

Dear Abby,

If my friends do bad things, should I?

Signed,

A follower, not a leader

Dear A Follower, Not a Leader,

Of course, this is an easy answer but a very hard thing to actually do! No, you don't need to do bad things because that's what your friends do. Sometimes people do bad things in order to make themselves feel better, but that never works. For example, someone bullies another child because he or she is bullied or abused at home. The student may think that he or she would feel better because someone is also hurting, but that is not the case. Hurting someone else, or doing bad things do not make you feel better or ease your pain, it only worsens it. Stop and think about the type of person you admire or want to be like. Then use them as a pattern or example for your own life. Start distancing yourself from the "friends" that do bad things. Find friends you can be yourself around. It may take some time, and it may be hard to give up friends that do bad things, but in the end it will be worth it.

My mama always said: "If you run with dogs, you'll end up with fleas!" That means you are free to do what you want, but you are not free of the consequences of your actions.

Make Smart Choices,

Abby

Coal

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Noe, we will not need to replace this system for many years. Mr. Noe stated, "I try to get it as warm as I can."

During after school events, other teachers have to help keep feeding coal into the furnace in order for the school to stay warm. For example, before a home basketball game, Mr. Nicely shovels coal. Then, at half time Mr. Wood shovels coal. Last, in between games, Mr. Simpson has to shovel coal. Needless to say, sometimes it takes a group effort.

Mr. Belcher has found himself here several times, practically alone, when the temperature has drastically dropped, still feeding

coal into the big green monster, even when school is called off. Why? Because the water pipes would end up bursting if not for someone shoveling coal into the furnace.

During the months from October to the end of April, the furnace is active. During these months, the furnace uses about 320 lbs. of coal per day, the equivalent of 60 tons per year.

In conclusion, Veterum Unum (Latin for "Ancient One") is part of our heritage here at Wallins Elementary School. No matter how old it is, it is still going strong. In a weird kind of way, we take pride in being the only school left to use a coal burning furnace. It is our way of doing things around here. We call it being unique.



Maintenance man Brent Noe has worked at WES for 6 years. He is in charge of the grounds and shoveling coal into our coal burning furnace. He dumps about 2 wheelbarrels full of ashes each day.

Morgan Blakley

A Day in the Life of a Cafeteria Worker

Working in the lunchroom is not an easy job. In fact, we really do not give our lunchroom ladies enough credit. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into preparing each meal. The hours of standing on their feet can be strenuous and the heavy lifting can hurt their backs. Sometimes, it can even be dangerous if they cut themselves or get burned. Judy Hensley, our cafeteria manager said, "We get cut or burned at least once a month and major injuries might occur about once a year."



Donna Hensley has been a dedicated cafeteria worker at WES for 20 years. She also runs our concession stand during ballgames. We appreciate her hard work.

Each day the job starts at 6:00 am when they start preparing for breakfast. Every staff member must wear hair nets and gloves. Hensley stated, "We wash our hand frequently, probably 10 to 15 times a day. Every time we change gloves or leave the lunchroom."

It is very important that all seven of our cafeteria staff members work together as a team. They must also be quick and efficient. Hensley said it's according to what is on the menu, "but we are quick because all of the girls work good together."

There are many different jobs that take place in the lunchroom; such as the baker, cashier, dishwasher, and serving line. On the serving line, one lady puts out meat, another lady puts out the fruit and veggies, and one lady does the back up. Doing the same job can get boring, so to keep things interesting workers rotate weekly.

Tons of food is prepared per week. Usually, when preparing for breakfast, they

See "Food" page 4 to continue: