

February 1, 2016

Wales Window

Wales Elementary School

Union 61 Integrated Preschool Program and Application

2016-2017



School Union 61 is pleased to offer a language based preschool program for children age 3 and 4. Together a teacher and a teaching assistant(s) will stress language, motor, and social development to a class of 15 preschool children. The program offers either M-W-F or T-Th half-day sessions.

In order to be eligible for preschool, your child must be three (3) years old by August 31st and be independently toilet trained.

All transportation is provided by parents. All children will be screened as a part of the application process. Screening dates and times will be assigned and notification of you child's screening will be mailed directly to you.

Children currently enrolled, four year olds and then siblings will be given priority. Should more children seek enrollment than available spaces participants will be selected by age from oldest to youngest.

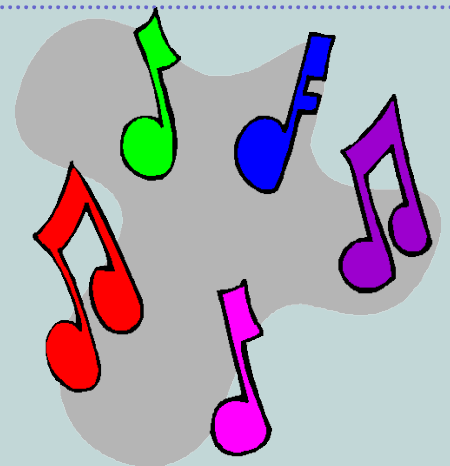
If interested in applying to our preschool program please complete the application (see the last page of the Wales Window) and return by April 15th, 2016

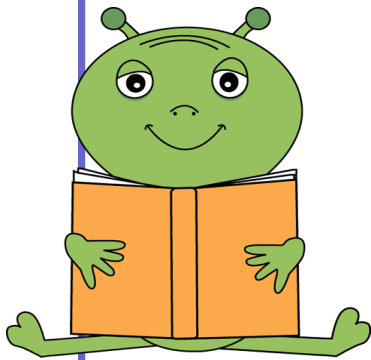
Winter Concert

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon of music including our vocal and instrumental students:

February 2nd At 2pm

(snow date is February 9th)





Reading Connection

With

Ms. Christine Nowacki



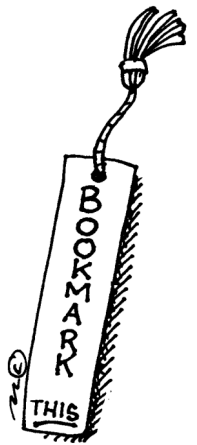
Title 1 Reading Teacher

The Five-Finger Rule

Here is a simple way to determine if a book is too hard, too easy, or just right for your child. This is referred to as "the five finger rule."

1. Find a passage of about 100 words. For younger children, this could be an entire book. For older children, this could be a page.
2. Ask the child to read out loud.
3. As the child reads out loud, count on fingers, under the table or behind the back, the number of reading mistakes. This does not include self-corrections or repetitions, only unknowns, clear mistakes, substitutions, additions, or omissions.
4. If the number of reading mistakes is more than 5, or more than 5 fingers, then the book may be too hard for the child to read on his or her own. If the number of reading mistakes is zero, then the book may be too easy. If the number of reading mistakes is 2 or 3, then the book is most likely just right for independent reading.
5. Please note that if the book is too hard, and if the interest is still there, then the book might become a perfect read-aloud book.

The idea is to find a book that has some challenges, but also offers the opportunity for independent success. Children who read known words, and who read fluently without stopping to attack individual words, will most likely comprehend what they read. Without the struggle, the reading will become fun. More fun often creates more reading. More reading in turn often creates more fun. Then more fun creates more reading again. The pleasant cycle continues.





From the Nurses Office

Cold, Ice, and Snow Safety

Winter isn't a time to just stay indoors and wait for spring. There's a whole wonderland of sports out there for the entire family — sledding, snowboarding, and skiing to mention a few. Plus, someone has to shovel the snow, right?

