



Crossroads Park Elementary School
COMMUNIQUE

1050-50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (515) 633-5600
www.wdmcs.org/crossroads
Britt Cameron, Principal

September 14, 2009

**Dates to Remember
September**

- 14** Instrumental Rental, 4-7 p.m. VHS
Fifth Grade Band Lessons Begin
- 15** Fourth Grade Parent Orchestra Lesson
7 p.m., Indian Hills.
Sixth Grade Band Rehearsals Begin, 7:35-
8:30 a.m., Crestview
- 16** Sixth Grade Orchestra Rehearsals
Begin
- 17** Fifth Grade Orchestra Rehearsals Begin
- 18** Grades 6-12 Marching Band
Spectacular, Valley Stadium
- 22** School Pictures
- 28** Fifth Grade Band Rehearsals Begin

FYI

Please Check In...

If you are visiting us during the school day please stop in the office to sign in and pick up a visitor sticker. We also ask parents who have arranged to eat lunch with their children to stop in the office and sign in.

Cognitive Abilities Tests

During the week of October 5, all third and sixth graders will be taking the Cognitive Abilities Test. The purpose of this test is to appraise students' reasoning abilities in the areas of verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal skills. Results are used as part of a more encompassing process to determine the needs of all students. The total testing time is usually three hours that is spread over three days during the week.

**School Pictures
September 22**

School pictures will be taken at Crossroads Park on Tuesday, September 22. Picture information/envelopes for money will be sent home next week with your child. Please do not send money until the day of pictures. Payment for pictures will be required at the time of photographing. Extra money envelopes are available in the office.



Bus Transportation For Second Quarter

Bus transportation for those who have already registered is now available to purchase for the second period. **Fees are due for the second quarter on Tuesday, October 20.** If your child will not be riding the school bus the second quarter, please inform transportation at 633-4900.

Second Quarter: October 26- January 13

K-6 – Round Trip: \$115.00

K-6 – One-way: \$60.00

Please send your payment to the Crossroads office or pay online at www.wdmcs.org by click on the PaySchools graphic.

For those who are registering for bus transportation for the first time this school year, a transportation registration form must be completed. These forms are available in the school office. You should allow one week for our transportation department to process your request.

Snap Lunches Keeping You Informed

Every Tuesday Low Meal/Low Cash letters are being sent home with students. These letters are to alert you that it could be time to make a deposit.

If a student has to charge a lunch, a negative balance letter is sent every day until the charge is paid back in full.

The lunch charge program was brought into effect to occasionally assist students when a lunch was forgotten. However, this courtesy can be abused. It is for this reason that we adopted the policy of allowing a student three charges per semester. Once they have used three charges and a fourth charge is requested, a parent will be contacted to make a decision of what the child should do for lunch that day. Parents may bring the child a lunch or come to school and deposit money in the account. Payments can be made through PaySchools, accessed through www.wdmcs.org. If you have any concerns about your student's lunch account please don't hesitate to give Renee Newman a call at 633-5600.

Site Improvement Plans/Collaborative Days

School Improvement Plans are developed and facilitated by the Site Improvement Team at each building. Improvement plans include implementation of strategies, assessments, staff development activities and a communication plan. Throughout the school year staff members are involved in activities pertaining to our school's goal. Our goal statement for the 2009-10 school year is:

Learners will improve their writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Each building submits reports throughout the school year to the Board of Education on the level of success being attained toward goal achievement. If any parent would like a copy of our goal, please let us know. We would be happy to provide you with this information. This information is also available on the District's website.

News From Second Grade

Second grade is off to an exciting year. This is our second year with the Breakthrough to Literacy Reading Program. This year we will also be incorporating the spelling program that is part of the Breakthrough to Literacy Program. The Breakthrough to Literacy Weekly Spelling

Curriculum incorporates whole-group, teacher-directed instruction on spelling patterns and practice with individualized software instruction. The children work in the area of reading and spelling everyday on the computer.

The Breakthrough to Literacy Program has some wonderful ideas for reading with your child that we would like to share with you.

