



Wales Window

Website: www.tantasqua.org/wales

Next School Committee Meeting: April 15th @ 6pm
School Committee Voicemail: 245-7571 ext. 132

April 2015

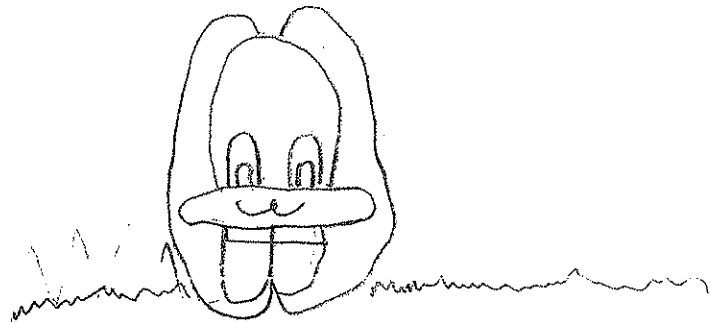
Coming Events!



Kindergarten Screening:

Illustration by: Donovan/gr. 2

Kindergarten screening will be held on May 28th for children who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2015. *If your child has been previously screened for Preschool, there is no need to repeat the screening process.* If you have not received notification from the Wales School regarding this screening, please call 413-245-7748.



Wales Preschool:

All children who were born in 2011 and 2012 are eligible for our preschool program. For information, please call 413-245-7748. Preschool screening will be held on May 28, 2015. *If your child has been previously screened for Preschool, there is no need to repeat the screening process.*

Testing Schedule:

PARCC Testing Dates: Grades 3-4-5-6 May 4-29

Notices:

Personal items with the potential to cause harm to others or distract from the educational process are not permitted on school property. This includes shoes with wheels, toys, games, electronic devices including: Walkmans/CD's, Game Boys, etc....

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.

Please send in updated contact information when your cell phone or home phone changes. It is important to keep this information accurate in case of an emergency or if we need to reach someone in case your child is ill. **YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!**

HEALTH OFFICE:

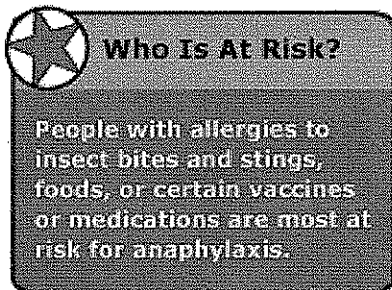
Serious Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

Kids with severe allergies can be at risk for a sudden, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This reaction can be frightening — a child may feel like his or her throat is closing or might faint, for example.

But the good news is that when treated properly, anaphylaxis can be managed.

Anaphylaxis isn't common, but some kids with allergies are more at risk for it. So if your child has allergies, it's important to know about it and be prepared.

Signs of Anaphylaxis



As with other allergies, anaphylaxis can trigger symptoms in any of these four body systems:

1. skin
2. gastrointestinal system
3. respiratory system
4. cardiovascular system

An allergic reaction might be a medical emergency if it happens in two or more of these

systems — for example, hives on the skin together with stomach pain.

The most common signs that someone might have anaphylaxis after exposure to an allergen are:

- difficulty breathing
- tightness in the throat or feeling like the throat or airways are closing
- hoarseness or trouble speaking
- wheezing
- nasal stuffiness or coughing
- nausea, abdominal pain, or vomiting
- fast heartbeat or pulse
- skin itching, tingling, redness, or swelling

Timely Treatment Needed

Anaphylaxis requires immediate treatment. It can get worse very quickly. This is why doctors usually want people with life-threatening allergies to carry a medication called epinephrine. **Epinephrine** enters the bloodstream and works quickly against serious allergy symptoms; for example, it decreases swelling and raises blood pressure.

Epinephrine is given as an injection. This isn't as scary as it sounds, though — there's no big needle and plunger involved. Instead, doctors will prescribe an auto injector about the size of a large pen that's easy for parents — and older kids — to carry and use. If your child is prescribed epinephrine, your doctor will show you how to use it.

Your doctor also might instruct you to give your child over-the-counter (OTC) antihistamines, too — but they won't work alone. OTC antihistamines are never a replacement for epinephrine in life-threatening reactions.

If Your Child Has a Serious Reaction

If your child shows signs of a serious allergic reaction, call 911 or seek immediate medical care at a hospital emergency room. And if your

child has a known allergy and carries epinephrine, take these steps:

Step 1: Give epinephrine right away. If you are alone with your child, administer this medication first, then call 911. If you are not alone with your child, have someone else call 911 while you administer the medication.

Step 2: Call 911 or get to the nearest emergency room. After your child receives epinephrine, go to an emergency room immediately. Sometimes a child has a second wave of symptoms (called a biphasic reaction). So the hospital will observe your child for at least 4 hours to be sure he or she is OK and provide additional treatment, if needed.

Serious allergies can be alarming. But they're a lot easier to recognize and treat now than in the past, thanks to greater awareness and the availability of epinephrine. Also, make sure that any caregivers, teachers, or coaches know about the allergy and what to do in an emergency.

