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Tampico Dist.#3
Morrison Dist. #6

Kathy Wolf
Erie Dist.#1

Resource Center Coor.
Debbie Klein

Resource Centers and Lending Libraries

Erie Elementary
Prophetstown Elementary
Tampico Elementary
Wallace Education Center
Southside School
Merrill School

Administered By
Whiteside County Regional
Superintendent's Office

Funded By
State Board of Education
Erie Dist. #1
Prophetstown Dist.#3
Sterling Dist.#5
Morrison Dist.#6
East Coloma Dist.#12
Rock Falls Dist.#13
Riverdale Dist.#14
Montmorency Dist.#145

Whiteside County **PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

A Whiteside County Regional Office of Education Publication *Office Phone 625-1495*
Library Warm Line 625-6331 **October 2000**

Why do we offer home visits to enrolled families?

Whiteside County Parents As Teachers believes that parents are their child's first and most influential teachers. It is our goal to help you give your child the best possible start in life.

Personal visits individualize the program for your family. During these visits, you and your parent educator can discuss child development and child rearing issues that come up at various ages. Your parent educator will help you know what to expect as your child grows so that as you observe your child's accomplishments you can appreciate how significant they are. She will try to answer your questions or find the answers for you. Each time she visits, she will share an age-appropriate activity and book with you and your child. She will also bring you written materials about what to look for in your child's development and things you can do to encourage language and intellectual growth.

What do we ask of you?

Please be there for your scheduled visit. If you have an emergency and must cancel, please call your parent educator and let her know. She will gladly reschedule the visit whenever possible.

Please provide a quiet place to visit so you and your parent educator can hear your child clearly and concentrate on the discussions.

Do you have a neighbor, friend or relative who would like to be part of Parents As Teachers?

If so, this is the time of year to tell them about PAT. Each fall, we have families leave our program because their youngest child has entered kindergarten. This enables the parent educators to enroll new families into the program.

The only requirements for enrollment are that the family lives in Whiteside County and has a child birth to age 5. We also will enroll a family who is expecting a child within 3 months.

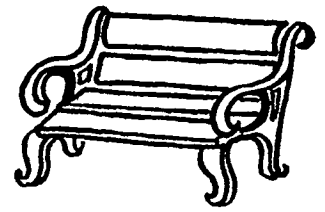
You may refer a family through your parent educator or call Pat at 815/625-1495.

Erie Elementary Lending Library Open House

On Tuesday, October 10, Erie Elementary will open their lending library for Parents As Teachers and preschool families. Stop in anytime between 9 and 10 a.m. or 6 and 7 p.m. to see the toys, books, games, and parenting resources they have available for check-out.

The lending library is located in the learning center. If you visit in the evening, please enter through the parking lot door. Hope to see you there.

The Park Bench School of Parenting



Years ago parents got most of their child-rearing information from each other. Articles in the Park Bench School of Parenting are written to revive that custom. If you belong to a parents' group, use these articles as discussion starters. Or ask a friend what he or she would do in a similar situation. Listen to different viewpoints and decide for yourself what's best for your family.

Household Items for Creative Play

Children, as you know, are always surprising us. They'll play with almost any object lying around, if they see it as useful. Sticks and twigs can become as important to them as the most expensive electronic wizardry.

Sometimes the simplest toys are the best. Children around the world like to play with objects that allow them to imitate adults: toys that can be used to simulate cooking, cleaning, building or gardening, for example. Such toys are usually not very complicated. In fact, they may be common household items. Many manufactured toys, on the other hand, are so unrelated to children's everyday experience—so cutesy—that many children can't figure out what to do with them. Most homes are filled with potential toys for children.

Common sense, as well as awareness of environmental and toxic dangers will help you decide whether an object is safe. Here's a short list of objects to avoid:

- Anything with sharp edges.
- Objects that can break into sharp pieces.
- Toxic substances.
- Plastic bags.
- Pointed objects.

The following list of "toys" will help you nurture your children's creativity. Talking with other parents and using your own imagination will undoubtedly help you add to the list.

- *Boxes* have unlimited uses. Save all sizes and shapes, from little ones, which can hold valued objects such as pretty stones, to large ones that can be used for storing toys or building playhouses.
- *Outgrown and discarded clothes*, especially those in adult sizes, make excellent costumes for plays and skits.

- *Pieces of string* have infinite uses. A length of string may be just the thing to connect two spaceships.
- *Discarded kitchen utensils* are useful in the sandbox, in the yard or at the beach.
- *Old cups, bowls and food containers*, such as the plastic containers margarine comes in, are useful for storing prized possessions (little beads, stones, marbles), for holding and molding snow or dirt, and who knows what else.
- *Pieces of cloth* of various sizes, colors and textures, which adults may think are only useful as cleaning rags, will have many more uses for children. Old dish towels can become doll blankets or capes.
- *All kinds of paper*: newspapers, drawing paper, cardboard, colored paper, flattened gift boxes and wrapping paper—are worth saving. Children like to have their own supply of such stuff.
- *Magazines* containing photographs and bright pictures can be used for collages and other art projects. If no other source is available, ask the receptionist at your doctor's office to save the ones they throw out periodically.

As children grow and their interests become more focused, parental assistance in finding specialized materials for their projects becomes more important. If you begin the habit of finding creative materials for them when they are young, it will be easier and more natural for you to do so as they get older. It's a way to exercise your own creativity.

