



# JORDAN CREEK JOURNAL

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

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

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

OCTOBER 26, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,



Please take note of the new conference sign up program that will be in place this year at Jordan Creek.

Information on how to access the sign up program called **PTCwizard** is included in this issue of the Jordan Creek Journal under the heading Parent/Teacher Conferences, Sign Up Now Online. Access to the site will be available starting at 5 a.m. Sun., Nov. 1.

If you have no access to the internet, you can contact your child's teacher directly.

We hope that your time with the teacher provides you with a clear picture of your child's progress. Please remember to arrive at your scheduled conference on time. If your scheduled conference time runs out and you would like to schedule more time with your child's teacher, please do so.

**For safety reasons, no children are to be left unattended in the media center during conferences!**

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) will be given to students in grades three to six the week of Nov. 2-6. These are standardized achievement test that are taken by children all over the nation. The ITBS covers many of the fundamental skills your child is learning in school: vocabulary, reading comprehension, language, spelling and mathematics.

In this newsletter, please look for the article, "ITBS: Tips in Preparing Your Child."

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.**

## Fall Parties

Fall parties will be held Fri., Oct. 30. The parties will be held from 3-3:45 p.m. unless your child's teacher has communicated an alternative time.

Costumes may be worn as communicated by your child's teacher. Experiences at school need to be positive and promote healthy growth. We ask that costumes worn at school do not depict gore, blood, death, weapons or violence. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please remember that we are a peanut-restricted school. Do not send any treats with peanuts or peanut products.

We know that parking is an issue, but must remind you that there is NO PARKING in the BUS LANES. The Valley church parking lot may be used for overflow parking.

## 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.**

**Parent / Teacher Conferences**  
**Sign Up Now Online.**

Conference Dates: November 14-19

This year the Jordan Creek PFC has purchased a program to allow parents to sign up for their conferences online. The program will allow parents to sign up for parent-teacher conferences without having to come up to school as they did in the past. Parents will have the ability to sign up for conferences anywhere there is access to the internet. This will hopefully help with increasingly busy schedules. Each family will need access to the internet as well as an email address. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your homeroom teacher directly to schedule a conference.

**Sign up for conferences will open Sun., Nov. 1 at 5 a.m.** To access the conference sign up program, visit <https://jcreek.ptcwizard.com> and register for an account. Please use only one email address for the entire family. When entering your first name, put both you and your spouse's first name.

This program will allow parents to compare multiple teachers' schedules side by side for easier scheduling. The program takes parents through step by step on how to set up an account as well as scheduling a conference. A PDF file of directions is located on the Jordan Creek website and should also be forwarded to you through the child's homeroom teacher. If a printed version is needed, please contact your child's homeroom teacher and one will be sent home.

Jordan Creek's PTC Wizard website is currently up and running. Parents are able to go into the website and set up accounts at anytime. However, conference sign up will not open until Sun., Nov. 1 at 5 a.m. We are excited to try this program out and know that there will be a few glitches. Please bear with us while we pilot this program. We hope that this will be beneficial to all.

**Media Center News**

Many books are donated to the media center by students, staff and parents. These donations do much to increase the selection of books in the media center. The most recent donation is Catching Fire, by Suzanne Collins. This book was donated by Isobel Schwob, (5A). Thank you Isobel for the kind donation! Many students will enjoy reading your selection!

**October**

Mon. 26	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade to Civic Center
Wed. 28	4B & 4D to Art Center
Thurs. 29	Kindergarten Fall Plays
Fri. 30	4A & 4C to Art Center
	Fall Parties

**November**

Mon. 2-6	ITBS Testing Dates
Thurs. 12	PFC Meeting 2 p.m.
Tues. 24	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Tournament
Wed. 25-27	<b>No School/Thanksgiving Break</b>

**Challenge of the Books**

If you are interested in having your fourth, fifth or sixth grade reader participate in the challenge of the books reading program, please contact Lisa West at 401-4142 or [lisawest@mchsi.com](mailto:lisawest@mchsi.com). This group of students will meet during lunch approximately twice a month through April and discuss books in preparation for a district wide quiz show reading celebration. Parent volunteers are needed to help lead the reading groups. A flyer and book list will be sent home with your student. Please sign up for some reading fun!

Lisa West, JC Parent



**Hy-Vee's "Smiles For Education"-  
 Congratulations & Thank You!**

We are happy to report that Jordan Creek was one of the winners of Hy-Vee's Smiles for Education program. As winners, Jordan Creek received a check from Hy-Vee for \$5,000. Additionally, Kyle Westoff, a student in Mrs. Harper's third grade classroom, won a Mac laptop computer when his name was selected in the weekly drawing during week seven of the program.

