

November 2, 2009

## Character Counts! Quote of the Week

"Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street."  
— *Elbert Hubbard*

## Important Dates in November

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. 18	6th Grade Code 411 Graduation 2 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	6th Grade Volleyball Tournament 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at VHS
Nov. 24	Kindergarten Pie Feast, 2:45 p.m.
<b>Nov. 25-27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break, No School for Students and Staff</b>

## ITBS TESTING

ITBS is November 2-9. Please be sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast each morning. We will have healthy snacks provided for them each day but students are welcome to bring their own healthy snack for the mornings.

## CHESS – Thursday Mornings



Mr. Munson, Valley High School's chess coach, is at Hillside Elementary every Thursday morning at 8 a.m. in our dining room. All Hillside students are welcome to come play chess. If you have questions, please call Ben Munson at 276-0634.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences



Parent-teacher conferences for kindergarten through sixth grade will be Nov. 19 from 4-8 p.m. and Nov. 23 from 4-8 p.m. Sign up sheets are located outside the front office.

Teachers prepare for fall conferences with several objectives in mind. One objective is to share the academic progress and goals for the current school year. Another objective is to learn more about the student from the parents. One example of this might be the student's out-of-school responsibilities or to find out about the child's interests. A third objective is to cooperatively (parent and teacher) plan ways to address any problems that may be occurring or to help build upon the study habits of the child. Conferences help teachers learn more about their students. To facilitate a team approach to conferencing (parent and teacher working together), it may be a good idea to prepare in advance some questions you may want to ask your child's teacher. Parent questions help open communication lines and let teachers know what interests and concerns you may have about the social or academic development of your child.

## PTO Buzz

At the October PTO meeting we talked about many of the 2009-10 PTO committees and activities planned. Spirit wear sales are closed and will be delivered soon. Sally Foster sales are closed and will be delivered in early December. Halloween party snacks were planned. We had an excellent guest speaker who gave a presentation about having Crucial Conversations with children.

Join us Nov. 10 from 6:30-8 p.m. to discuss preparation for parent-teacher conferences, updates on school activities in November and December and hear from Dr Davis about the school improvement plan.

\*\* Child Care Provided \*\*

## Hillside Headlines

### Positive Behavioral Support Update



Tiger Paws are handed out to individuals and classrooms when students demonstrate appropriate behaviors. Classroom tiger paws are sent to the office for a monthly drawing. The class winners for the month of September are

listed below. Class winners receive a tiger trophy to enjoy for the month and their class picture is displayed outside of our dining room for the month.

#### October class winners were:

- K-2: Mrs. Kenworthy's First Grade - great line basics
- 3-4: Mrs. Gilmore's Fourth Grade - fantastic report from the substitute
- 5-6: Mrs. Trygstad's Sixth Grade - great job in the media center

### Thanksgiving Baskets & Combat Hunger



Hillside Elementary and First Bank are teaming up once again this year to help Hillside families enjoy a marvelous Thanksgiving feast with their families. In addition, we are collecting

both food and non-food items to donate to the Combat Hunger food drive. Please see the information being sent home for more details on how you and your family can help make the upcoming holiday season enjoyable for others. We encourage you to send donated items to school with your child from Nov. 2-20. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

November 2, 2009

### THANK YOU



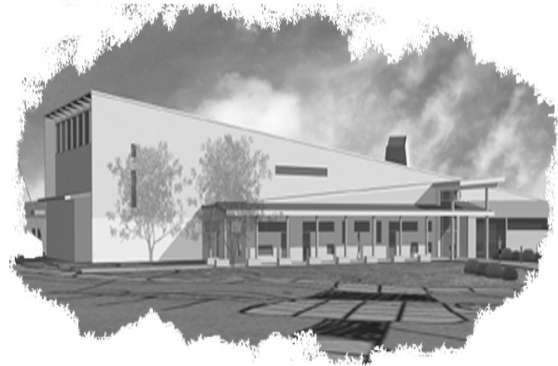
When you are signing up for conferences, please take a moment to look at our display case outside the office. Thank you to Melissa Seybert for the wonderful job of decorating our display case.

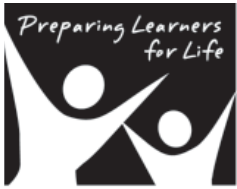
### Box Tops for Education

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!





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

Nov. 2, 2009  
www.wdmcs.org

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the meeting Oct. 26, the Board of Education:

- heard results of the Iowa Youth Survey from Curriculum Director Dave Blum
- reported on the Western Hills open house, Academic Awards Night at Valley, a visit to first graders at Western Hills and congratulated the fall sports teams
- adopted a resolution designating law enforcement units facilitate the exchange of information per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- authorized the amendment to the Polk County Empowerment agreement
- conducted a hearing on Valley High School softball and baseball dugout improvements
- approved change orders for Indian Hills and Crestview and the accepted work as complete by a contractor at Indian Hills and Western Hills
- approved the student teaching and practicum agreement with Iowa Wesleyan College
- approved the one-year contract with Parlant Technology to provide ParentLink emergency messaging services
- recognized outstanding accomplishments of district students and staff during board recognition
- reviewed open enrollment applications

**Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 9  
7 p.m.  
Indian Hills Junior High**

## ONLINE LIBRARY SYSTEM

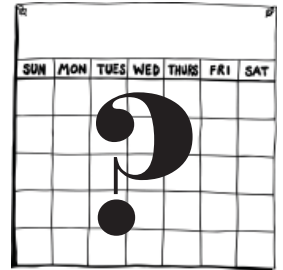
Destiny is a completely web based, automated library system. Parents and students can use any computer with Internet access to view the catalog for their school's library. You can search by keyword, title, author, subject and series. Just click on the Destiny icon to get started. You can find the link on our homepage at [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org).

## TAKE A CLASS WITH LEARN<sub>west</sub>

Don't miss out! There are still several LEARN<sub>west</sub> classes being offered this fall. We know you'll find something that fits you, whether it's knitting a holiday stocking, pet massage, ballroom dancing, Microsoft Word 2007 Advanced or making a button bracelet. There is a wide variety of classes to take with LEARN<sub>west</sub>. For a full listing of all LEARN<sub>west</sub> classes, call 633-5001 or visit our website at <http://www.wdmcs.org/district/commed/learnwest>.

## CALENDAR OPINIONS WANTED!

Don't miss this opportunity to offer your opinion on options for the 2010-11 school year schedule. A survey is posted on the district web site ([www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org)) and will be available until Fri., Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. Three choices are offered, reflecting differing start dates, winter break dates and the last day of school (without weather cancellations).



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.

## THE GREAT COOKIE WALK



The sixth annual Great Cookie Walk benefiting the Youth Justice Initiative of West Des Moines will be held Sat., Nov. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the West Des Moines Christian Church fellowship hall located at 4501 Mills Civic Parkway.

Hosted by the Young Energetic Seniors group of the WDM Christian Church, the Great Cookie Walk is known for fresh, homemade, gourmet holiday cookies. Last year, more than 250 cookie varieties and 1,200 cookies were sold, awarding YJI more than \$4,500. In the past five years, the event has donated more than \$18,000 to YJI, which is a publicly funded, restorative justice program that positively and effectively redevelops young offenders.

Cookie pre orders and additional information are available at [www.wdmcc.org/cookiewalk](http://www.wdmcc.org/cookiewalk) or by calling 515-225-0464.