

# STILWELL SENTINEL

September 21, 2009

Vol. 32-No. 2

Tim Miller, Principal

Mitch Kuhnert, Assistant Principal

Phone: 633-6000

The West Des Moines Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability or socioeconomic status in educational programs and activities.

## GREAT STUDENTS-----OUTSTANDING STAFF!!!

We have had a great start to our school year. We are continually asking everyone in our building to display a commitment to our three cornerstones: Doing our Best, Doing the Right Thing and Treating Others the Way We Want to be Treated.

## MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORTS

Mid-term progress reports were sent home with our students on/or about Sept. 21. If you have any questions regarding the progress of your child, please contact their teacher.

## TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

We are very aware of the difficulty everyone encounters when dropping off or picking up students before and after school. In an attempt to alleviate the problem in the afternoon, we are asking everyone to pull around to the lot furthest to the west to park and wait for your student. This will allow us to fit a much greater number of cars in our parking area. Thank you!

## HARASSMENT

Recently all students were provided an administrative presentation on harassment. The West Des Moines School District's policy on harassment states: "Harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated in the West Des Moines Community School District."

According to the policy, harassment includes racial, religious, national origin, age, disability and sexual harassment. It may take the form of but is not limited to jokes, stories, pictures or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean certain protected individuals and groups. Individuals found to be in violation of this behavior are subject to an investigation and appropriate sanctions.

## INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL

### CLARIFICATION:

When checking your child's attendance on the parent portal, please be aware of the color codes. When there is an A (absence) or T (tardy), it will be color coded. White means the student was excused. It is excused because the parent called their child in reporting their absence or tardiness. Red means unexcused. This means student showed up without a parent note or phone call. Yellow means unknown with no parent contact or note.

## RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS

In the West Des Moines Community School District, information and photographs or likenesses may be released without written consent unless qualified objectors comply with the procedure in the final paragraph below. This information may include student name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, photographs, grade level, major field of study, officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. Some of this information may be compiled in an annual directory, published and distributed by parent groups at some schools.

Limited student information may be posted on the Web site, under guidelines developed by the West Des Moines Community School District. That information may include a student's name (for purposes of recognition, posting artwork or written work, etc.) or a photo of a group of students (without individual student identification).

In addition, two federal laws require school districts receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Objections to release of information or photographs may be submitted on forms available at the time of registration at all WDMCS schools. Or, objections may be sent to Kay Rosene, Director of School/Community Relations, West Des Moines Community School District, 3550 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265-5556. Appropriate district staff will be informed of the objection to release of information or photographs.

**Special Note:** We will soon be putting out our student directory based on information from Infinite Campus. If you do NOT want your student's information listed in this directory please contact our main office at 633-6000.

### **MAGAZINE CAMPAIGN**

Stilwell's only fund-raiser is our magazine campaign and it will begin on Sept. 22. During that day, students will receive information about our campaign. The profit (about 45% of our sales) is used to fund our activity program. The major portion is dedicated to music, athletics, drama and student council efforts. Extended classroom activities such as field trips, mock trial, future problem solving and Math Counts are also funded by the campaign. Your support is greatly appreciated as we strive to provide a quality activity program for our students at Stilwell.

### **ITBS TESTING**

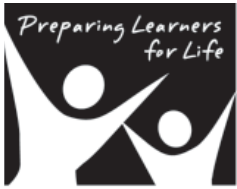
We will be administering the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills during the weeks of Nov. 2 and 9. We would greatly appreciate it if our families would avoid scheduling appointments during the school day that would cause students to be absent for these tests. Thank you!

### **STILWELL AFTER-THE-BELL**

Stilwell's after school academic program meets every Monday through Thursday from 2:45-4 p.m. in our cafeteria. On Wednesday (early outs) we start at 2 p.m. Transportation is available if the students live outside of the "walk-zone." Students need to stop by the office in the morning and let our secretaries know they will need a ride that afternoon. It is a great place to go to receive any desired academic assistance and leave school with homework completed.

### **TEEN CENTER AT REX MATHES**

The Teen Center at Rex Mathes is open every day of the week from 2:30-6 p.m. and opens at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays. It is a great place for our kids to go after school and enjoy a number of activities in a supervised environment.



