

# VILLAGE OF WONDER LAKE

*news and updates from the Village*



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**SOMEONE YOU SHOULD  
KNOW: OFFICER  
THERESA HARPER,  
WLPD SCHOOL  
RESOURCE OFFICER**

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**THINK FIRST SAFETY  
PRESENTATIONS AT  
HARRISON SCHOOL**

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**MESSAGE FROM VILLAGE  
PRESIDENT TONY TOPF**

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Can you believe Summer is almost over?

For our children it is Back to School time - with all the fun, homework, dreams, and angst school can bring.

Some youngsters are thrilled to be going back - seeing old friends and making new ones. But for others it is a stressful time - let them know this is a normal feeling, and you're there for them.

Use dinner time to find out how your child's day was - ask open-ended questions, and let them know they can always talk to you.

In this issue WLPD School Resource Officer Theresa Harper offers tips on communicating with your child, addresses the topic of bullying, and gives us personal insights into her job.

Read about the upcoming "Think First" safety presentations at Harrison School, traffic and safety reminders, and a message from Village President Tony Topf. Enjoy these Back to School days!



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**SOMEONE YOU SHOULD  
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HARPER, WLPD SCHOOL  
RESOURCE OFFICER**

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**Officer Theresa Harper is a part-time police officer in Wonder Lake.** She also works full-time as a McHenry County Sheriff's Office deputy, teaches Pilates, works out at the gym, and is a volunteer for multiple charities in her spare time (whew!). She has a 16 year old son who no longer considers her "cool" (but we do).

Thank You for the interview Officer Harper - we're happy to meet you; thank you for helping us navigate these 1st days of school!

**Favorite thing about her job:** My goal is to be a positive role model for the students I interact with. I love making a positive difference and seeing how it can change someone's life.

**Hardest thing about her job:** Seeing people lose loved ones - it never gets easier.

**What is a good question parents can ask to find out about their child's school day:** Kids don't always like to talk, but ask one question. Tell me one fun thing you did today, or what was the best part of your day. (My son is a teenager of few words, but he does answer this question.)

**How can parents talk to their children about bullying?** If your child is being bullied I think it's important to speak up and tell whoever is bullying them to stop and think about how it makes them feel. I also think it's important to teach your kids not to bully and to treat others the way you want to be treated. Also, remember to be kind - it's hard to bully someone who is always nice to you. Everyone wants a kind friend, and you never know what your bully is going through, maybe they just need a friend - someone to be nice and caring towards them. You definitely don't want to fight back with fists or mean words, it just escalates the situation.

**Last-minute words of advice for back to school:** Be kind to others, help those in need and have fun. School should be fun, make fun memories with your friends and be positive - it's contagious!

**Favorite Foods?** Vegetable: broccoli; Meal: tacos; Dessert: tiramisu; Ice Cream: Monster Cookie Blue Bunny Sundae

**Any Fun Hobbies?** Collecting shot glasses - I don't use them, just display them. My son and I enjoy scary movies and fun vacations.

**Final words of advice:** If you get stuck up high, you'll have to wait for the Wonder Lake Fire Department to save you - I'm afraid of heights

## 'THINK FIRST' INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM COMING TO HARRISON SCHOOL AUGUST 20TH



Harrison School Resource Officer Theresa Harper is bringing the Think First Injury Prevention Program Team from Northwestern Hospital to the school on Tuesday August 20th to teach 1st, 5th, and 8th graders about bicycle and traffic safety.

Think First teaches children about the importance of making safe choices. Healthcare professionals talk to students about using their mind to protect their body, using upbeat thought-provoking programs. Children in the 1st grade will be fitted with bicycle helmets donated by Northwestern Medicine.

**There will be school assemblies at 12:30 for 8th graders, 1:30 for 5th graders, and 2:30 for 1st graders.**

**At 4 p.m. everyone will head over to the Wonder Lake Fire Department East Side Station for a bike rodeo, with the public invited to watch.** The Bike Haven (stores in Woodstock & McHenry) will be on hand to perform bicycle checks. *(Children will be riding their bicycles to the Fire Station, with officers making sure they safely cross the street and get to the Fire Station.)*

This event promises to be fun for kids of all ages, and Officer Harper would like to make this an annual event at Harrison School. (She hopes to bring a bike rodeo to the west side of Wonder Lake for Bicycle Safety month in May 2020.)

*For more information about Think First Illinois visit*  
<http://www.thinkfirstillinois.org/>

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**BACK TO SCHOOL  
SAFETY TIPS FROM THE  
NATIONAL SAFETY  
COUNCIL**

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Back to school is an extremely important time to remember to **slow down and watch for children** - standing at bus stops, getting on and off school buses, riding bikes, playing in the neighborhood, and walking.

It is important to remember the tips below, and review illustrations on the next page about stopping for school buses and bus danger zones:

- Do not pass a school bus from behind if it is stopped to load or unload children.
- Stop far enough back from a bus to allow children to safely enter or exit a bus - the 10 feet around a bus is the most dangerous.
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the school bus stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.
- Don't block a crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to turn - this could put children in the path of traffic.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or a crossing guard holding a Stop Sign.
- Never pass a vehicle that has stopped for pedestrians.
- Keep your eyes open for children in school zones, residential areas, and parks and playgrounds.
- No matter who has the right of way, do everything possible to avoid striking a pedestrian.
- If you're dropping kids off at school don't double-park or load/unload across the street from a school.
- Carpool when possible to reduce the number of vehicles at the school.

Please talk to your children about these safety reminders for their bus ride:

- Walk straight to a seat; don't stand in the aisle
- Sit facing forward and keep aisles clear
- Speak in a quiet voice
- Always listen to your bus driver
- Get on and off the bus carefully and without rushing
- If you need to get your bus driver's attention, raise your hand

Teach your child - whether walking, biking, or riding the school bus - to always obey traffic signs, signals, and traffic officers.

**Let's make the 2019/2020 school year a safe one!**



Autumn and back to school days are times of renewal for us all (big and little!). Here are a few simple thoughts to consider:



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**FROM THE DESK OF  
ANTHONY TOPF,  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT**

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- Your mistakes do not define you
- It is OK to not know but it's not OK to not try
- It always seems impossible until it's done (*Nelson Mandela*)
- You're amazing just the way you are
- May your heart be kind, your mind fierce, and your spirit brave
- To teach is to touch a life forever
- Your attitude determines your direction
- Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars. (*Les Brown*)
- You can learn something new every day if you listen
- Do what is right, not what is easy
- You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. (*Dr Seuss*)
- Follow your dreams
- Look for the helpers; you will always find people who are helping. (*Mr. Rogers' mother*)

Harrison students - never forget that Officer Harper and your teachers are always willing to be your helpers.

Thank You to all the teachers, school staff, administrators, kitchen staff, librarians, bus drivers, nurses, coordinators, resource officers, and every person who touches the lives of our children. You shape them every single day, and we couldn't be more grateful!

Tony

*A great resource for those dinner questions Officer Harper talked about:  
<https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/blog/conversation-of-the-week/best-back-school-questions/>*