FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. **Why do we need the *WAVE*? Don't we already have volunteers and tutors?**
A: To enlist more academic volunteers and get more families involved in enriching Wayside's academic success. Additionally to help achieve Wayside's site goal for the OCCT (mandated state test for 3rd-5th grade each spring).

Q. **Isn't it the teacher's job to get all kids to be proficient on the OCCT?**
A: Yes and no. It is the teachers' job, but not just the teachers' job. To be one of the top schools in our peer group and provide an excellent education for our kids, it really has to be a community effort. We all have an active role in the education of our children.

Q. **Why should I help?**
A: The children! The best reward in volunteering is seeing a child smile, think, learn, build confidence and achieve. Research! It has been proven that involved families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more. A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement, Annual Synthesis 2002.

Q. **Can working parents help?**
A: Absolutely!

- Volunteer for 30 minutes on your lunch break once a week or once a month (afterwards, take 15 minutes to eat lunch with your child in the cafeteria; that's a win for you, a win for your child, and a win for the school).
- Volunteer for 30 minutes after work as long as it is before 6 pm (your child can play on the playground, visit the library, or do his/her homework while you volunteer).
- Check out the list of non-academic volunteer opportunities that are especially suited for full time workers – all volunteers contribute to the culture and success of our school and ultimately impact the academic achievement of our children.
- In addition to regular, consistent and committed volunteers, we need substitute volunteers too. If you can't commit to be a regular consistent volunteer, be a substitute for one when they can't come in due to illness, vacation, etc. Substitutes are a very important part of the WAVE. Teachers take the time to prepare a tutoring lesson and when a regular volunteer cannot make their scheduled time, the teachers' time is wasted and the child loses an opportunity to learn.
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Q. **How much time will this require from me?**
A: It's up to you. On average, 30-60 minutes once a week would be ideal. However, if you can provide 30-60 minutes every two weeks or once a month, we can work with your schedule.

Q. **OK, I'm sold. What can I do?**
A: Any of the following:

- Math tutor (for kids on math plans)
- Reading tutor (for kids on reading plans)
- Classroom help
- Library (to assist Mrs. Hixon)
- Work Room (to assist all teachers)
- Test Monitor (in Spring only)

- Substitute for any of the above
- Junior Achievement

Q. **When do I start?**
A: The teachers need about a month to set up their class communities and assess the students' needs. We use that time to train our volunteers and provide them with an orientation. Orientation and training for math, reading, library and workroom will be sometime in September. You will get more specific information on when your actual volunteer time begins at those training sessions. It should fall sometime around October 1.

Q. **When do I stop?**
A: Right after spring testing in April, although, some teachers may ask you to stay on until the end of the school year in May. It's up to you. It's basically about a 26 week commitment within the school year.

Q. I still have questions about the *WAVE***. Who can I talk to?**
A: Anyone on the WAVE committee would be happy to answer your questions.