



Crossroads Park Elementary School

COMMUNIQUE

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

October 13, 2009

Dates to Remember October

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| 15 | Barnes' Bingo for Books, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sally Foster Gift Wrap Orders Due |
| 16 | Sixth Grade to Springbrook |
| 19 | Make a Difference Week
National Character Counts Week
National School Bus Safety Week
Red Ribbon Week |
| 20 | Picture Retakes |
| 20 | Second Quarter Bus Pass Fees Due |
| 22 | PTA Dinner Night Out to Benefit Crossroads |
| 23 | Cougar Council Meeting, 8 a.m.
Mr. Hargens' Room |
| 26 th | School Board Workshop, 5:15 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m. |
| 30 | Fall Parties |

Picture Retake/Make-Up Day

Jolesch Photography will be in our building **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.



Bus Transportation for Second Quarter

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

Please send your payment and your child's bus pass in an envelope marked with your child's name and bus number or pay online at www.wdmcs.org by clicking on the PaySchools graphic.

SECOND QUARTER:

OCTOBER 26, 2009 - JANUARY 13, 2010

K-6 Round Trip: \$115

K-6 One Way: \$60

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.

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, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. 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.

Thanks for your support!

Sally Foster Wrapping Paper Reminder



Sally Foster gift wrap orders are due no later than Thurs., Oct .15. Orders received after this date may not be delivered by the product delivery date of Nov. 16.

Please make sure the students name and classroom is listed on the order form.

Orders will be sent home with the students Nov. 16. If you have large orders you may want to make arrangements to help your child get the order home.

Please contact Cathy Roe with questions or concerns at 226-8582. Thank you for helping our school!

START SAVING YOUR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

The *Build with Bags School Challenge* contest began Oct. 5 and continues through 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. 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! Start collecting those bags!
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Crossroads Park PTA Membership

Come see what Crossroads Park PTA is all about! It's not just about teachers; it's about parent involvement 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!

Crossroads Park PTA Membership

Please return form and \$10 membership fee to the school office.

Make checks payable to Crossroads Park PTA.

Name _____

Child's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Grade/Section: _____

Thank you for your support!

Bingo for Books Coming!

The year's Bingo for Books is right around the corner Thurs., Oct .15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hosting the event once again is our one and only retired gym teacher Mr. Barnes assisted by the lovely Mrs. Janet Tischhauser. The whole family is welcome and admission is free. Remember, each child wishing to go home with one or more books is asked to donate new or slightly used books. Popcorn will be provided by the PTA. Volunteers are still needed. Please call Diana Augspurger at 988-4886 if interested in helping.

Thank you to Learning Post, Half Price Books, Chili's, Applebee's and Sonic for making our event even better.

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.

Dollars for Scholars

PTA Dollars for Scholars committee will be raising funds for the \$500 annual scholarship that is awarded to a former Crossroads student. There will be a friendly competition for students. Questions will be posed in the library and students will be able to contribute spare change to support their choice. Examples of questions may include: Is your favorite school lunch item pizza or chicken bites? Do you like lunch time or recess best? Is your favorite author Harry Potter or Greg Heffley? Students may vote as many times as they like by contributing their pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters. Winners of each poll will be announced in a future Communiqué.

Thank you for supporting Dollars for Scholars

Third Grade News

Writing

We have been working on getting good ideas for our writing from lots and lots of books in our Be a Writer program. The students have enjoyed many of the pattern books, alphabet books and personal stories we have explored as writers. The students have been taking pleasure in writing in these styles for many of the different writing pieces they have started. Ask your child to share what they have written with you. 😊

Math

We have just finished our first unit in math and have begun the second. The second unit will focus heavily on addition and subtraction and learning multiple strategies for solving larger addition problems. There will be many new methods explored and practiced. The students have also brought home fact family triangle cards for the addition and subtraction facts. It is important to study and practice these facts to gain an automatic response with the basic addition and subtraction facts.

Mrs. Capobianco, Mrs. Gustafson and Mrs. Jaramillo also want to commend each and every one of our parents and families for contributing so much to student learning by completing the Home Links homework pages with the students. It is through diligent effort on your part that this key component to math learning is getting done and returned to school each day. The students gain so much through the further concept development and practice outside of the school schedule. Thank you!

Unit Study

We have now concluded our Cartography unit and will be embarking on our exploration of the culture and civilization of Ancient Egypt while we explore reference materials and how to use them. The Egypt unit offers us a great chance to do some in depth research into a fascinating culture in history.

Flat Stanley Update

We have received many Flat Stanleys back in our classroom! Thanks for helping out with this fun project of travel and mapping. If you get one in the mail at home, feel free to send it in. Even though we are done with our mapping unit, it is still fun to see his travels far and wide.

Conferences Information

Parent teacher conferences will be held Tues., Nov. 17 from 4:15-7:15 p.m. and Thurs., Nov. 19 from 4:15-7:15 p.m.

Parents are requested to come into the building to sign up for conferences. Schedule sign-up forms will again be located on tables in the north end of our building. The building will be open for sign-up Nov. 9-13 from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If your child has more than one classroom teacher for academic subjects, please sign-up for conferences with only his/her homeroom teacher. Please sign-up for one time slot with your child's homeroom teacher. If you feel that additional conference time is needed, please make a personal contact with the teacher.

You may also want to sign up for a conference with our counselor and/or any of your child's special subject teachers; i.e. special education, reading resource, Spanish, art, physical education, vocal music, band, orchestra and English as a Second Language. We hope all of you can/will register for conferences during these five days and will plan to attend the conferences on the scheduled days. For those of you who cannot, a student report will be sent home with your student.

