

# Fairmeadows

# FLYER

Fairmeadows Elementary School • Carol Seid, Principal • Phone: 515-633-6500

October 19, 2009

## FAIRMEADOWS CALENDAR

10/19 Character Counts Week  
10/19 Make A Difference Week  
10/19 Gr 4-6 Family Gym Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
10/19 Every Day Math Meeting for parents,  
6:30 p.m. in the media center  
10/19 Bus Pass Fees Due  
10/21 Picture Re-takes  
10/27 Third Grade Music Program, 3 p.m.  
10/28 Sign up for Conferences!  
10/30 Fall Parties  
11/2-6 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills

## EVERY DAY MATH MEETING

Do you have questions about our new math program? Please plan to attend an informational meeting tonight (Oct. 19) at 6:30 p.m. in our media center.

## FROM THE OFFICE...

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are coming up! Students in grades three through six will take this series of assessments. Please have your student get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast the week of Nov. 2-6. We appreciate students being prompt and parents not scheduling appointments during this time.

Mrs. Seid, Principal

## CONFERENCES

The wall on the other side of the office will be the place to sign up for conferences. **The sheets will be posted on Wed., Oct. 28.** Conferences will be held at the following times:

**Wednesday, November 18**

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 19**

4:15 - 7 p.m.

## PRINCIPAL SHADOWING

Your student may come home in the near future and tell you Mrs. Seid has a shadow! We are participating in a national initiative concerning principal use of time. The focus of this study is to allow the principal more time on instructional issues with teachers and students rather than management tasks. The principal has a School Administrative Manager to help coordinate management tasks and allow the principal to concentrate more time on instructional issues. Mrs. Seid's SAM is Rhonda Neal, who is also her secretary.

### What is SAM?

- SAM is a process to focus principal time on instructional leadership, teaching practice, student learning and school improvement.
- SAM is not primarily a person, but a function.
- SAM is primarily a change process where the principal uses daily time/task data and reflection to influence his/her own practice.

### What do SAMs do?

- SAMs help principals use time/task data to reflect on their practice.
- SAMs help principals increase the time they spend as instructional leaders.
- SAMs help principals strengthen relationships with teachers, parents and students to improve teaching and learning.

### How do SAMs work?

- SAMs use time/task analysis data and survey results to help principals set goals to increase or maintain time spent on instructional leadership.
- SAMs assist principals in daily TimeTrack meetings to assess how principals are using time, consider delegation of management tasks and establish future tasks on the calendar so instructional work is the priority.

## **PRINCIPAL SHADOWING (cont.)**

A data collector will shadow Mrs. Seid for one week beginning Oct. 26. The shadow will carry a clipboard with a stop watch and will try to be as invisible as possible. Surveys will be conducted with randomly selected sixth grade students and parents to help determine how people in our school view the role of the principal.

The results of this project will be communicated in future newsletters, with staff and the PFC. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Neal at 633-6500 or [nealr@wdmcs.org](mailto:nealr@wdmcs.org).

## **PICTURES OF YOUR VETERAN**

Please submit pictures of your veterans to Mrs. Koerselman by Oct. 28. If you sent a photo last year, you do not have to resubmit. Be sure to label the back! The assembly will be Nov. 11 at 10 am.



Ahoy! Third graders will present their musical program, "Pirates!" Oct. 27, at 3 p.m. in the gym. Please mark your calendars now, mateys, to attend this rollicking adventure!

## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

The first deadline for turning in box tops and Campbell's labels is Fri., Oct. 23. Homeroom parents, please have them turned in no later than Mon., Oct. 26.

## **SPRING FLING (CARNIVAL)**

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill the raffle and publicity committees. A minimum of two per committee would be desirable. Please contact Andrea Thompson at 221-0944 or Beth Hoffa at 221-9022 if interested.

## **LET'S BE SAFE**

It's time to review parking lot safety with parents, students and visitors to our building.

When dropping off students in front of the building every morning, please pull as far forward as possible before letting your student get out on the sidewalk side. Do not stop in the circle, as this disrupts the flow of traffic and creates safety issues. **If you want to walk your student into the building, please park in a parking spot, not along the sidewalk, steps or in the circle.**

At the end of the day, it is very important to park in a parking space if you need to come into the building. Otherwise, **please pull forward as far as possible and understand that you will have to pull out of the parking lot if emergency vehicles need access to our building.**

We also ask you not to turn left when exiting our lot from 8:45-9:15 a.m. and 3:45-4:15 p.m. every day to prevent additional traffic jams.

