



*Crossroads Park Elementary School*  
**COMMUNIQUE**

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

**September 28, 2009**

**Dates to Remember  
October**

- 5-9 Cognitive Abilities Testing, Grades 3 & 6
- 5-9 Fire Prevention Week
- 8 PTA Meeting -6:30 p.m. - Media Center
- 9 Cougar Council Meeting, 8 a.m., Mr. Hargens' Room
- 12-16 National School Lunch Week
- 12 School Board Workshop 5:15 p.m., Meeting 7 p.m.
- 12 No School for Students, Staff Development Day
- 15 Barnes' Bingo for Books 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 16 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Springbrook
- 19-23 Red Ribbon Week  
National School Bus Safety Week  
Make a Difference Week  
National Character Counts Week
- 20 Picture Retakes
- 23 Cougar Council Meeting, 8 a.m., Mr. Hargens' Room
- 26 School Board Workshop 5:15 p.m., Meeting 7 p.m.
- 30 Fall Parties



**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 child to stop in the office and sign-in.

**Attendance**

If a student will be absent from school, parents need to report the absence to the office **EACH** day the student will be gone, unless you know the child will be out for an extended period of time. Absences or late arrivals may be called into our main number, 633-5600 at any time, since voice mail is active before and after school hours. If your child is going to be late, please also let us know what their lunch intentions are for the day (hot, cold or yogurt). In the cases where the child will be out any length of time, or be absent and you know ahead of time, please send a note to the teacher and/or office.

Please see that your child arrives on time to school each morning. The first fifteen minutes are a very important part of class and organization for your child.

With your cooperation and communication, we will continue to do our best in maintaining a safe environment for your children.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Barb Domek, Mrs. Lisa Newman and Mrs. Renee Newman



**A Note to the PTA and Volunteers**

We'd like to send a warm welcome and thank-you to the new and past PTA members and volunteers at Crossroads Park. The turn out at the first PTA meeting for the 2009-10 school year was very exciting to see, as well as the number of parents who have signed up to volunteer for school events and classroom activities.

We are looking forward to working with all of you and partnering with our teachers and staff for a great and memorable school year at Crossroads Park.

~Diana Augspurger and Sandra Witty  
PTA Co-Presidents

## **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 Tues., Oct. 20.** If your child will not be riding

the school bus the second quarter, please inform transportation at 633-4900.

Please send your payment to the Crossroads Park office or pay online at [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org) by clicking on the PaySchools graphic.

**SECOND QUARTER:  
OCTOBER 26, 2009 - JANUARY 13, 2010  
K-6 Round Trip: \$115.00  
K-6 One Way: \$60.00**

For those who are registering for bus transportation the first time this school year, a transportation registration form must be filled out. 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 to alert you that it could be time make a deposit into your child's lunch account.



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to

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

The lunch charge program was brought into effect to help students out occasionally when a lunch was forgotten. However, this courtesy can be abused. It is for this reason we adopted the policy of allowing a student three charges per semester. Once they have used their three charges and a fourth charge is requested, a parent will be contacted so that they can make the decision of what the child should do for lunch. Parents may bring the child a lunch or come to school and deposit money in their account. Payments can be made through Pay Schools, which is accessed through [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org).

If you have any concerns about your student's lunch account, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 633-5600.

~Renee Newman

## **Together We're Better, Learning to Make a Difference in Fifth Grade**

Fifth grade students at Crossroads Park, along with thousands of other Iowa volunteers donated their time, energy and perishable food items to help feed the hungry in the world. On Sept. 4, students participated in *Meals from the Heartland* at Hy-Vee Hall. Meals from the Heartland is a local program started with the goal of feeding three million starving people throughout the world and restocking local food banks. This year, the organization packaged over 4.1 million meals in five days and collected thousands of food items for local food banks.

