

# News and Notes

**Indian Hills Junior High School**  
**Mr. Shane Christensen Principal**  
**Mr. Kerry Ketcham, Associate Principal**

**Website:** [www.wdmcs.org/indian\\_hills/](http://www.wdmcs.org/indian_hills/)

**Date:** August 31, 2009

## Principal Points

Welcome to Indian Hills and the 2009-10 school year. We had a great start this year. I am excited to finally see the halls filled with teachers and students. Please be sure to notify the office of your email address, home address, and phone numbers. One of our goals is to increase communication between school, teams, and home. We would like to utilize email when possible. Thank you!

## PAC News

All parents are always welcome and encouraged to come to the Indian Hills PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meetings. Our meetings include information about what is happening at school, issues of importance to students and parents, an opportunity to share ideas or voice concerns and an open forum time with administration. We hope you can come!!! **Please add these dates to your calendar: Sept. 10th, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 4th, & May 6th.** All meetings will be held in the Media Center and will begin at 12:30 P.M. For more information about PAC or to get involved with volunteering at school, please feel free to contact Carol Swegle at 457-8320 or [cswegle@aol.com](mailto:cswegle@aol.com)

## After School Activities

Many opportunities exist for students after school. On Mondays from 2:40 to 3:45, intramurals are offered in the gym. Starting September 7, After the Bell Homework Club will begin in the media center from 2:45 to 4:00. A bus is available to take students home. Students must sign up in the office by noon if they want to ride the bus. The WDM Teen Center is open from 2:00 to 6:00 on Wednesdays and 2:30 to 6:00 all other days. A bus will be available at IH after school and at 4:00 daily to go to the Teen Center. Students and families must sign up for each of these activities. Forms are available in the office.

## PaySchools Brings Online Convenience to West Des Moines Community School District Parents

The West Des Moines Community School District offers convenience to parents by providing an online payment processing system called PaySchools. With this system, parents can access PaySchools through the district web site and pay for school lunches either by e-check or Mastercard, Visa or Discover cards. The parent will immediately receive an e-mail receipt confirming the purchase(s).

**Visit the IH Website at** [www.wdmcs.org/indian\\_hills/](http://www.wdmcs.org/indian_hills/) or go to the district website at [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org) and in the bottom left corner select Indian Hills from the "Visit School Sites" section. Visit this site daily to read school announcements and upcoming events. Find links about Indian Hills, athletic schedules, directions to all games, the Family Handbook, Curriculum, PAC, and school activities.

PaySchools offers parents the ease of being able to make purchases 24 hours a day/7 days a week, the security of knowing the school has received payments, the protection of sensitive account information (credit card and bank account numbers are not stored in the database), and the convenience of having records of purchases and payments available online.

**Note:** All athletes must have on file a current physical, emergency card, insurance record, parent permission form, and signed conduct code form. Please call Kerry Ketcham, Associate Principal /Activities Director, at 633-4700 if you have any questions or concerns. Go Tigers!

For more information about Payschools, visit the district website at [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org) and click on the PaySchools icon. Be aware that when you begin the process for the first time, you will need to set up two accounts – one for WDMCS Nutrition Services and one for PaySchools (**EACH** will require you to create a username and password).

## Calling in a sick child

Please call the IH office (633-4700) by 9:00 A.M. if your student is home ill and will not attend school that day. If we have a child reported absent and a parent does not call, we will call a parent after 10:00 A.M. Please have your student bring a note to the office by 7:35 A.M., signed by a parent, upon returning from an absence or appointment.

Questions? Please contact Lynnae Moossavi at 633-5085 or email her at [moossavil@wdmcs.org](mailto:moossavil@wdmcs.org).



# Information

WEST DES MOINES

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

August 31, 2009  
www.wdmcs.org

## Board Highlights

At the meeting on Monday, August 24, the Board of Education:

- Heard a report from Valley and Walnut Creek Campus students about the Fast Track Diplomat Camp they attended this summer;
- Held a hearing and approved the easement for the Wastewater Reclamation Authority;
- Held a hearing on the Crestview Elementary School north addition;
- Established a hearing on September 14 for an easement with MidAmerican Energy;
- Authorized Shive-Hattery to provide a proposal for engineering design services to address moisture transmission at Valley Southwoods;
- Accepted as complete the work of six contractors on the Western Hills remodeling project;
- Approved change orders on the Crestview and Indian Hills projects;
- Approved the contract with the University of Iowa College of Nursing for a student nurse practicum;
- Authorized the amendment to the agreement with the Iowa Department of Education to extend a special project contract with a district teacher;
- Approved the lease agreement with Drake University for the Valley graduation ceremonies on May 30, 2010;
- Approved the roster for the Building a Learning Community Committee;
- Denied open enrollment applications received after the deadline.

**Next meeting: Monday, September 14, 2009**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Learning Resource Center**

## VOTE on Sept. 8 - School Board Election

Four candidates are vying for three seats on the Board of Education: incumbent Jill Hansen and Elizabeth Brennan, Mark Lagomarcino and Veleta Lucas-Empty. Current Board members Susan Moritz and Barbara Burnett are not running for re-election.

Meet the candidates at a forum on:

Tuesday, September 1  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Learning Resource Center - Community Room.

The candidate forum is sponsored by the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

## PEEL Vote - September 8

Voters will be asked to renew the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy -- \$1.34 per \$1,000 of taxable property value.

Key Facts:

- This levy will NOT increase property taxes, but continue a levy that is already in place.
- This vote is to approve a continuation of the same levy that the West Des Moines Community School District has depended on for more than 50 years.

Funds generated would be used for:

- Building repairs, renovations, additions, and safety improvements
- Purchase of computer systems and other educational technology
- Purchase of school buses

By law, PEEL funds may not be used for educational programs, textbooks or salaries.

**Please remember to VOTE on September 8!** Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## We're Ready for the Flu Season!

As the school year gets underway, the H1N1 virus is in the news again. Students and staff are taking extra precautions to avoid the spread of all types of flu. The district is following the guidelines in the Polk County Pandemic Influenza Response Plan for Schools.

District staff are expected to take the following precautionary measures:

- Classroom surfaces must be disinfected twice daily with Virex II. This disinfectant just has to be sprayed on desks/countertops, etc. and does not need to be wiped dry.
- Ample time must be provided for students and staff to thoroughly wash hands. Soap and water should impede the spread of germs.
- If access to soap and water is not available, students and staff will use the hand sanitizer that is provided in all schools.
- Food treats brought into the classroom must be eaten in the cafeteria or other common space in each school.

Additional information will be posted on the district web site at [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org). If you have questions, please contact your school nurse.

## You Are Invited

To a reception honoring retiring and newly elected members of the Board of Education

Monday, September 14

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Learning Resource Center.

West Des Moines Community School District Board of Education

Barbara Burnett - Milton Cole - Jill Hansen - Mark Lyons - Susan Moritz - Tom Suckow - Terry Tobin

*Preparing Learners for Life*