015	4/17/2015
6/06/2015	5/08/2015	5/22/2015

Register online to take the ACT test at **www.actstudent.org** or at **www.collegeboard.com** for the SAT. The code for Walden is **501-919**.

MISSED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

You may receive your child's homework assignments if s/he has been home ill for 2 or more days. Call the attendance line (664-6259) to put in a request, and assignments can be ready for pickup at the end of the school day.

REMINDER: You must call every day that your child is home ill, or s/he will be considered truant. After 3 or more days, a doctor's excuse is required. RUSD and state law state that a student may miss no more than 10 days per year.

HONORS INFORMATION

RUSD Central Office sends honors information to the Racine Journal Times, using the following criteria:
High honors = GPA of 3.5 and above
Honors = GPA of 3.25 – 3.49

INFORMATION FROM THE MUSIC DEPT.....

Winter Band concert is December 9th and the Winter Orchestra concert is December 16th. Both concerts start @ 6:30pm. Performers must arrive @ 5:45pm. If you would like to donate baked goods to our concert bake sale that would be appreciated.

End of the year Music Trip is to St. Louis. Dates will be announced later. May is the month of the trip.

HELP WANTED

Arbor Management, the food service provider for Racine Unified, is looking for very special associates. We are looking for the kind of people who are interested in part time hours on the days that schools are in session and who like to be around children. Shifts vary from 3 to 6 hours per day between 5am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. If interested, please complete an application between 9am and 3pm at the Arbor office located a 3109 Mt. Pleasant St.,Bldg. 2 Door B. We look forward to meeting you.

8TH GRADE WASHINGTION DC TRIP.....

TO: Parent/Guardian of Interested Washington DC Students
FROM: Mr. Jon Christian (jon.christian@rusd.org or 664-6250 (x5574))

1. I have led trips to Washington, DC for eighteen years. I am located in room 300 at Walden III Middle/High School. Kate and Janet help me distribute DC materials to 8th graders at Walden.
2. WorldStrides organizes the trip. Please review the brochure your child brought home to better understand the benefits of going to Washington with this reputable company. Your child can get a brochure from me in room 300 if needed.
3. Procedure for registering:

a. Read the contents of the envelope your child brought from school--especially the Terms and Conditions and the Cancellation Policy.

b. The cost to reserve a seat is $99. If you cancel, this money is not refunded. The $99 goes toward the total cost of the trip. The cost of the trip is based on 35 students register for the trip. Ways you can register:

1) Online at www.worldstrides.org (use Trip ID# 107455)
2) By phone at 800-468-5899 (use Trip ID# 107455)
3) By credit card: Complete Credit Card Payment Form located on the Terms and Conditions insert and the blue registration form at the bottom of the letter from WorldStrides. Place both forms in the provided envelope, stamp and mail to WorldStrides.
4) By check: Complete the blue registration form, write check to WorldStrides, put in envelope, stamp and mail to WorldStrides.

4. There is an insert that refers to fund-raising options through WorldStrides at www.worldstridesfundraising.com, social networking at www.facebook.com/Worldstrides, ways to pay/manage your trip using mytrip.worldstrides.org and a way to earn free high school credit.

5.. Don't hesitate to email me at jon.christian@rusd.org if you have any questions about this wonderful opportunity to see our nation's capital and the Philadelphia, PA area.

YEARBOOK INFO.....

YEARBOOKS ARE NOW ON SALE!!!!!!
All yearbook orders must be turned in to the MAIN OFFICE by May 1st.

Senior pictures and senior pages are due January 8th. Senior pictures can be sent to waldenyearbook201415@gmail.com. Senior pages can be made on a computer program and digitally sent or drawn and scanned in. Any questions please see Amy.

Parents can still purchase Congratulatory announcement spaces in the yearbook. Announcements will be $20 a piece. Order forms can be picked up in the main office or accessed on the school website under the Activities tab.

BOOK RENT.....

Book Rental – book rent is due. The cost is $40.00 for the year, paid by Jan. 23th. Otherwise, $50.00 for the year. This is different than in the past. Make checks payable to Walden III, write "bookrent" in the memo line. Remit to homegroup teacher or the main office. Note: If past fees have not been paid a student will not be eligible for senior activities.