We would like to thank all the families who submitted their child's name to the drawing. A special thank you is in order to Kyle and his family for submitting his name and making this award to Jordan Creek possible.

Each week during the eight-week program, Hy-Vee held a drawing to select ten winning students and their schools, for a total of 80 winners. Each winning student received a laptop computer and each winning school received a donation of \$5,000 from Hy-Vee.

Thank you Hy-Vee for providing this opportunity and for supporting our community and schools!

### **Bus Fees Due**

Quarterly bus pass fees are due. Second quarter runs from Oct. 26 to Jan. 8. The quarterly round trip transportation fee is \$115. The quarterly one way transportation fee is \$60.

Transportation fees can be paid by check directly to the school office or they may be paid online through Pay-Schools. If you need your child's ID number to access Pay-Schools, please call Janeen Frey at 633-5228.

### **Recycling Challenge 2009** **Continues Until Nov. 6**



Jordan Creek, Metro Waste Authority (MWA) 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 10 pounds of plastic shopping bags and receives credit for 10 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.**

### **News from the Counseling Office**

Hamilton's Funeral Home is offering a program entitled Coping with Grief During the Holidays. During the program, speakers will offer practical suggestions for coping with grief to help adults who have experienced a death. Representatives from community grief support organizations will be available to offer information about the services they provide. You are invited to attend, Sun., Nov. 8 from 2-4 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P to 515-697-3666 or call for further information. Hamilton's is located at 3601 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines.

### **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! 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, 224-1008 or Sheri Van Arnum, 991-5789. Come and join the fun!

Dear JC Students and Families,

Hi! My name is Haley Shaw. I am a graduate student from Buena Vista University and I am getting my masters in school guidance and counseling. I have completed all of my class work and I am now doing my internship here at Jordan Creek. I started working with Mrs. Tigges in September and will be here until April. I am in the building Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons.

Some of you may remember me as Miss Tyler or Miss Haley. The past two years I worked at Jordan Creek in the ECSE classrooms, lunchroom/recess duty and 1B. This past August I got married and am now Mrs. Shaw! I also started a new job as an in-home parent educator for Family Directions of Iowa.

I am so excited to be back at Jordan Creek and am looking forward to the wonderful experience. If you have any questions for me you can email me at [haley@familydirectionsiowa.org](mailto:haley@familydirectionsiowa.org) or stop by to see me in Mrs. Tigges's guidance office on Tuesday mornings or Friday afternoons.

Sincerely,  
Haley Shaw

### **Lunch Accounts-Keeping You Informed**

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](http://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. (633-5228).

### **Safety Reminders: Limit Speed to 5 mph**

When picking up or dropping off your child, please keep these safety rules in mind:

### **Please observe the 5 mph speed limit in the front of the building!**

The curb lane is the only lane available for picking up and dropping off students in front of the building. Use your blinker to indicate you are ready to exit.

The second lane is to be used as a waiting lane only. Children must remain in the car or on the sidewalk until their car pulls to a curb spot for drop off. Never use the second lane to drop-off or pick-up a child.

The third lane is a moving lane for entering and exiting the parking lot. If you must leave your car, please use the diagonal parking which is reserved for parents.

If you are picking up your child from the east lot, remember to park in the parking lot. You must escort your child across the bus lane. Do not block parked cars! The traffic lane on the east side is for commercial vans, buses and handicap vehicles only. There should be no line forming in the parking lot to wait for students.

Please put safety first! Be courteous and patient. Our primary concern is the safety of our children!

### **ITBS: Tips in Preparing Your Child**

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills for students will be the week of **Nov. 2-6**. During that week, you are essential to your child's performance.

1. Have your child get a good night's sleep each night to allow them to be refreshed each day.
2. A good breakfast can enhance a child's alertness (brain research indicates protein helps with alertness.)
3. Relay the expectation that you expect your child to do their best when taking the tests. Don't put specific scoring goals on them — this could promote extra stress and cause them not to perform to their best ability.
4. Talk with them about how to relax before taking the tests — give them some ways to calm themselves (i.e., deep breaths, stretching).
5. Talk to your child about time management during these timed tests.

You make a difference for your child when you are involved in their educational activities. You guide them to become lifelong learners with the habits you develop with them. Thank you for the great effort you put into parenting everyday!

### **Looking Ahead**

**Thanksgiving Break:** November 25-27  
School Resumes- November 30



**Winter Break:** December 21- January 1  
School Resumes- January 4, 2010