Source: *How to Develop Your Children's Creativity* by Reynold Bean



October Parent/Child Activities

MEET US AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH

The Great Pumpkin Patch

Date: Wednesday, October 11

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: The Great Pumpkin Patch
16470 Black Road
Lyndon

***Rain Date:** Wednesday, October 18

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun afternoon in the country. We will gather at their petting zoo to go for a hayride to the pumpkin patch. There, you and your child will see the pumpkins and learn about how they grow. Each child attending will receive a small pumpkin to take home. The hayride and pumpkin are compliments of Parents As Teachers. **** Please see reservation information below.**

The Great Pumpkin Patch also offers the following free of charge:

- *Farm animals to pet
- *Photo opportunities

For a small charge they offer:

- *Train ride around the farm - \$2.50
- *Straw maze - .50
- *Haunted House - for older children

They also have a snack bar and gift shop.

Hosted by Kathy, Laura & Debbie

Selmi's Farm Market

Date: Friday, October 13

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Selmi's
1206 Dixon Ave.
Rock Falls

***Rain Date:** Friday, October 20

Time: 11 a.m.



Join us for a visit to Selmi's Pumpkin Patch. We will gather at their petting zoo and then go for a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch. There, you and your child will see how pumpkins grow. Each child attending will receive a small pumpkin to take home. The wagon ride and pumpkin are compliments of Parents As Teachers. **** Please see reservation information below.**

Selmi's also offers the following free of charge:

- *Farm animals to pet
- *Photo area

For a small charge they offer:

- *Children's museum - \$1.00
- *Corn maze - \$1.00
- *Haunted house

They also have a store with fall vegetables and decorations.

Hosted by Dawn, Mary, Sandy & Sue

****Please call Pat at 815/625-1495 or your parent educator**
by October 6.**

Let us know which location you will be attending.

October Parent/Child Activities

For families with children 4 and 5 years old

M & M's Math

Counting Fun

Parents and children will enjoy activities using M & M's to work on color recognition and math concepts like counting, sorting, graphing, adding and subtracting.

M & M's Math will be held in two locations. Please attend the activity that best fits your schedule.

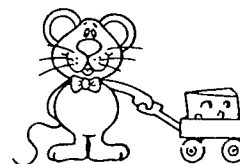
Date: Thursday, October 12
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Place: Room 4 - Merrill School
Rock Falls

Date: Friday, October 13
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Place: Preschool Room
Prophetstown Elementary



Mouse Paint

Story Stretcher



Mouse Paint, by Ellen Stoll Walsh will be our feature book. Following the story, you and your child will explore color mixing activities designed to introduce secondary colors.

Mouse Paint will be held in two locations. Please attend the activity that best fits your schedule.

Date: Friday, October 20
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Place: Preschool Room
Tampico Elementary

Date: Monday, October 23
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.
Place: P.A.T. Lending Library - Rm 18
Wallace Ed. Center - Sterling

Family Fun Night

Pajama Party and Bedtime Snacks

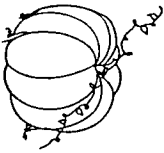
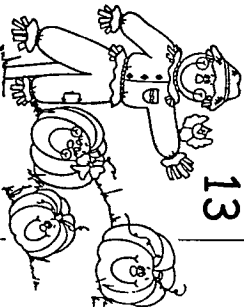
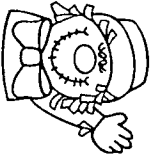
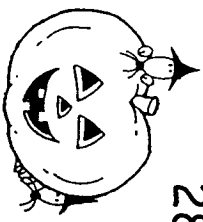
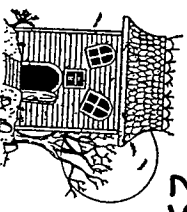
Date: Monday, October 16, 23, and 30
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Location: Washington School Cafeteria, Sterling



You and your children will prepare nutritious and delicious bedtime or anytime snacks. Easy recipes that require little or no cooking. **Bring the whole family for a fun night!** Sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, Washington School, Early Bird, and Parents As Teachers.

Whiteside County Parents As Teachers

October Lending Library Hours

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	2 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	3 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Linda	4 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie Wallace library/center 4 - 6 p.m./Janie	5 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day Library Closed	10 Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sandy Erie library 6-7 p.m.	11 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	12 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue	 13	14
15  Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	16 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	17 Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Dawn Erie library 6-7 p.m.	18 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	19 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary Merrill library/center Open 4-6 p.m./	20	21
22	23 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	24 Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sandy Erie library 6-7 p.m.	25 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	26 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary	27	28 
 29	30 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	31 Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Dawn Erie library 6-7 p.m.	Erie The toy lending library is located in the Erie Elementary Learning Center. The hours of operation are listed above.	Morrison A toy lending library is available in Morrison. Please ask Laura about its location and when you may use it.	Prophetstown The toy lending library is located in the Pre-school Room. You may use it any school day before or after classes or when you attend an activity.v	Tampico The toy lending library is located in the Pre-school Room. You may use it any school day before or after classes or when you attend an activity.

DO THIS NOW! (JUST IN CASE...)

The time to look up the number of your local poison control center isn't when you're frantic because your toddler has gotten into the cleaning supplies. Here it is. Tape it next to your phone alongside other emergency numbers. Just in case...

**ILLINOIS POISON CENTER
1-800-942-5969**

Gary J. Steinert
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1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

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