Conferences will be scheduled for 15 minutes each. Conference participants are requested to carefully observe the time schedule. If you have more than one child, you may find it helpful to schedule each child's conference with a 15-minute break between meeting times. It is felt the 15-minute period between conferences will give you ample time to get to your next conference destination. It will also allow you the opportunity to view the artwork in the halls and to shop at the Crossroads Park Book Fair our PTA is sponsoring in our media center.

Please remember that you will not be receiving conference schedule notices from us. The teacher will plan to meet with you at the times you have indicated on the schedule forms.

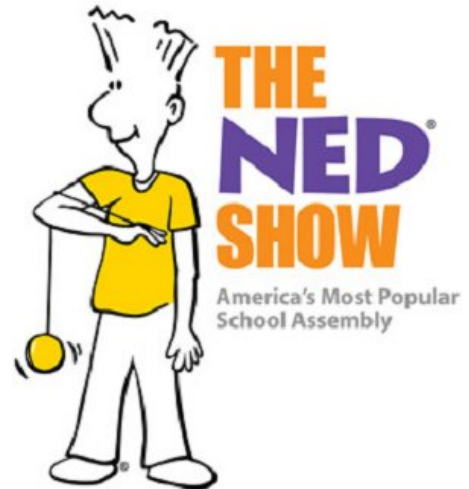
Thank you,
Mr. Cameron

Character Counts in the NED Show

Have you heard about The NED Show? It was a fun assembly that showed the students lots of fun yo-yo tricks and gave us a great introduction about how important it is to show good character.

Following the assembly, we began focusing on showing positive character traits here at Crossroads Park. To kick off this program, a group of students presented a skit to the students about trustworthiness.

Every staff member now has "Caught Ya!" coupons to handout to students they catch showing the trait of trustworthiness. The coupons are then put into a bucket in the student's classroom and each week a name is drawn out. We have partnered with Maid-Rite and their program, Acting Rite with Maid-Rite, to award the winners from each classroom a free meal from Maid-Rite! Start asking your child if they have been caught showing good character!



Family Dinner to Benefit Crossroads

We will be having at Family Dinner Night at four different restaurants Thurs., Oct. 22 to raise money for Crossroads Park PTA. No selling involved of any kind. Just go, have dinner and don't forget to tell them you are with Crossroads Park! Then 15% of your bill will go back to the school. This will directly benefit all kids at Crossroads Park with Bingo for Books, school field trips and Fine Arts Day.

More info on the restaurants will be coming home next week.

For Safety's Sake - A memo from Crossroads

Park's Safety Committee and PTA



We have become increasingly aware of near accidents during school arrival and dismissal times. Sadly, current driving behaviors are placing many children, teachers and parents at risk. We are aware that the driveway and parking areas can be imperfect and inconvenient. However, our highest priority is safety.

It is imperative that the following rules be observed:

- ALWAYS come to a complete stop at the stop sign by the crosswalk in front of the school. All lanes of traffic must stop.
- Drive at an appropriate slow speed. Large vehicles make for reduced visibility and dangerous situations when small children are present. Use caution at all times.
- Allow for hazardous conditions. When ice and snow are present, stopping distances are increased.
- Pedestrians must use crosswalks. Drivers do not expect walkers to emerge from between cars.
- Do not block crosswalks with your vehicle at any time.
- Drivers who stop their vehicle along the curb or in the middle traffic lane must remain in their vehicle at all times. If you need to enter the school or meet your child at their pick-up location, you must park in one of the designated parking spaces in the lot north of the school or in the diagonal spaces in front of the school.
- It is preferred that children be picked up from the curb. If you are unable to get into that lane and must pick your child up from the center lane, they must be accompanied by a teacher to the car. Please make sure your child is aware of this so they can ask for assistance when necessary.
- Refrain from using the spaces reserved for handicapped parking unless you are authorized to do so.
- Treat crossing guards with courtesy and respect. When rules are being enforced, remember that they do not wish to offend anyone but are intent on avoiding injury.

With increased effort from everyone, our school can become a much safer place. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. As always, if you have any concerns, please contact Mr. Cameron at 633-5600.

Meet Our New Teacher (Mr. Brown)

I hope the beginning of fall has treated you well. This will be my fourth year teaching. Westridge Elementary is where I spent my first three years. At Westridge, I was a sixth grade teacher as well. It is a grade I truly enjoy teaching. At Westridge I taught sixth grade science and independent reading and vocabulary strategies. In addition to teaching at Westridge, I student taught in sixth grade at Clive Elementary. I have also had the opportunity to have a variety of substitute positions in the West Des Moines Community School District. This summer I received my Masters in Education from Viterbo University.

After three years of teaching in West Des Moines, I have come to learn that we have a great school district. I enjoyed being a part of Westridge, and I really enjoy being a part of Crossroads Park as well. In addition to teaching, I help coach during the fall and spring/summer months. Currently, I am an assistant cross country coach for the Valley boys cross country team and the Westside Cross Country Club. In the spring/summer, I help coach long distance running for the Westside Track Club. Besides coaching in the summer, I work as camp counselor with Day Camp Adventures. The best way I can describe my job as a camp counselor, is that I get to be a kid again. I also schedule camp activities.

I am a graduate of the University of Iowa. I attended Emmetsburg High School, a small town in northwest Iowa. My graduating class consisted of 100 students. One detail that I will let you know about that my students have already found out, is that I am a big Hawkeye fan and a very active person. I have run four marathons within the past three years and have done some triathlons as well. Since I enjoy being active, it is not uncommon to see me participate in the students' physical education activities. I also enjoy reading, seeing movies, listening to music and relaxing with my friends.

I encourage any family to stop in and meet me. I look forward to working with the younger students when they reach sixth grade. I have had a great year and I am excited for the rest of the school year. I hope to see many more faces in the future. I feel very grateful to be a part of the Crossroads Park team.

Sincerely,

Scott Brown