Cold-Weather Hazards

Certain injuries are more common in the winter because cold-weather activities like ice-skating, sledding, snowboarding, and skiing can lead to accidents that often involve kids.

And some illnesses are more common when the weather turns colder. Respiratory ailments, especially viruses like the flu, are prevalent because people stay indoors more and thus are exposed to more airborne germs.

At Home

One way to stay healthy while cooped up inside is to make sure your family washes their hands. It's especially important to wash after sharing toys, coughing, and blowing a runny nose to help prevent the spread of viruses.

Decided you've had enough of the indoors and you're going to get the family outside to shovel the snow? Snow shoveling is strenuous work. It's OK for older, school-age kids to help out, but young children should not be shoveling because they can strain their muscles from lifting heavy shovels full of snow.

Dressing for the Cold

If you're going outside in the cold, stay safe — and warm. Make sure your kids have a snack before going out. The calories will give their bodies energy in the cold weather.

Kids should dress warmly in layers of clothes. If the top layer gets wet from snow or freezing rain, they can peel off some clothes down to a dry layer.

Winter Sports Safety

If your kids decide to go sledding on their own for the day, make sure you know about the hill where they will be playing. Is it steep or covered with trees? If so, it's not a good location for sledding. Also, watch out for hills with rocks or those near busy roads.

Sledding injuries can be very serious, resulting in broken bones and trauma to the abdomen, head, and neck. So it's wise to supervise your kids when they go sledding. Experts also suggest having kids wear helmets to help prevent head injuries.

In an Emergency

Frostnip is an early warning sign of the onset of frostbite. It leaves the skin red and numb or tingly. After bringing your child inside, remove all wet clothing because it draws heat from the body. Immerse the chilled body parts in warm (not hot) water — 104-108°F (40-42°C) — until they are able to feel sensation again.

Frostbite occurs mostly on fingers, toes, ears, noses, and cheeks. The area becomes very cold and turns white or yellowish gray. If you notice frostbite, take your child immediately to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Going on a road trip over the holidays? Make sure you have a first-aid kit, extra blankets, and gloves in the car.

Recess:

Please remember that the students **do go outside** for recess if the temperature (including wind chill) is 20°F or above. Please dress them according to the weather to keep them warm and dry. *Children should have boots for outside and shoes/sneakers for inside.* Also, please consider sending an extra change of clothes and socks on wet days.

We feel strongly that all children need to go out for recess. If children are well enough to attend school, they are well enough to play outside. Children will be kept indoors for recess for valid medical reasons and with a doctor's note.

Box Tops for Education:

Don't forget to send in your General Mills boxtops.

Just a friendly reminder we do not collect soup labels.

Thank you.

School Attendance:

Regular Attendance at school is a key component in providing children with a quality education. Along with extended absences, many children arrive late and leave early—missing important parts of their school day. Please try to schedule appointments and outside school activities during non-school hours. Your support in this area is greatly appreciated.

Staff Spotlight:

Katie Radebaugh—

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. R. is the last of the new staff to be highlighted. Before becoming the Administrative Assistant at Wales Elementary she owned her own business, Children's Crossing, for 7 years. As a small business owner, Mrs. R., became very used to multi-tasking and staying organized. Mrs. R. is here to answer any questions and to help you and your child(ren) have a positive experience at Wales Elementary. You can reach her at: RadebaughK@tantasqua.org or call 413-245-7748.



Knowing Math May Help Save \$\$\$

Knowing math can help your children figure out how much to save for things they want to buy. It may seem hard at times, but it's really important that they become good at math to keep track of their money.

Be sure they practice math and work hard to understand it. Paying attention in math class and asking for help when they need it. If math seems hard to them, encourage them to relax, it can get easier the more they practice and learn.

One way to help your child practice math is to put their money in a savings account and keep track of it. It's important for them to remember how much money they have saved in their account, so they know when there is enough to buy something they want.

