



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

SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to invite all Jordan Creek parents to a night of learning for our new **Everyday Math** curriculum. This is our first year of implementing this new and exciting math program and we are eager to share the highlights with you. Dave Blum, our math and science curriculum director, will be in the Jordan Creek media center on Tues, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m.. He will do an overview and answer specific questions you may have. We look forward to having you join us for the session. Feel free to review some **EDM** websites before you come to help with questions you may have. Those websites are:

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/>

http://instruction.aaps.k12.mi.us/EM_parent_hdbk/

Thanks again for your support of Jordan Creek students.

Cognitive Abilities Tests will be administered to all third and sixth grade students beginning the week of Oct. 5. Results of the testing will arrive in late November or early December. If you are interested in your child's results, please contact me at that time.

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.

Valley Homecoming-Traffic

The Valley Homecoming Parade will be Thurs., Oct. 1. Jordan Creek parents need to be aware that Fuller Road will be closed from 5:30-6 p.m. There will be no access to Jordan Creek in order to pick up students at Kids West.

Safety Procedures-East Side

There are safety procedures in place at Jordan Creek for before and after school drop off and pick up. The following plan is in place for the east side of the building and should be followed by everyone using that end of the building. (The teacher's parking lot and the bus lanes are on the east side.)

If you are picking up your child from the east side of the building, you must park your car in a parking space, walk across the bus lane and then escort your child to your car. Students may not cross the bus lane without parent supervision. No child may be "waved" across the bus lane to get in a waiting car. There should be no line of cars forming in the parking lot. This blocks in other drivers who need to leave and creates an unsafe environment for students. The parking lot is for parking only.

The traffic lane on the east side of the building is for commercial vans, school buses and handicap vehicles. Please be patient and courteous! The safety of the students is the top priority!

Picture Day at Jordan Creek

Picture day will be Tues., Sept. 29 at Jordan Creek. The photographer this year is Jolesch Photography. A flyer was sent home with your child detailing package options. Please be sure the flyer along with your payment for the selected package is returned to your child's teacher on or before picture day. All students will be photographed so they can be included on the class composite.

Mrs. Hallman's kindergarten class and Mrs. Mullins' preschool class will be photographed at the Valley Church on Thurs, Oct. 1.

Nurse's Notes:

The JC health office is always in need of good used clothing. Items such as t-shirts, track pants, jeans and shorts in good condition are appreciated! If you are cleaning out your child's closet, please consider filling a bag with these items that no longer fit. Thank you!

Hearing and Vision Testing

Each school year, the school nurse screens the vision of all first, third and fifth grade students. The third graders are being tested now, and the first and fifth graders will follow. Your child's results will be sent home if a vision concern is noted on the exam. Heartland AEA will be conducting the annual hearing screening at Jordan Creek for students preschool through fifth grade during the week of Nov. 30. Students who do not pass this test will be retested on Dec. 10. Notification will be sent home if a hearing concern is noted. If you have any questions regarding the vision or hearing screening, please call the JC school nurse, Lisa Farrell, at 633-5223.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

Tues. 29 Picture Day at Jordan Creek

October

Thurs. 1 **Picture Day at Valley Church**
Morning KD - Mrs. Hallman's class
Preschool - Mrs. Mullins' class
6th Grade Wetlands Field Trip

Fri. 2 Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
Mrs. Weih & Mrs. Erbes KA/KB

Mon. 5 Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
Mrs. Deatruck & Mrs. Hallman KC/KD

Mon. 5-9 Cognitive Abilities Tests, Grades 3 & 6

Tue. 6 **Parent Informational Meeting**
Everyday Math, 6:30 p.m.

Thu. 8 PFC Meeting, 2 p.m., teacher's lounge

Mon. 12 **NO SCHOOL/staff development**

Mon. 26 Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 26-30

Auction-Save the Date

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Information on the upcoming Parent Faculty Club Auction to be held on Saturday, February 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!

Jordan Creek Directory

You should have received a Jordan Creek Directory order form last week. The directory is published by the Parent/Faculty Club under the supervision of volunteer parent Sue Fisher. The directory is your source for:

- ◆ A complete list of school staff members, including e-mails and phone numbers
- ◆ Individual listing of each class and section
- ◆ Alphabetical listing of the entire student body
- ◆ Parent Faculty Club (PFC) contacts and meeting dates

The cost is \$1 per student directory. Send your order form and money to school with your child in an envelope marked "PFC Student Directory." Orders are due by Mon., Oct. 1.

Media Center News

Jordan Creek students demonstrate the Character Counts pillar of Caring for their school and classmates. Many students donate books to the media center to help make the book selection even better! The following students have donated books to the media center:

Sarah Norwood (1D), donated the book Come Back, Amelia Bedelia, by Peggy Parish. Thank you, Sarah for the kind donation!

Kaci Kopf (1D) and Kyle Kopf (4D), donated the following books to the media center: A Dog's Life, Double Identity, The Homework Machine and The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Thank you Kaci and Kyle for the kind donation.

Waiver of Student Fees

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for a waiver should complete the fee waiver form on the back of the free and reduced price meal application. You may also contact the principal or lunch secretary for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually. The free and reduced price meal application went home with students in the first day packet you received on opening day. They are also available in the school office.

Recycling Challenge 2009

October 5 –November 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 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 starts 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.

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

Donation from Target

Thank you to Target Stores and the Jordan Creek Target shoppers for the \$872.54 Take Charge of Education program donation. When parents, teachers and other school supporters use their REDcards, Target donates up to one percent of the purchase to the designated school. Thanks you for your support of Jordan Creek!

Your PFC Dollars@Work

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our JC families, staff and friends the PFC is able to provide needed funding to our school. The following is a sample of what has been provided so far this school year:

- ◆ Over \$4,800 for technology in the classrooms including calculators to support the new math curriculum, a digital camera for the off-campus kindergarten, AV equipment for classrooms to share and a handheld response system for use in fifth and sixth grade
- ◆ Books for guided reading, for guidance library, to support new curriculum in government/economics and reference materials
- ◆ Over \$4,000 for field trip transportation and fees
- ◆ Physical education archery equipment and playground supplies
- ◆ Character Counts t-shirts for all students and staff
- ◆ Electric pencil sharpeners for each classroom
- ◆ Aviary maintenance

We welcome your enthusiastic participation in our fundraisers and active involvement in our planning meetings. The next PFC meeting is Oct. 8 at 2 p.m.

Student Teacher-PE

Hi, my name is Bart Black, and I am a student teacher from Iowa State. Go State! I am teaching first through fifth grade physical education with Mr. Suarez. In first and second grade, we are currently in our motor skills unit, working on locomotors, throwing and catching, kicking, dribbling and striking. The third, fourth and fifth graders are in a soccer unit, focusing on fundamentals such as dribbling, passing and shooting. During this unit, your students will also be playing small-sided soccer games to develop knowledge of tactics and strategies that are useful not only in soccer, but many of the other team sports they enjoy participating in. Most importantly, they are being active and getting those heart rates up in a fun, high-energy setting! I will be here at Jordan Creek until mid-October and have a blast every day I am here! Thanks for the opportunity to let me teach and learn from your students!
Bart Black
Student Teacher

REMINDER:

Don’t forget about the parent informational meeting regarding the district’s new Everyday Math curriculum.

Facilitator: Dave Blum, Director of Curriculum

Date: Tues., Oct. 6

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Jordan Creek Media Center