



August 8, 2018

To: Board of Education  
From: Cheri Wysong, Principal  
Washington Elementary School

Enrollment: 315- with 1.5 weeks to go, and registering daily..... (currently down 29 overall)  
PK= 65                      K= 75                      1= 95                      Grade 2= 80

Registration was held at Pana High School on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Special Thank You goes out to Dorothy Murrell for her organizational skills in coordinating a smooth process for parents and staff alike. An additional Thank You goes out to Linda Cross, Brandi Malisia, Jodi Sims, Sherry Jo Wallace and Rebecca Mahnke for their assistance in this process. The addition of 12 new students was quite a surprise.... As was the addition of several out of state families!

The smaller class sizes in Kindergarten and Grade 2 this year will allow for more individualized attention in these critical years for the acquisition of reading and math skills. The larger class size in Grade 1 will provide challenges, but thankfully we have some shared classroom assistants provided with our Title I funds.

**New Staff:**

With the transfer of Mrs. Little in PREP to Taylorville, and the resignation of Kiley Halbrook, Washington School will welcome two new members to our PREP/EC staff! Jody Marty joins us as a PREP classroom teacher. Jody was part of our staff many years ago as an assistant in PREP and has been teaching in Nokomis since earning her degree. Teresa Spencer will be joining us as a classroom assistant for the program. We are excited to work with this new Pre-K teacher and her assistant to prepare more children for entry into Kindergarten the following year!

Jodi Jannink will be joining us as a reading/math assistant to fill the vacancy left with the resignation of Jodi Reed. Jodi will also be assuming the role of playground assistant to help Mrs. Hay with the supervision of students.

Ericka Crawford will be filling the Grade 1 position left by the resignation of Lindsey Kerby. Ericka is a hometown girl who has spent some time long term subbing in Pana and then teaching at Okaw Valley. Ericka and the team have been meeting on a regular basis all summer to be ready to "hit the ground running" with our new reading series!

Mid- State employee changes include: Rebecca Dagen will be filling the assistant vacancy left by the resignation of Michele Anderson, a classroom assistant who is still being

searched for, in addition to a TBD person filling the vacancy left by Elizabeth Howley, our district social worker. We also received the exciting news of Brenda Patrick filling the program coordinator vacancy left by Bobbi Hartman. We are thrilled to have Brenda and her expertise back among us!

Additionally, with the changes in lunchroom staff, we will be adding 2 new faces. Carole Brown will be joining us as a classroom assistant in addition to her lunchroom duties, and Diana Smith will be joining us as a cashier/dishwasher. The cafeteria staff is looking forward to partnering with our PBIS team to include some exciting positive behavior reinforcement strategies during our lunchtimes.

We would also like to Thank Cindy, Patty, Michael, Scott, Sam, and Randy for their work in getting things moved back into place, computers hooked up and smart boards ready to go. Thanks also go out to Michael, Adam and Jake for helping to load and deliver old text books to the recycling center in Taylorville. Hundreds of pounds of materials were kept out of the landfill due to their help.....We feel very fortunate to have such great building, grounds and technology staff to help us be ready and to do our very best for our students!

Student Service Projects: Over the summer, Mrs. Wysong delivered our “pop tabs” to Ronald McDonald House Charities in Springfield. Students at Washington and Lincoln collected 45.2 pounds of tabs for that donation. These tabs will be recycled to help fund meals and housing for families with critically ill children who are staying at the Springfield facility. Students also collected more than 1800 pounds of bottle caps that will be delivered to our partners at Greentree Plastics in Evansville Indiana. We partner with them in the ABC program to teach students about responsible recycling. These caps would otherwise end up in the landfill, but because of our efforts, they are used as a “stable base” to create outdoor benches and picnic tables for communities and businesses. We are partnering with the cities of Pana and Oconee, and the Lions club in Oconee to purchase benches. These service projects help children understand the importance of helping others and thinking beyond the moment. We will continue these projects again next year. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the collection of these materials.

HUGE Thank you to Cindy Ashcraft and Patty Jones for getting the building polished and shining for the new school year. We will host our annual “Meet the Teacher Night” on August 17 from 5:00-6:30, but please stop by anytime for a walk through to see how wonderful our building looks! We are all looking forward to all the excitement of a new year.

***“Working in partnership, PCUSD #8, students, parents  
and community members will each do  
his or her part to ensure  
learning and success”***