Sign up today for our School Banking program to make saving money even easier. If you are interested in your child participating in the School Banking Program and they are not already enrolled, contact the Financial Education Department at 1-800-322-8233, for more information.



Member FDIC

Member DIF

Reminder:

Please Update Your Cell
Phone Numbers and new
Email Addresses with

School Phone: 413-245-7748
School Fax: 413-245-4422
Email: radebaughk@tantasqua.org

www.tantasqua.org/Wales



February Events:



Feb 1— 4pm — School
Council Meeting

Feb 2—Winter Concert 2pm

Feb 3—Progress Reports sent home

Feb 5—School Banking

Feb 15 - 19—WINTER VACATION

Feb 26—School Banking

March 4—School Banking

Fun & Inexpensive Things to Do during February Vacation:

- ◆ Grab passes to Museums and other local attractions from your Local Library
- ◆ Ice Skating at the Mullins Center in Amherst. Check out more info at: www.mullinscenter.com/events/detail/public-skate
- ◆ Sledding at your local hill
- ◆ Geocaching—a fun “Treasure Hunt” for the whole family. Download free App, get outside and find your Geocache.
- ◆ Grab a movie from Red Box, pop popcorn and roll out the sleeping bags for a family “camp-out” in the living room.
- ◆ Fun Family Crafts, Recipes and Activities can be found at: <http://family.disney.com/>
- ◆ Play Dates and Hangouts are fun & inexpensive ways for kids to have fun.



Tantasqua Regional/School Union 61 Districts



UNION 61 INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AND APPLICATION 2016-2017

School Union 61 is pleased to offer a language based preschool program for children age 3 and 4. Together a teacher and teaching assistant(s) will stress language, motor, and social development to a class of 15 preschool children. The program offers either T/Th at \$85/month, MWF at \$130/month.

In order to be eligible for preschool, your child must be three (3) years old by August 31st and be independently toilet trained.

All transportation is provided by parents. All children will be screened as a part of the application process. Screening dates and times will be assigned and notification of your child's screening will be mailed directly to you.

Children currently enrolled, four year olds, then siblings and town residents will be given priority. Should more children seek enrollment than available spaces participants will be selected by age from oldest to youngest.

If interested in applying to our preschool program please complete attached application and return by April 15, 2016.

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.

**UNION 61 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM APPLICATION
WALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

School Year: 2016-2017

Date: _____

Child's Name: _____
First Full Middle Last

Gender Male _____ Female _____

Date of Birth: _____

City/Town/State of Birth: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Telephone #: _____ Work Telephone #: _____

With whom does the child live? _____

Have you ever applied to our Preschool before? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please indicate when: _____

If no, has your child been enrolled in another preschool? _____

If so, name/address of program: _____

Has your child been screened by a Union 61 School before? Yes _____ No _____

Class assignments will be determined according to the following criteria:

1. returning students, 2nd year in Union 61 school
2. oldest to youngest new applicants
3. Sibling of Preschool Student

Students will be assigned two or three day slots at the Teachers and or Director Discretion. We will try to accommodate work and daycare schedules. However, we cannot guarantee any particular request.

Applications need to be returned no later than April 15, 2016.

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.

TOWN OF WALES

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016

Feb 10	Last day to register to vote in the Presidential Primary*
March 1	Presidential Primary polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Senior Center
April 20	Town Caucus 7 p.m. at the school
April 28	Last day to register to be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Meeting & Town Election*
May 21	Rabies Clinic 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fire Station Fee \$11.00
May 18	Annual Town Meeting 7 p.m. at the school
May 31	Annual Town Elections noon to 8 p.m. at the Senior Center
August 19	Last day to register to vote in the State Primary*
September 8	State Primary Election polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Senior Center
October 19	Last day to register to vote in the Presidential Election*
October 24	Early voting for Presidential Election begins today and ends Nov 4 th
November 8	Presidential Election polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Senior Center

**On these days the Town Clerk's office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. for voter registration.*