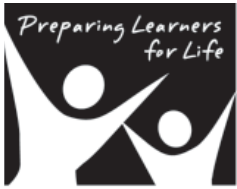
We appreciate your patience and consideration of other drivers, students and staff members. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact the office at 633-6500.

## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY**

October 19 is Character Counts and Make A Difference Week at Fairmeadows! Please bring shampoo, new combs and brushes to the media center. Let's watch the collection grow and show the community how Fairmeadows families care and make a difference for others. The items will be donated to West Des Moines Human Services.

## **NEWS FROM OUR PFC**

Our PFC is now printing their very own newsletter twice a month! It is filled with upcoming events, committee news and current programs sponsored by the PFC. If you have an article to include in a newsletter, please contact Becky Freeman at [bfreeman1963@gmail.com](mailto:bfreeman1963@gmail.com)



WEST DES MOINES  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS

For the Parents of the West Des Moines Community Schools  
Office of School/Community Relations

October 19, 2009  
www.wdmcs.org

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## Board Highlights

At the meeting Oct. 12, the Board of Education:

- Heard a report from Valley students who serve on the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council
- Approved a trip request for the Valley Thespian Troupe to travel to New York City in June 2010
- Heard a report on 2008-09 activities and accomplishments from Community Education Director Shahna Janssen
- Approved the 2009-10 Community Education Advisory Council roster
- Conducted a hearing and awarded bids on the Crestview Elementary north addition project
- Reviewed the June 2009 year-end financial reports
- Authorized the district to request modified allowable growth and a supplemental aid payment for the negative special education balance for the 2008-09 school year
- Approved change orders on the Crestview and Indian Hills projects
- Appointed System Works LLC to perform commissioning services for the Crossroads Park project
- Approved the agreement with RDG for design services for the Crossroads Park remodel
- Approved the agreement with Polk County Empowerment for the Project Shine program
- Authorized the renewal of the agreement with Four Oaks to provide a program to serve suspended and expelled students in the district
- Approved the agreement with the Iowa Department of Public Health to provide federal funding to expand nutrition and physical activity education programs that serve food assistance-eligible students in the district
- Approved the contract with the Renaissance Chicago Hotel for lodging for the Valley High School debate team
- Authorized the agreement with Marzano Research Laboratory to provide a speaker to present the Art and Science of Teaching to district junior high and high school staff

**Next meeting: Mon, Oct. 26, 2009**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Learning Resource Center**



## Online Survey about the Calendar

You have the opportunity to offer your opinion on options for the 2010-11 school year schedule. A survey will be posted on the district web site ([www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org)) Mon., Oct. 26. Three choices will be offered, reflecting differing start dates, winter break dates and the last day of school (without weather cancellations). The survey will close Fri., Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.

The district Calendar Committee – staff members and parents – has been meeting for several months to develop the calendar options. The survey of district staff and parents will be used by the committee to develop a recommendation to the Board of Education. The 2010-11 school year calendar will be presented to the Board for approval in early 2010, along with a tentative schedule for 2011-12.

## Make a Difference Week



**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE DAY**  
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

Make a Difference Day, the nation's largest single day of volunteering, is Oct. 24. More than three million people turn out to perform thousands of charitable acts for others. In honor of this event, West Des Moines Community School District's students and staff will be collecting personal hygiene items this week for West Des Moines

Human Services, which currently serves over 325 families a month. The district is also collecting donations for Koins for Kids, a scholarship fund to help low-income families participate in local programs.

Last year WDM Human Services provided 3,777 orders of personal care products to households in need. Over the last few months WDM Human Services has seen an increase in households in need and, unfortunately, they have not been able to keep up.

This week, each building throughout the district will be collecting personal hygiene items. Each building has been assigned a specific item to collect, so contact your school to find out what they are collecting. You can also contact your school to find out where to drop off donations to Koins for Kids. The WDM Community Education staff will pick up the items from each school Oct. 23, deliver them to the WDM Human Services center and stock the personal care product shelves. Thank you for your support of this great cause!