Meals from the Heartland is an extension of the Des Moines chapter of the international organization, *Kids Against Hunger*. According to *Kids Against Hunger*, the meals were developed by food scientists from Cargill and General Mills. Those meals provide a rich source of easily digestible protein, carbohydrates and vitamins needed by the minds and bodies of undernourished children. One package feeds six people.

The goals of including the fifth grade children were to provide them with an opportunity to learn the value of community service through action and instill the belief that they can make a difference as one and particularly as one of many. Assisting the students in this project were the following parents: Ha Hua, Jennifer Bodin, Dan and Sue Duve, Chi Czipar, Heather Sisler, Doug Zimmerman, Todd and Michelle Morris, Rick Roe, Peg Chitwood, Tricia Larm, Linda Pixley and Chris Edgar. The teachers say thank you to all the volunteers and particularly to Chi Czipar for organizing, training and being a role model for us all.

For further information about Kids Against Hunger or Meals From the Heartland, visit [www.kidsagainsthungerdsm.org](http://www.kidsagainsthungerdsm.org) or [www.mealsfromtheheartland.org](http://www.mealsfromtheheartland.org).

## Fourth Grade Excited About New Math Program

Our new math curriculum has made quite an impression on our fourth graders. Here are some of the ways the students finished this sentence: I like our new math program because...



We make a lot of geometric shapes.  
--Brianna Cole, 4C

I like the template. --Kade Irlmeier, 4B

The math boxes are really fun and there are different kinds of problems in them.  
--Adeline Vacura, 4A

We learned about convex and concave shapes.  
--Isaiah Brock, 4C

We have a glossary if we need help.  
--Lauren Salloum, 4B

It will serve a purpose in the future and it gives us a second chance to learn each topic.  
--Carson Rashid, 4A

We get to play a lot of fun games!  
--Madeline Penick, 4C

It has different symbols that I think are cool.  
--Mitchell O'Meara, 4B

I like the math games. They are fun and I learn new things. --Jose Diaz-Rodriguez, 4A

The new math is tricky and gets us thinking.  
--Abby Sinclair, 4C

We get to use compasses. --Samuel Vacura, Kaysie Looney and Jordan Potter, 4B

It's a little more challenging, the math games are fun and sometimes we work as a group.  
--Ann Thomas, 4A

I like doing the math message everyday!  
--Drew Minard, 4C

We don't have pages, we have a book, but not for homework. I also like it because of the games and when we use the whiteboards. --Elizabeth Lau, 4A

## Start Saving Your Shopping Bags!

The *Build with Bags School Challenge* contest begins on Mon., Oct. 5 and continues through Fri., Nov. 6. The program will encourage elementary school students in the Des Moines metro area to recycle plastic shopping bags and will challenge the schools to get local residents to use reusable shopping bags instead of plastic.

All you need to do is save your plastic shopping bags and bring them to the school starting Oct. 5. Also, every time someone uses a reusable shopping bag at any grocery store in the metro (Hy-Vee, Dahl's, Fareway, etc.) one point will be issued and the shopper will be able to tell the cashier which school they would like to receive their points.

For each school that collects at least 10 pounds of recycled plastic shopping bags (approximately 60 bags weighs one pound) and receives credit for 10 reusable shopping bags, Iowa Grocery Industry Association and Metro Waste Authority will award a \$100 gift card to that school.

**Added Bonus:** For every six reusable bag points designated, that school receives credit for one pound of recycled plastic shopping bags. More information will be made available in the coming week.

If you are interested in helping with this contest, please contact Cathy Roe at 226-8582. All volunteers are welcome!

Thank you for participating! Starting collecting those bags 😊

## Target Take Charge of Education Fund Raising Opportunity

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for our school. It's easy, and all you have to do is use your Target® Visa® or Target® card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. It's easy. Just visit [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe), or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target® Visa® or Target® card. Big thanks to those who are already doing their part to make a great school even better.

- Find out how much money our school has already received at [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe).