Reading with your child is more than simply reading the text aloud. Reading, or being read to, should be an active experience for your child. Here are some tips for reading to and with your child:

- Select a quiet place for reading and turn off any distractions, such as a television or radio.
- Involve young children by having them turn the pages of the book as you read.
- Hold the book so your child can easily see the illustrations and text.
- Ask your child questions as you read, such as what they think may happen next in the story or why they think characters act as they do.
- Talk about how different books you read are alike and different.
- Reread your child's favorite books when asked.
- Be patient and encouraging as your child reads aloud.

One key to children's reading success is making their reading experience entertaining, relaxing and enjoyable. We have some outstanding websites that will help you to help your child with their reading and writing. There is information at these websites for the entire family. Here you will find recommended reading for children and their families.

- **American Library Association**
<http://www.ala.org> (Then go to the search bar and type in recommended reading for children and their families and then click go. Then click on ALA Recommends.)
- **International Reading Association**
<http://reading.org> (Then go to the search bar and type in choices of booklist children's and then click on go.)

Level 1 Update

Welcome Back! Mrs. Kluesner and Miss Holmes are excited to start the 2009-2010 school year. Again, this year we will be collaborating and co-teaching amongst the grade levels. We look forward to teaching in some of the general education classrooms and experiencing our new math program, Everyday Math. We welcome back our associates as well! Mrs. Hoyer, Mrs. Hoyng, and Miss Roe will be part of the Level I program at Crossroads this year. Miss Holmes was married in September and will now be known as Mrs. Sadler. We wish everyone a fantastic school year!

Sixth Grade Band News

The Northside Sixth Grade Band consists of students from Clive, Crestview, Crossroads, and Hillside. The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:35 am at Crestview Park (1020 8th St.) in the gym. Rehearsals will be every Tuesday and Thursday. Students will need transportation to the rehearsals. Car-pooling is encouraged. Buses will return students to their home school.

All- District Marching Band Spectacular

All band students in grades 6-12 will be participating in the All-District Marching Band Spectacular on Friday, September 18. We will have a rehearsal at Valley stadium on Friday, September 18 at 7:45 a.m. Students will need transportation to the rehearsals. Buses will return students to their home school. Students should report to Valley stadium by 6 p.m. on Friday night. Our performance will take place during the pre-game no earlier than 6:15 p.m. Depending on the length of the JV game, our performance could be as late as 7 p.m. Go Valley!

Spanish Class at Crossroads Park

Students in grades 1-6 participate in Spanish class twice a week for 25 minutes each class. Students play games, listen to music and learn new vocabulary and aspects of culture during their classes. The Spanish curriculum is content based, meaning we learn about the same topics as the students do in the classroom. If you or your child ever has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email:

dejoodes@wdmcs.org or by phone: 633-5655.

Below you will find the units of study for each grade. I'm looking forward to working with all of the students in Spanish class this year. ¡Gracias!
Shanon DeJoode

- **1st Grade:** Spanish Foundations, calendar/weather, insects, nutrition, desert
- **2nd Grade:** landforms, oceans, maya, plants
- **3rd Grade:** family and self, rainforest, communities, nutrition
- **4th Grade:** human body, Day of the Dead, U.S. regions, house, poetry
- **5th Grade:** Soy Yo (a unit about descriptions, family, and schedule), Taíno Indians/Explorers
- **6th Grade:** Central America, South America, traveling, pen pals

Fire and Tornado Drills

Regular fire and tornado drills are conducted in each school building throughout the school year so that students may become familiar with the proper safety procedures.

Pedestrian Safety

Elementary staff in each building stress to our students that they have responsibilities. Please go over the safest route to school with your children, and stress to them that they are to use that route.

Personal Safety

Please review with your child how important it is to reject a ride from a stranger. Please notify law enforcement officials and school officials immediately upon receipt of information regarding child molestation/abduction.

Student Behavior

A safe and orderly climate is essential to any school. A vital part of the total educational program is to set and maintain high standards of behavior for its students. Students are expected to conduct themselves on the way to and from school, at school, on buses, and at all school sponsored activities in a considerate and responsible manner.