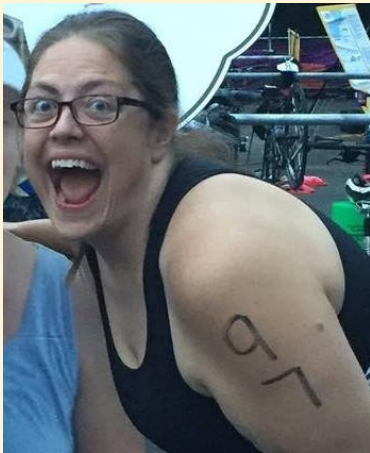




# WOODSEGE HOWL

WoodsEdge Learning Center  
PARENT NEWSLETTER

## Staff Spotlights



**Alisha Krcatovich** is a Special Education Teacher. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University and is currently working on her BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analysis) in a Master's Program. Alisha serves as WoodsEdge's Coordinator for students who live at the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research. The children that live at GLC's residential program are there because of their significant behavioral needs. Alisha works with them on learned behaviors and communication skills to get them ready to attend school successfully, and assists in transitioning those students to WoodsEdge when they are ready. Additionally, Alisha works with children in Kalamazoo who are unable to come to school for health or behavioral

reasons, and she supports Jason (Behavior Support Specialist), Pam (Teacher Consultant), and classroom teams with their behavioral and instructional needs.

In her free time, Alisha enjoys being outside in nature, hiking, biking, swimming, being with friends and family, photography, cooking, and Pinterest. Alisha recently completed her first Triathlon and holds regional titles for Baton Twirling which she competed in for eight years. In case you're wondering, yes, she did twirl fire.

"Our staff are so good at teaming together and supporting our students' varied needs. I love that we all celebrate all of these student successes together, both at WELC and GLC! And I love to see how much happier my students are when they learn the tools that they need to get their needs met and to advocate for themselves."

- **Alisha Krcatovich, Special Education Teacher/Coordinator for GLC**



**Emma Bentley** is WoodsEdge's School Social Worker. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and a Master's Degree from Western Michigan University. Emma has been at WoodsEdge since 2013 and supports all the students onsite and offsite. Emma does evaluations, provides instruction in our CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) trainings, and helps families get

connected to services in the community like CMH (Community Mental Health). In her free time, Emma enjoys spending time with her husband Peter and their puppy, Apollo. She also enjoys baking, watching MSU sports, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

"I enjoy collaborating with the staff and parents – when we work as a team it benefits the students. I also love it when I'm able to be the bridge between families and agencies; when those connections happen for the success of the students it brings me joy. Although I don't get to interact with students as much as I would like, I always love interacting with students and hearing about the progress they are making."

- **Emma Bentley, School Social Worker**

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## Important Dates:



### January

- 9 - School Resumes
  - 12- PAWS Meeting 1:30
  - 27- No School
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## ULS Focus

## U. S. HISTORY



During the month of January, **preschool students** will read *The Little Red Hen*. While focusing on this story, they'll learn about manners, feelings and helping others.

**Elementary students** will focus on History, comparing the past and the present. Similarly, **Intermediate-aged students** will discuss how times have changed in the United States over time.

**Middle school and High school students** will learn about the need for such changes, and specifically, how conflict has changed the United States. Lastly, **Transition-aged students** will learn to identify safe and unsafe situations, and what to do.

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## Parent Information

**Winter is here and there are lots of things to do with your family during break.**

- Wednesday January 4th, musicians Gemini who have visited the school many times, will be making an appearance for free at Kalamazoo Valley Museum at 12pm.
- Chuck-e-Cheese is also offering sensory sensitive days for kids with disabilities. Starting January 8th, every first Sunday of the month from 9am-11 am.
- Sledding hills available in the area:
  - Milham Park Golf Course  
4200 Lovers Lane, Kalamazoo
  - Maple Street Magnet School For the Arts  
922 W. Maple St., Kalamazoo
  - Kindleberger Park in Parchment
  - Hillside Middle School  
1941 Alamo Ave, Kalamazoo Township
  - Leila Arboretum in Battle Creek  
928 W. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek
  - Oakland Drive Park  
7650 Oakland Drive, near the intersection of Oakland Drive and Schuring, in Portage



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## Snow Days



Snow is here, and for the safety of our students, sometimes that means we must close. School closing announcements are made by local radio & TV stations the day of closing.

**When Portage Public Schools are closed, WoodsEdge Learning Center is closed.** This is also true for fog delays.

If your local district is closed but Portage is not, buses will not pick up your student and they are not required to attend on that day, but you are welcome to bring them in if it is safe for you to do so.

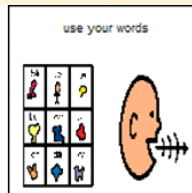
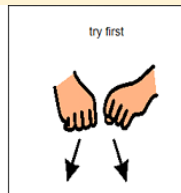
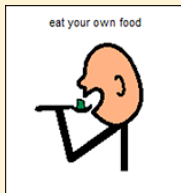
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## Transportation

For transportation questions or problems on existing routes, please call your **District Transportation Office** first. If you require additional assistance, or for transportation questions or problems with a new route or a new student's bussing, please call Stephanie Reschka at 250-9411.



## PBIS Around WoodsEdge



January: Cafeteria

WE ARE SAFE: Eat Your Own Food

WE ARE INDEPENDENT: Try First

WE COMMUNICATE: Use Your Words

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## Wolf of the Month

Throughout the school year students are taught expectations for the classroom and common areas in the school. When a student displays the expected behavior, they are given a ticket. Once a month we gather for a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports) assembly and a winner is drawn from all the tickets collected that month. We have three Wolf of the Month winners, one from each village. The Wolves of the Month receive a medal, get their picture taken with Paws (our mascot), and receive a certificate signed by our Director, Angela Telfer and our Principal, Aubree Spencer.



# December Wolves of the Month

Etinosa

Trent

Brittany



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Loving Hearts & Helping Hands



*One of our bus drivers fundraised to buy and assemble 300 holiday baskets for all of our students at WoodsEdge. Thank you, Julie!*

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## **Holiday Celebrations**





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