Reviewed by: Sheelagh M. Stewart, RN, MPH
Date reviewed: February 2012

PTF NEWS:

Artwork for our *Original Works Fundraiser* has been sent home. All orders are due back no later than April 3rd and must include your child's artwork. Ordered items will be back to school by the end of April and you will be notified when they arrive. If you are not ordering, please return the art work so it can be displayed at the annual district art fair. It will be returned to your child at a later date. We do have sample items from this company. Stop by school if you would like to check them out. Thank you for your support.

Keep sending in those **Boxtops**!! We're doing great this year and have recently sent in Boxtops worth approximately \$250.00. Remind your family and friends that Wales Elementary School collects Boxtops. Also, if you are doing any shopping online, remember to visit www.boxtops4education.com first.

Our school will receive a percentage of your purchase. The Boxtops Website also has coupons you can print off to use while you shop and monthly sweepstakes you can enter to win more points for our school. Both of these are easy ways to help our school and children.

Remember that Stop & Shop is continuing their **A+ Bonus Bucks program**. Please tell your family and friends that we are taking part in this program. It's not too late to register your card(s) if you shop at Stop and Shop!! Our school will earn cash from the Stop and Shop program.

If you have ideas or any questions or suggestions, please contact PTF

- send a note addressed to PTF to the office where we have a mailbox
- email us at WalesPTF@hotmail.com
- call Dawn at 413-237-4369

Dates to Remember

April

- 1-10 PARCC Testing Gr. 3-4-5-6
- 6 Grade 6 Parent Night – Jr. High 6-7pm
- 14 Spring Pictures
- 15 School Committee Meeting 6pm
- 17 School Banking
- 20-24 No School – Spring Vacation



Mr. Ed Boyce and the members of the School Committee presented a plaque to Phyllis Scribner at the Winter Concert on Tuesday, March 10th. For the last twenty plus years, Phyllis has anonymously been knitting hats and mittens for the students at the school. Her tireless efforts are greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social (Networking) Media apps and sites are constantly being developed. It can be very hard to keep up with what is in and what is out - - - however, it is important to try to maintain a working knowledge of current, popular apps and how they work.

Social Networking Sites

Facebook - users create a profile and then share photos, messages, comments with friends through "posts" - has privacy settings that allow for posts to be fairly private but these must be set manually by user. Not very popular with kids anymore - mostly because it's popular with their parents!

Age restriction 13.

Twitter - a microblogging site where users post brief message (140 characters max) called "tweets". Very popular with kids for keeping up with friends as well as pop-culture and celebrities. Can be set to private, but the point is to get "followers" to "re-tweet" your tweets. Public is the point with Twitter.

Age restriction 13.

Instagram - very popular app. Users take, edit, share and comment on photos - has lots of fun photo filters for editing. Everything is public unless set to private, but like Twitter - public is the point and users look for lots of "followers"

Age restriction 13.

Yik Yak - app allows users to post brief comments anonymously that will be seen by the nearest 500 users within a 1.5 mile radius. Some possible issues with stalking, threats and bullying and also just general rude comments. Location is revealed every time app is opened. However this app is intended for college students and most high schools block this app. Age restriction is 17, but no age verification, just a warning about content.

Ask.fm - allows users to ask questions and answer posted questions anonymously, many of which are either bullying or sexual. Also, the poster of the answer may be anonymous, the poster of the question may not.

Age restriction is 13.

Tinder - a photo and messaging dating app for browsing pictures of potential matches within a certain-mile radius of the user's location for the purpose of meeting (hooking up).

Recently changed its age restriction from 12 to 17.

Whisper - "confessional" app that allows users to post anything on their mind with an image anonymously. Lots of "dark" and sexual content.

Age restriction 17.

Omegle - pairs strangers for video or text chat. No registration required. Not a site for teens or tweens, lots of explicit content and conversations. Age restriction 13, user under 18 need a parent's permission, but there is no verification process.

HotorNot - a location-based app that shows you the hottest - - or most attractive per their rating system - - people nearby. Policy says user must be 13+ and user 13-17 cannot chat or message, but there is no age verification process.

Snapchat - this app allows users to share photos and videos, but it also lets user put a time limit on them so they “disappear”. However, these images can be saved via screen-shot and may also be traceable if the device is plugged into a computer.

Age restriction 13.

Snapkidz - for those under 13 - this app allows younger users to take snaps and videos, but does not allow them to share.

Tumblr - like a “streaming scrapbook” users create and share photos, videos and also “tumblelogs”. Many instances of “oversharing” personal information. Very complicated to set privacy settings.

Age restriction 13.

Vine - lets users post and watch looping 6 second videos, lots of funny content but unfortunately lots of fairly easily accessed inappropriate videos too - changed its age restriction from 12 to 17 last year because of numerous porn uploads.

YouTube - very popular video sharing site/app. Complete user-generated, relies on the community to flag videos that violate terms of service. Lots of easily accessed inappropriate material, but wildly popular with teens and tweens. Age restriction is 18 or 13 with a parent’s permission.

Kik Messenger - very popular with younger kids that have a mobile device that is not an actual phone. Lots of ads and lots of pushing for additional app adoption.

Age restriction is 13 to have an account.