



JORDAN CREEK JOURNAL

Jordan Creek Elementary / 4105 Fuller Road / West Des Moines, IA 50265

PHONE (515) 633-5200 FAX (515) 633-5299

<http://www.wdmcs.org/jcreek>

Dr. Nancy Moorhead, Principal Mr. Graham Jones, Assistant Principal

OCTOBER 13, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following is some great information from Employee & Family Resources, Inc. that can be useful for many busy families today.

- **So Much to Do!** With homework, extracurricular activities, socializing and TV/computer time families get busy and easily overwhelmed with the rush to get everything done. Families must organize, prioritize, set limits and be flexible to successfully get the most important things done each day.
- **Plan!** Use a planner or calendar to keep track of appointments, commitments and meetings. Encourage your child to start using one for their homework assignments and other activities.
- **Prioritize!** Know the difference between what MUST be done today (meeting deadlines with homework) and what can wait until tomorrow (television and video games). Create a "Must Do" and a "Want to Do" list to help the family prioritize their activities, deal with the unexpected and then choose how to spend what time is left. It's important to prioritize family time and put it on the "must do" list occasionally, so it doesn't fall to the bottom of the priority list. Regular and positive time with parents can help prevent or lessen some problem behaviors in children.
- **Set Limits!** Routines and rules that families can count on are important. They will be different for each family, but everyone needs them. Children of all ages need structure and guidance from their parents. Set limits on how much time children (and parents) can spend watching TV, using the computer or talking on the phone. This will help make sure things on the "must do" list get done.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Moorhead, Principal

Notes from the Office

Every Wednesday is an early dismissal day. School dismisses at 3:10 p.m. Please make sure your child knows what they are to do on those early out days!
Half day kindergarten dismisses at 11:05 a.m.

Fifth Grade Band Performance

We are pleased to announce our **FIRST PERFORMANCE**, a demonstration concert of this year's beginning band class, **Thurs., Oct. 29**. It is an exciting event that you won't want to miss. We will demonstrate what we have learned to this point and talk about some of the events to come. It will give you an opportunity to see first hand what is being accomplished in the instrumental music program. Please join us so we can celebrate the **first performance** together.

Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day will be Tues., Oct. 27 at Jordan Creek, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our photographer this year is Jolesch Photography.

If you are having your child's picture retaken, you must return the original picture packet to the photographer on retake day.

If your child is being photographed for the first time, please contact you child's teacher for an order envelope.

Mrs. Hallman's kindergarten class and Mrs. Mullins' preschool class will have retakes on the same day at Jordan Creek.

REMINDER

The Human Growth and Development Films can be previewed by parents tonight at the Learning Resource Center. Times are as follows: 6:30 PM- 4th grade girls; 7:00 PM-4th grade boys; 7:30 PM 5th grade; 8:00 PM 6th grade. Flyers went home with your child last week.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

Mon.	19	Start Character Counts Week
Mon.	26	Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 26-30 6 th Grade to Civic Center
Wed.	28	4B & 4D to Art Center
Thu.	29	Kindergarten Fall Plays
Fri.	30	4A & 4C to Art Center Fall Parties

November

Mon.	2-6	ITBS Testing Dates
Thu.	12	PFC Meeting, 2 p.m.
Tue.	24	6 th Grade Volleyball Tournament
Wed.	25-27	No School/Thanksgiving Break

Join the Jordan Creek Chorus!



All fifth and sixth graders are invited to join the Jordan Creek chorus. This ensemble is the perfect opportunity for students to sing with friends, express their enjoyment for singing and improve their overall musicianship. From October through

January, students will rehearse one day a week – on Monday or Friday before school starting at 8:15 a.m. The first rehearsal for the Friday group Oct. 23. The Monday group will start Oct. 26.

Then, starting sometime in January, the two groups will join for rehearsals and practice on Monday and Friday mornings. The chorus will have a school concert in the gymnasium during the morning of Fri., Feb. 26 and an evening concert on Mon., March 1 in the Jordan Creek community room. No audition is necessary to become a member of the chorus, simply return page two of the chorus newsletter immediately. (Newsletters went home with all fifth and sixth grade students Oct. 1.)

Questions? Please contact Mrs. Hachmann by phone: 633-5206 or e-mail: hachmanna@wdmcs.org.

Auction-Save the Date Saturday, February 27, 2010

Information on the upcoming Parent Faculty Club Auction to be held Sat., Feb. 27, 2010, has been sent home with your student. Please read over the information. Learn how to be a sponsor or donor and get involved in this fun and worthwhile fundraising project to help support your child's school. Volunteers are needed to help with the auction. For questions or additional information, please call auction chairpersons Brenda Lounsbury at 224-1008 or Sheri Van Arnum at 991-5789. Come and join the fun!

Make a Difference Week – West Des Moines

Community Schools

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. This year, the West Des Moines Community School (WDMCS) district's students and staff will be collecting personal hygiene items. Jordan Creek is assigned to collect **laundry detergent**. Additionally, we will be collecting donations for Koins for Kids, a scholarship fund to help low-income families participate in local programs, for West Des Moines Human Services, which currently serves over 325 families a month. 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 of households in need and, unfortunately, have not been able to keep up.

During the week of October 19-23, Jordan Creek will collect **laundry detergent**. Fri., Oct. 23, the West Des Moines Community Education staff will collect the items from each school to deliver and stock the personal care product shelves at the WDM Human Services center.

Thank you for your support of this great cause!

Jordan Creek Students Celebrate! Character Counts Week, Red Ribbon Week and Make A Difference Week!

- ◆ Mon., Oct. 19- Wear your favorite cap and the RESPONSIBIITY color **green**.
- ◆ Tues., Oct. 20- Wear your exercise or running clothes, and the pillar color **yellow** for RESPECT.
- ◆ Wed., Oct. 21- Wear your Jordan Creek **Character Counts shirts!**
- ◆ Thurs., Oct. 22- Wear a pair of slippers and/or crazy socks and the color **orange** to support the pillar of FAIRNESS.
- ◆ Fri., Oct. 23- Wear your favorite team's colors or the color **blue** to show you are TRUSTWORTHY and to team up and say "NO!" to drugs.

Recycling Challenge 2009
Continues Until –November 6

Jordan Creek, Metro Waste Authority and the Iowa Grocery Industry Association are teaming up for Build with Bags School Challenge this fall.

This challenge is about educating children and parents on recycling plastic shopping bags and using reusable shopping bags. Each school that turns in at least ten pounds of plastic shopping bags and receives credit for ten reusable bags* (see “added twist” below) will get a \$100 store gift card. The top three schools will receive a piece of outdoor furniture/equipment made with recycled plastic. The contest started Oct. 5 and will continue through Nov. 6. The winners will be announced Nov. 16.

*An added twist! People who use reusable shopping bags at any grocery store in the metro (Hy-Vee, Dahl’s, Fareway) will receive one point for each reusable bag they use. The shopper will be able to tell the cashier which school they would like to receive their points. For every six reusable bags, the school receives credit for one pound. FUN FACT: it takes approximately 60 plastic shopping bags to make one pound. It’s easy to see that using reusable bags is the fastest way to reach the goal!

Start saving your dry, clean plastic shopping bags now! Bring them to school Oct. 5 through Nov. 6. There will be collection bins in each pod.

Looking Ahead

Conference Sign Up Information

There will be a change in the way parents sign up for conferences this year.

The Parent/Faculty Club has purchased an online program to help facilitate the conference sign up procedure for parents.

Watch for more information to come home with your child soon!

Conference week is Nov. 14-20.

Media Center News

Thank you to Avery Merkley (2B) for donating books to the media center in honor of her birthday! Avery donated, Katie Kazoo Switcheroo: On Thin Ice, by Nancy Krulick, and Judy Moody, By Megan McDonald. Many students will enjoy your selections! Thank you!

Lunch Accounts-Keeping You Informed

As we begin the 2009-10 school year, please watch for low and negative balance letters to come home with your student. These gold notices are to alert you that it could be time to make a deposit to your child’s lunch account. When money is sent to school, be sure it is in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name and grade. Lunch payments can be made online by accessing the district website at www.wdmcs.org and clicking on the PaySchools icon. To get your child’s ID number, please call the school office at 633-5200.

Please remember that the lunch account is not a credit account but a debit account. If you have concerns about your student’s lunch account, please don’t hesitate to call.

Sincerely, Janeen Frey

Lunchroom News
“Peanut Restricted” Table

Parents are welcome and encouraged to come to school and have lunch with their students. There is a special table in the lunchroom that is designated as peanut restricted for our students who have peanut allergies.

Parents are invited to sit at the peanut restricted table with their child when they come to school for lunch.

Their child is allowed to invite one other friend to sit with them and at the peanut-restricted table.

We must be sure that there is available seating for the students with peanut allergies.

If you have any questions as you visit our lunchroom, please ask a lunchroom supervisor for assistance.

Thank you for supporting our Jordan Creek students!

REMINDER:

Look for collection bins in the main entryway for donations of Laundry Detergent for Make A Difference Week. (Oct. 19-23)