

October 19, 2009

Character Counts! Quote of the Week

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

— Abraham Lincoln

Important Dates in October/ November

Oct. 18-24	National Character Counts! Week
Oct. 19-23	Make a Difference Week
Oct. 20	Fourth Grade Skating Party at Skate South, 9:15-11:15 a.m.
Oct. 20	Sixth Grade Skating Party at Skate South, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Oct. 22	Kindergarten and First Grade Skating Party at Skate South, 9:15-11:15 a.m.
Oct. 22	Second & Third Grade Skating Party at Skate South, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Oct. 22	Title I Partners in Print at Phenix Elem. 6:15-8:05 p.m.
Oct. 22	Valley vs. SC North 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Sally Foster Fundraiser DUE
Oct. 29	Sixth Grade Biz Town
Oct. 30	Halloween School Parade 2:45 p.m.
Oct. 30	Classroom Halloween Parties, 3:15-3:45 p.m.
Nov. 2-6	ITBS Testing Grades 3-6
Nov. 10	PTO Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m.
Nov. 13	End of First Trimester
Nov. 13	Success Assembly (K-3) 2-2:45 p.m. and (4-6) 3-3:45 p.m. in the gym
Nov. 19	Parent Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
Nov. 23	Parent Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
Nov. 23	Junior High Orchestra Concert Tour
Nov. 24	Sixth Grade Volleyball Tournament 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Valley HS
Nov. 24	Kindergarten Pie Feast, 2:45 p.m.
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Break, No School for Students and Staff

Hillside Celebrates

"Character Counts!" Week,
Red Ribbon Week & Make A Difference Week"

October 19-23, 2009

Monday: I will use my thinking cap, and be RESPONSIBLE to SAY NO to Drugs!
Wear your favorite cap, and the RESPONSIBLE pillar color green. Your teacher will provide you with a Red Ribbon to wear today and red ribbons to tie around a pole outside your classroom or your door. To show others that we are using your thinking caps by being responsible to say NO to drugs.

Tuesday: I RESPECT my Body by Running away from Drugs
Wear your exercise or running clothes, and the pillar color yellow for RESPECT to show you respect your body and will always run away from drugs. Show RESPECT by following the Golden Rule today ~ Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Wednesday: I CARE and Can Make a Difference
Wear your Pillar Color shirt that matches your room color, to show we can help make a difference. Support West Des Moines Human Services by donating soap or body wash, or make a monetary donation for Koins for Kids.

Thursday: I will SLIP into good Character by being FAIR to myself and others by Sockin' it to Drugs
Wear a pair of slippers and/or crazy socks today, and the FAIRNESS pillar color ORANGE to show you are a FAIR person of character and are going to sock it to drugs!

Friday: I will be TRUSTWORTHY in Teaming up Against Drugs
Wear your favorite team's colors and/or the TRUSTWORTHINESS pillar color of BLUE to show you are TRUSTWORTHY to team up and say NO to drugs.

Hillside Headlines

H1N1 – Health Alert

The West Des Moines School District is working closely with the Polk County Health Department, other Polk County school districts and the Iowa Department of Education to monitor flu conditions. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. We want to keep our schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. But, we need your help to do this.

Here are a few things you can do to help.

- ✓ **Know the signs of symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea. These symptoms apply to ALL types of the flu, not just H1N1.
- ✓ **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. Have a plan in place if you need to stay home with a sick child.
- ✓ **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. **Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.**
- ✓ **Teach your children to wash their hands often** with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ✓ **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks; food or unwashed utensils.
- ✓ **Teach your child to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.**

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Box Tops for Education

Hillside Elementary is a Box Tops for Education school. Please save your Box Tops and drop them off in the Box Tops bins located in the school near the media center and upstairs. Box Tops proceeds are an

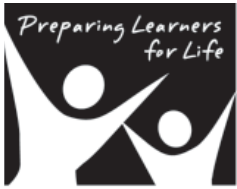


important component of our school's PTO fundraising activities. All proceeds go into the general PTO fund which is used for student, staff and community enrichment. We appreciate everyone's support!

Sally Foster Fundraiser

The Sally Foster Fundraiser is well on its way. Items for sale include giftwrap, unique gift items, gourmet chocolates, edibles and more. Money raised by Hillside's Parent Teacher Organization will go toward books, field trips, classroom parties and more. Orders will be collected through Oct. 22. Please return packets with payment and order form on or before Oct. 22. Mark your calendar for Dec. 2, as this is the pick up date for orders at Hillside Elementary.





WEST DES MOINES
COMMUNITY
S C H O O L S

informal

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

October 19, 2009
www.wdmcs.org

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) 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!