

# FOREST ELEMENTARY NEWS



October 2004

It seems that the only thing that doesn't change about education is change. As most of you know there have been a number of changes at Forest this year. We have a new kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Dalke, and a new floor in the kindergarten. The old carpet was getting very tattered and wouldn't clean up. The new linoleum floor looks great and makes the room seem so much brighter and cheerful. Of course Mrs. Dalke and Mrs. Walker are a big part of the reason it's cheerful in the kindergarten. We have a new principal also. I'm Jeff Rogers, principal for Forest this year. I am also the principal at Mackensen Elementary (corner of Salzburg and 2 mile roads) and the Webster Childcare Center on Midland Road at Mackinaw. I'm very pleased to be here. Unfortunately I won't be in the building as much as I'd like to be. Most of my time will be at Mackensen Elementary. You can always reach me by phone (989-684-4958) or the easiest way to get me is by e-mail ([rogersj@bcschools.net](mailto:rogersj@bcschools.net)).

Along with our new staff we are fortunate to have great staff returning also. Ms. Sherry Zimmerman is still the teacher for the Young Fives classroom as well as being the Director of the Forest Childcare program. Ms. Ethel Miller is back as the classroom learning assistant in the Young Fives. Mrs. Cindy Walker is once again the Learning Assistant in our kindergarten, working with Mrs. Dalke. Mrs. Beard is still our school secretary, and she works out of the Auburn Elementary School office. Her phone number there is 662-4921.



I enjoyed meeting many of you at the orientation meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> and it was a pleasant surprise to see some familiar faces and some of you who were students at former schools where I worked. I've also been pleased to talk with some of you on the phone as we have worked on resolving issues and concerns. Something I am especially excited about is a project one of our parents is working on for us. Mr. Gilman has volunteered to develop and maintain a "Forest Elementary" website. There will be more information on this coming in the near future.

A couple of reminders:

You need to have all of your current immunization information turned in by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Those students who don't have it in will not be able to attend school beginning on 10/18.

School pictures for Forest will be on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Information will be sent home the week before.

October 2004

Dear Parents / Guardians and Friends of Bay City Public School Students,

School is underway and we've begun with a great start. Our district enrollment appears to be stable with approximately 9,791 students. This number brings good news to our district as our district budget was built on an estimate of 9,800 students. We are in the third consecutive year of no funding increase from the State and our staffing and building budgets are very tight. We are not alone in this situation as I am sure you are reading about difficult school budgets all across the state. We will make it – however, if we are reduced unexpectedly in midyear as has happened the past two years, we will be facing some very serious decisions in our district.

School safety is an important goal for this school year. To assist us in carrying out this goal, our middle school and high school buildings will conduct a canine search two times during this school year. To introduce our students to the canine search process, an awareness assembly will be held at all of our secondary buildings on October 19 and 20. The schedule of assemblies will be:

Tuesday, October 19:

8:00 a.m. – Eastside Middle School

9:00 a.m. – Handy Middle School

11:00 a.m. – Central High School

Wednesday, October 20:

7:40 a.m. – Western High School

9:25 a.m. – Western Middle School

10:25 a.m. – Wenona

In addition, an evening program for parents will be held on Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Handy Middle School's Auditorium. All parents are invited to learn about this safety measure being put into place in our district.

I continue to be so very excited to be a part of this great school district – please feel welcome to visit me at the Administration Building, call me (671-8168) or email me ([wierdac@bcschools.net](mailto:wierdac@bcschools.net)).

Sincerely,

Carolyn C. Wierda  
Superintendent