

FEBRUARY 2017

WATSON ELEMENTARY

Michelle Lavin - Principal / Jenn Neal - Dean of Students / Susan Santino - Secretary / Kim Talaber - Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

30 Penny Wars begins

February

2 Groundhog Day

3 Penny Wars ends

9 Student Council
meeting until 3:30

14 Party day

20 No school, President's
Day

23 District Kindergarten
Pre-Enrollment
Informational Meeting
6:00 p.m. LCHS/LGI
room

28 Mardi-Gras Fashion
Show & Silent Auction

March

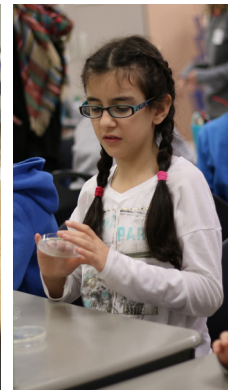
8 Kindergarten
Enrollment

9 Student Council
meeting until 3:30;
Kindergarten Enrollment

23 Watson Science
Fair

27-31 No school,
Spring Break

EVANSON'S CLASS GETS DOWN AND GERMY



Mrs. Evanson put her third grade students' cleanliness to the test with a germ lab on Friday, Jan. 27. Thanks to the help of Evanson's microbiologist husband and donations from Silliker Laboratories, students were able to see their lesson come to life.

"The supplies are donated from a business called Silliker Laboratories. It's about \$300 worth of supplies. My husband is a microbiologist who is a consultant with them, and they have donated the supplies for the past 8 years," Evanson said.

There were multiple experiments within this lab, including testing the germs on the children's hands before and after being freshly washed and swabbing items around the school and in the classroom.

"My favorite part was when we got to

swab the stuff around the building. I thought it was fun, and it was kind of gross," third-grader Diane Jefferies said.

Prior to this lab, the students have spent class time learning about chronic and communicable diseases and how germs spread.

"The chronic diseases are ones that you are born with, but you can't catch them from people or you just get them, but communicable diseases you can catch from food, people or animals. Today I learned that germs can be everywhere," third-grader Grace Marksteiner said.

To finish off the lab, Evanson asked her students what studies have shown to be the top two germiest items, to which they promptly responded: purses and cell phones. Gross!

OFFICE NEWS

- Please remember to dress for the weather. We go outside for recess as often as possible. We stay indoors during inclement weather and when the temperature is below 20 degrees.
- If there are changes in how your child will go home after school, please contact the office with your transportation change before 2:00.
- If your child is sick please call our office by 9:00 to report your child's absence. If it is more convenient for you to call off the night before, you may leave a message on our office voicemail.
- Is your child missing a coat or other items? Please check the lost and found box near the office.

Address: 333 W 77th Ave, Schererville, IN 46375 / Phone: 219.322.1365 / Fax: 219.865-4431

YEARBOOK ORDER

We are currently taking orders for yearbooks for the 2016-2017 school year. The cost of the yearbook is \$15.00. There are order forms in the office or you may order online. To order online visit: www.inter-state.com/yearbook and enter code: 15278G. If turning the order into the office Inter-State Studio will take cash, check or money order payable to Inter-State Studio, Inc. Last day to order a yearbook is February 3, 2017.

PENNY WARS

January 30-February 3 will be the Watson Dollars for Scholars Penny War. Throughout the week, students can bring in coins, cash, or checks to support this worthy cause. Money raised from this event goes to support former Watson students who will be going to college. A special thank you to Mrs. Desanka Damjanovic for organizing the event at Watson. Throughout the week, we will also have many volunteers who will help count money. Thanks in advance to everyone for helping this worthwhile cause!

MARDI GRAS

The 25th annual Schererville Chamber of Commerce Mardi Gras Fashion Show and Silent Auction will be held on February 28 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are available in our office. The donation is \$35. This is a great adult night out to raise money for the Schererville Public Schools and grow community involvement.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year will be held at all six Lake Central Elementary Schools on Wednesday and Thursday, March 8 & 9 2017 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:00-2:00 p.m. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2017 and legally reside within the Lake Central School Corporation boundaries.

