



Crossroads Park Elementary School  
**COMMUNIQUE**

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

October 26, 2009

**Dates to Remember**  
**October**

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- 26** School Board Workshop, 5:15 p.m.  
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
  - 30** Fall Parties
  - November**
  - 2-6** Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
  - 3** Grades 4-8 Orchestra Skating Party, 6-8 p.m.
  - 9** School Board Workshop, 5:15 p.m.  
School Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Indian Hills
  - 9-13** Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-Up
  - 11** Veterans Day
  - 12** Sixth Grade Book Club, Noon
  - 13** PTA Meeting, 9:15 a.m.
  - 16** Sally Foster Delivery
  - 16-20** American Education Week
  - 17** Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:15-7:15 p.m.
  - 17-20** Fall Book Fair
  - 19** Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:15-7:15 p.m.
  - 23** School Board Workshop, 5:15 p.m.  
School Board Meeting 7 p.m.
  - 25** No School
  - 26** Thanksgiving Day, No School, Kids West Closed
  - 27** No School, Kids West Closed

**Lost and Found**

Our lost and found box is filling up! Please check to see if anything belongs to you. Small items, such as jewelry, keys, etc. are kept in the office.

**Unscheduled Early**

**Dismissals/Emergency Situations**

Please note the following 2009-10 information for unscheduled early/emergency situations.

Homeroom teachers should have a Crossroads Park Emergency Communication Plan for each student. Parents should have completed this form the first week of school. If you have not completed the Emergency Communication Plan form, please stop by the office to do so.

Teachers will follow the procedures submitted by parents on the Emergency Communication Plans. Students will remain at school until parent contact is made if parents have indicated a call from school is necessary.

**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 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 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](http://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](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).*

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 on 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!!!

### **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 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. They may bring the child a lunch or come to school and deposit money in the account. Payments can be made through PaySchools, accessed through the [wdmcs.org](http://wdmcs.org). If you have any concerns about your student's lunch account, please call Renee Newman at 633-5600.

## **START SAVING**

### **YOUR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS**

The Build with Bags School Challenge began Oct. 5 and continues through Fri., Nov. 6. The program encourages elementary students in the Des Moines metro area to recycle plastic shopping bags and challenges 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! Starting collecting those bags. 😊

### **Snowball Rules**

With the start of the winter season we must remind students that snow or ice is never to be thrown at anyone or anything while on the school grounds nor when coming to school or going home from school.

### **Attendance**

Absenteeism of students needs to be reported to the office by the parent of the child **EACH** day the student will be absent. The exception would be if you know the child will be out for an extended period of time. In the cases where the child will be out any length of time, please send a note to the teacher and/or office.

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

Thank You,  
Mrs. Domek, Mrs. L. Newman & Mrs. R. Newman

## **Students Leaving Early**

Students leaving the school before dismissal time must check out through the office. No student will be allowed to leave early unless we have received a note or phone call from the student's parents granting permission to leave the school early. If someone will be picking the student up, the note or phone call should tell us who that person will be. All students will be required to wait for their parents at the main entrance (office area) to the building. The purpose of this request is for the safety of your child(ren). Thank you.

## **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) 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!

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

## **Fall Book Fair Notes**

Read around the world is the theme for our Fall Book Fair. Once again we will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair during the week of Nov. 16. This is also during parent/teacher conferences, so plan to do some shopping during this time. More details to follow, but start planning your reading journey now.

Thank you,

PTA Book Fair Chairpersons,

Robin Prier-Ross and Jenny Schulze

## **Conference Information**

Parent teacher conferences are 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 to conference 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, the 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 that 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 time you have indicated on the schedule forms.

Thank you,  
Mr. Cameron

## **Iowa Tests of Basic Skills – ITBS**

Crossroads students in grades three to six will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Nov. 2-6. Please make sure your child is on time, has a nutritional breakfast and is well rested during this week.

The purpose of these tests is to provide information which can be used in improving instruction and making decisions which directly affect students. In general, these decisions apply to the selection of objectives and learning procedures, and to what the school does in attending to various needs and characteristics.

The ITBS Batteries provide for the comprehensive measurement of growth in the fundamental skills: listening, word analysis, vocabulary, reading, language, work-study and mathematics. The skills represented in the tests are crucial in educational development because they determine, for the most part, the extent to which pupils can profit from later instruction. Periodic, reliable measurement of the development of these skills is essential for individualization of instruction, enlightened educational guidance and evaluation of the effectiveness of instructional procedures.

## **HEALTHY CHILDREN LEARN BETTER**

As the school nurse my job is to help keep kids healthy to ensure better learning. You, as parents, can help by doing the following:

- Keep your child home until they have been fever free, WITHOUT TYLENOL OR IBUPROFEN IN THEIR SYSTEM, for 24 hours. I'm finding that kids are returning too soon, which not only allows the germs to be spread, but decreases your child's immune system and making them more susceptible to other illnesses.
- Remember the district policy regarding vomiting and/or diarrhea – eight hours free of either of these ailments prior to returning to school.
- Continue to reinforce and model good hand washing practices to your children.

I know with the flu going around it is difficult to maintain a job and care for sick kids, but please keep your kids home if you think they are ill or fall under the above guidelines. If we work as a team, hopefully we can keep from having too many kids and staff affected. If you have questions please don't hesitate to give me a call at 633-5615.

Thanks! Nurse Cindy

## **Painted Lady Butterflies Visit First Grade**

Painted Lady Butterflies were seen in abundance a few weeks ago on the Crossroads Park playground. First grade students released the butterflies that we had carefully raised this fall.

Tiny caterpillars arrived from California at the beginning of our Insect unit. We readied their individual "homes" with nutrient in a vile and carefully observed them as they grew and changed. After 7-10 days, the chrysalides were formed and transferred to a large classroom butterfly pavilion. Butterflies hatched a few days later.. We provided our butterflies with a feast of "nectar" from flowers and orange slices.

First graders enjoyed the butterflies fluttering in our classroom home for a few days before we released them outside. With the cool weather, our butterflies could be laying eggs for the cycle to begin again.

## **Dear Sixth Grade Parent/Guardians,**

It is time to start planning for the annual Memory Book for our sixth graders this year. The memory book is a collection of our children's memories here at Crossroads Park from kindergarten to sixth grade. The book is made of individual pages for each student, group pictures of different events over the years and an assortment of information collected from the student's answers to some surveys. On the individual page there will be a kindergarten picture, student information and a couple of pictures from Crossroads Park activities. We would like one of these pictures to be a family photo of your household.

If your child has not been a Crossroads student since kindergarten, we will need a kindergarten aged photo of them for their page in the memory book. If you have digital pictures or scanning capability, please copy the pictures onto a disk in JPEG format. All pictures and disks will be returned. While the deadline for submitting pictures is Feb. 1, we would greatly appreciate receiving them as soon as possible so we can begin putting the pages of the book together.

Each year the Memory Book reflects the personality of that year's class. Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping to fill our children's Memory book with special memories of their years here at Crossroads.

Please contact any committee member with questions or ideas. The chairperson, Casey Plecas, may be reached at [caseyathome@mchsi.com](mailto:caseyathome@mchsi.com) , 440-0880 or 720-7115 (cell).