

November 16, 2009

Character Counts! Quote of the Week

Character is simply habit long continued.
 — *Plutarch*

Important Dates in November/December

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. to 2:30 p.m. at Valley High School
Nov. 24	Kindergarten Pie Feast, 2:45 p.m.
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Break, No School for Students and Staff
Dec. 3	Title I Partners in Print at Crestview Elementary 6:15-8:05 p.m.
Dec. 9	6th Grade Orchestra Concert
Dec. 10	5th and 6th Grade Orchestra Concert at Valley Southwoods 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Winter Sing 2:45 p.m. in the gym
Dec. 18	Winter Parties, classrooms starting at 3:15 p.m.
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1	Winter Break, No School for Students and Staff

Thanksgiving Baskets & Combat Hunger



Hillside Elementary and First Bank are teaming up to help Hillside families enjoy a marvelous Thanksgiving feast. We are also collecting 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.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences for grades K-6 will be Nov. 19 and 23 from 4-8 p.m. Sign up sheets are located outside the front office.

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. Some good questions to ask:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Has my child missed any classes other than ones I contacted the school about?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- What kinds of tests are being done?
- What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
- How does my child handle taking tests?

We look forward to visiting with you during parent-teacher conferences!



Hillside Headlines

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!

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

September class winners were:

- K-2: Mr. Bixler's Second Grade great behavior on 10/19/09
- 3-4: Ms. Law's Third Grade fantastic recess behavior
- 5-6: Mrs. Samuelson's Fifth Grade showing responsibility when picking their own partners and working hard.

THANK YOU to Our Volunteers!

We would like to thank the following parents for helping to prepare the popcorn treat for our fall parties: Barb Paradise, Ericka Kuhlman, Shelly Olson, Leslie Laindeberg, Christi Strelecki, Donna Schecher, Joel Andreas, Michelle Handson, Liz Clemens, Jackie Crull, Laura Porter and Melissa Seybert.

Thank you also to all the homeroom parents who helped with costumes. The parade and parties would not have been a success without your help!

November 16, 2009

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 and play chess. If you have questions, please call Ben Munson at 276-0634.

Valley Girl/Boy Basketball Game

Valley High School and the Valley Athletic Department would like to invite Hillside students to attend a special elementary school night at a Valley girl/boy basketball game.

Students and staff members will be admitted free if they are wearing a shirt or sweat shirt with your school name or present a school ID.

Parents must pay. The cost for adults is \$5 and for students \$3.

Please sit in the north bleachers, display good sportsmanship, be respectful of other spectators, watch the game and enjoy! Your school will be asked to stand up and be recognized sometime during the game. We will be selecting a few students to participate in contests at halftimes.

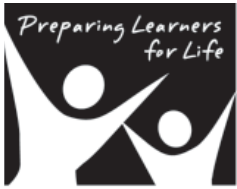
The dates for the games and the schools attending are:

Fri., Jan. 15 - Crestview, Crossroads, Hillside, Phenix, Western Hills. The sophomore/JV games start at 4:45 p.m., the girls' game is at 6:15 p.m. and the boys' game is at 7:45 p.m.

BUS FEES

Just a friendly reminder—first semester bus fees were due Oct. 20.





WEST DES MOINES
COMMUNITY
S C H O O L S

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

Nov. 16, 2009
www.wdmcs.org

informaline

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the workshop Nov. 9 at Indian Hills Junior High, the Board of Education:

- took a gallery walk and learned about technology, interdisciplinary activities, collaboration, benefits of teaming, middle school characteristics, ESL and explorative coursework at the school
- learned about Positive Behavior Support at Indian Hills and the expectation for students to be responsible, be respectful and be ready
- learned about the pyramid of interventions for students who are identified as at-risk
- learned about the school's reading and math resource programs
- learned about the After the Bell program for students who want extra homework time at school
- learned about the many before and after school activities for Indian Hills students.

At the regular meeting Nov. 9, the Board of Education:

- approved a change order for Indian Hills construction
- approved the contract with Drake University Head Start to provide space at Phenix Elementary
- approved a contract with Iowa Network Services to provide additional bandwidth to the District
- reviewed open enrollement applications

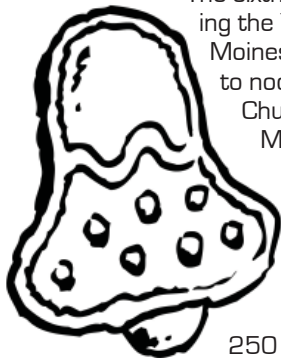
Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 23

7 p.m.

Learning Resource Center

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.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

This week is American Education Week, designed to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The weeklong celebration spotlights the different people who are critical in building great public schools for the nation's 50 million K-12 students. American Education Week's celebration days include:

SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Up-to-the-minute recordings about cancellations, dismissals and closings are available at 633-5555. The WDMCS hotline is provided as a service for students, parents, staff and community members to call if school must be cancelled or dismissed early due to weather conditions or other emergencies.



ParentLink, the district's emergency notification system, will be used to notify families of cancellations, early dismissals or other emergencies. Calls are made to home phone numbers, cell phone numbers and/or work numbers as provided to the school and entered into the Infinite Campus data system.



The district will send a test message via ParentLink in the next week or two. By implementing a test message, we are able to assess the system and make any modifications prior to the onset of severe weather conditions.

This information is also shared with the local media on television stations KCCI-TV 8, WHO-TV 13 and WOI-TV 5; FM radio stations KJJY (92.5), KIOA (93.3), KGGO (94.9), KHKI (97.3), KWQW (98.3), KZZQ (99.5), KSTZ (102.5), KAZR (103.3), KLTI (104.1), KPTL (106.3) and KISS (107.5); and AM radio stations KPSZ (940), WHO (1040), KWKY (1150), KRNT (1350) and KXNO (1460).

Student days missed due to school closing will be made up beginning June 3, 2010.