Prospective kindergarten students must accompany their parents to enrollment. At that time, parents need to bring:

- Child's legal birth certificate (not hospital)
- Valid Indiana Driver's License or State ID with current address
- Two proofs of residency (i.e. home ownership or rental agreement & one current utility bill verifying address)
- In the case of divorce or separation, a copy of custody papers

The child will be given a general kindergarten screening.

On Thursday, February 23, 2017, parents of incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend a pre-enrollment informational meeting. It will be held at Lake Central High School in the LGI room at 6:00 p.m. Please enter at Door G. The purpose of this meeting is to highlight various aspects of the upcoming enrollment day and kindergarten programs

STATE TESTING

Believe it or not, our yearly state testing is right around the corner. Students in grades three and four will take part in state testing at Watson. The ISTEP+ test will be given twice before the end of the year to both third and fourth grade. In addition to ISTEP+, third grade students will take IREAD-3. Please see the dates below:

ISTEP+ Part 1 February 27-March 10

IREAD-3 March 13-17

ISTEP+ Part 2 April 17-May 5

When the testing date approaches, it is important that students:

- get a good night sleep
- eat a good breakfast
- arrive at school on time
- do their personal best

TEACHER FEATURE: MRS. JUDY TOCZEK



For librarian Mrs. Judy Toczec, encouraging reading is more than just her job, it is her passion. She has been looked upon by students and teachers alike as an exceptional advocate for literature for her many years as Watson's librarian.

"I started in 2000, so this will be my 17th year [as Watson's librarian]. I've always been a big reader, so I guess I wanted everyone to love it as much as I did," Toczec said. "I don't believe that there's any kid that's not a reader--if they don't like to read, it's because they haven't found the book for them yet."

Finding the "right book" is one of Toczec's largest goals for her students. Although doing so can occasionally be a challenge, it is one that she takes head on.

"The first thing I ask them is what the last thing they read that they liked was, because I can work off of that. If they have never found anything they've enjoyed, it's just a hit and miss thing. I won't ever give up. There's something out there, I just haven't found it yet. I just keep looking until I find it," Toczec said.

Toczec's hope for her students as they grow older is that they do not lose the love for reading that she tries so hard to instill. In today's fast-paced society, maintaining a passion for reading is a challenge for all ages.

"Reading should be a pleasurable thing; what you choose to do when you have nothing to do. Everything's so fast-paced now. Instant gratification. You know, [the kids] like the video games because it's instantaneous: the guy lives, he dies, you run, you jump. But with a book you learn to be patient, you learn to wait for the good stuff to happen. I think that's something that kids need to learn, and I'm sad that they don't have that

anymore," Toczec said. "I try to fight that by getting them to love reading when it's still a joyous thing to do. Reading is a gift and a joy and a love, not a chore, not a job, not something you have to do."

For Toczec, encouraging students to develop their love for reading is anything but a chore.

"[The best part of my job is] probably talking about books with the kids. I read to every single class. That's probably one of my favorite moments, when I've read a book, and I can see that they love it too. I also love crawling through the book racks with them and pulling out books and talking about books, that's a lot of fun too. I want them to love the feel of a book in their hand. I'd like kids to know that this is a fun, safe place to be, that they can always come back and find a book. I hope that when they leave here that they realize that reading is fun," Toczec said.

Her dedication to reading breaches beyond the Watson library walls as well. Two years ago, Toczec implemented a free library outside of the school to make used books available to the public.

"I've been really happy with the little free library in front of Watson. Everyone's been so great and respectful with it," Toczec said. "[You can] bring a book, take a book or share a book. I stock it with paperback books or books that parents donate, and I want people to know that it's out there and to use it. Its free. Read the books with your kids, read the books on the playground with them, bring books back that your kids have already read and bring new ones."



All it takes is the mention of reading or a book to see Toczec's face light up with joy--a trait that she instills within students for years past elementary school.

LETTERS TO LITERATURE

Mrs. Lyda's second-graders wrote letters about a book they read and tucked them in the book for future readers to find. Keep an eye out for the letters, and be sure to write one back!