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

September 21, 2009  
www.wdmcs.org

# informaline

## Board Highlights

At the annual and organizational meeting on Mon., Sept. 14, the Board of Education:

- Elected Terry Tobin president and Tom Suckow vice president for the 2009-10 school year
- Honored retiring Board members Susan Moritz (11 years) and Barbara Burnett (six years)
- Welcomed new Board members Elizabeth Brennan and Mark Lagomarcino and returning Board member Jill Hansen, who were all elected to serve four-year terms
- Approved trip requests from the Valley HS Marchmasters and Vocalese
- Recognized the PPEL committee for their work in getting the levy renewed
- Approved the report of the district's fund balances as of June 30
- Approved the 2009-10 Title I application for funding.
- Conducted a hearing and approved the MidAmerican Energy easement
- Approved the 2009-10 and 2010-11 Early Retirement Plans
- Approved change orders on the construction projects at Western Hills, Indian Hills and Crestview
- Accepted the Indian Hills and Western Hills projects as complete by several contractors
- Approved the renewed agreement with Employee and Family Resources for the Student Assistance Program and Employee Assistance Program
- Approved the use of Microsoft Live@Edu for free student e-mail and online collaboration services
- Approved the contract with ActiveNet to provide web-based software to manage continuing education classes, online reservations and payments for Community Education
- Extended the agreement with the City of West Des Moines for the use of Rex Mathes and operation of the Teen Center through June 30, 2010
- Approved agreements with Drake University Head Start for the district to provide food services for Head Start programs at the Phenix and Ashworth locations
- Approved the agreement with Grand View University to provide clinical experience for nursing students
- Authorized the Microsoft school agreement for access to Microsoft operating systems and productivity systems, including e-mail
- Approved the amendment to the Infinite Campus agreement, reducing the cost of attendance reporting to parents.
- Authorized the addendum to the Partners in Leadership contract
- Approved the purchase and installation of new Infinite Campus equipment
- Denied open enrollment requests received after the deadline

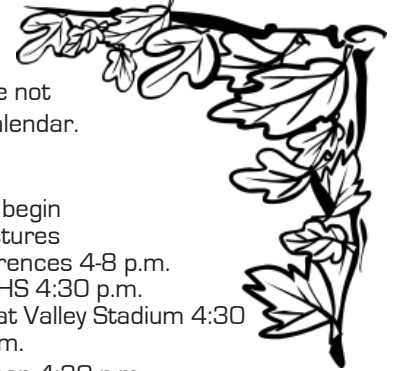
**Next meeting: Mon, Oct. 12, 2009**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Learning Resource Center**

## Sept. 22 Events

Due to a technical issue at the printer, events on Sept. 22 were not printed on the district activity calendar.

Here's what's happening:

- First day of Autumn
- 6th grade band rehearsals begin
- Crossroads Park school pictures
- WCC parent-teacher conferences 4-8 p.m.
- 8th FB - IH ltwt at Waukee HS 4:30 p.m.
- 8th FB - ST vs. Ankeny hwt at Valley Stadium 4:30 p.m.; ltwt at Ankeny 4:30 p.m.
- 8th VB - ST at Ankeny Maroon 4:30 p.m.



Don't forget you can check all athletics schedules online at [www.cimlsports.org](http://www.cimlsports.org).

## Homecoming

Homecoming week is Sept. 28-Oct. 2 and the theme is "Jungle Boogie." Here is a schedule of the week's festivities. Go Tigers!

Sept. 29	Chairity SB/BB Game at Valley SB Field	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	Homecoming Parade at Stadium	5:30 p.m.
	Bar-b-que at Stadium	5:45 p.m.
	Powderpuff FB Game at Stadium	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	Homecoming Assembly at Fieldhouse	1:45 p.m.
	Varsity FB vs. Mason City at Stadium	7:30 p.m.
	King/Queen Coronation at Halftime	

## LEARNwest

Learn - Grow - Discover with West Des Moines Community Education's LEARNwest. LEARNwest offers over 150 evening and weekend classes for adults and youth that provide opportunities to learn new things, have fun and meet people who share your interests. Many new and exciting classes are available this fall. Registration is now open! Please call 633-5001 for more information or for a full listing of classes visit our website at [www.wdmcs.org](http://www.wdmcs.org).