***Thank you for your support!***



### **Orchestra Important News & Dates**

Fifth and Sixth Grade String Students:  
Orchestra lessons have already started during the school day. Keep reminding your students to bring instruments and music. Fifth grade students check the rotating schedule every Tuesday. Sixth grade students check the rotating schedule every Monday.

Please look for a West Des Moines Orchestral Calendar of Events coming home with your student in the next few weeks.

### **Picture Retake/Make-Up Day**

Jolesch Photography will be in our building on **Tues., Oct. 20** to take pictures of those who were absent Sept. 22. Those who wish to have initial pictures taken should remember to bring their money in the picture envelope. Those who need picture retakes must bring their pictures with them. Extra picture envelopes are available in the office.



### **Co-Teaching in ESL**

This year we are using the co-teaching model in ESL to instruct many of our students. Co-teaching is when the ESL teacher and the classroom teacher work together collaboratively to teach all of the students in the classroom. There are several models of co-teaching, many of which are described below. Because of the variety of models, co-teaching may look different from classroom to classroom and from day to day depending on the lesson. Co-teaching is designed to benefit all students in the class, not just the ESL students. Two obvious benefits are that the student-teacher ratio is smaller and the students get to stay in the classroom. Both teachers will work with all of the students at different times depending on the students' needs and the model chosen for the particular lesson. So far, we have really enjoyed co-teaching in the classrooms. We are working through the different models and learning which models we prefer for specific types of lessons.

**Station/Center Teaching:** Each teacher is in charge of teaching a "station" or small group. The students rotate through the stations visiting each teacher. The students may rotate through one station per day or rotate through all of the stations in the same day.

**Assisted/Support Teaching:** One teacher takes the lead role and teaches the content to the whole-class. The other teacher circulates around the room observing and assisting students as needed. They may also be gathering data or monitoring behaviors.

**Team Teaching:** Both teachers teach together taking turns talking in front of the class. While one teacher is talking, the other may be writing on chart paper or the overhead. Then the teachers would switch roles.

**Large/Small Group Teaching:** One teacher is teaching the large group while the other teacher pulls a few students for a small group.

**Parallel Teaching:** The class is divided into two large groups. Both teachers are teaching the same content to their groups.

**Notes from the PTA  
Yearbook Committee**

Dear Parent or Student,

**Get your pictures in the yearbook!** The yearbook staff invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school events or you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have.

Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.jostens.com/login>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username:400004765 and password:crp2010
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details."

It's that easy! Submit your photos today! The last day to submit photos is March 1, 2010.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the school year!

Sincerely,  
Yearbook Adviser and the 2010 Yearbook Staff.

*The Yearbook Staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book.*

**Bingo for Books**

**Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 PM**

It's time for Crossroads Park's Annual Barnes' Bingo for Books! Look through your shelves for children's books in good condition that your kids are ready to recycle and bring them to the



Crossroads Park gym Thurs., Oct. 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Popcorn will be provided. Mr. Don Barnes and Mrs. T, former Crossroads teachers, do a great job of calling numbers. Come and enjoy!!

**Crossroads Park PTA Membership**

Come see what Crossroads Park PTA is all about! It's not just about teachers; it's about parent involvement as well in our students' lives. We still have many volunteer opportunities available and would love for you to get involved. We especially encourage new parents to the school to come and meet other parents to learn about everything that our PTA provides for the teachers and students of Crossroads Park. Our PTA also provides the opportunity for you to get to know the teachers and staff better at Crossroads Park. What a great way to help your child learn and develop!

**Get involved – JOIN the PTA TODAY!  
We need YOU!**

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**Crossroads Park PTA Membership**

Please return form and \$10 membership fee to the school office. Make checks payable to Crossroads Park PTA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you Valley West Mall!**

Valley West Mall Class Dash for Cash recently awarded Crossroads Elementary \$500. Class Cash is the back to school shopping program where family and friends show their receipts to guest services and have them allocated to the school of their choice. Class Cash is Valley West Mall's way to assist in providing schools in our community with funds they can use to benefit the education of our children. Thank you parents for your support!