

STILWELL SENTINEL

November 2, 2009

Vol. 32-No. 4

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.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Last spring, our media center catalog went online. Our new library software, Follett Destiny, lets you search the Stilwell media center via the Internet from your home computer. Just type in library.wdmcs.org and select the Stilwell media center. Students and teachers now have access to the materials they need when they need them. Look books up from home and come in the next day to check them out.

When students are researching at school or home on the Internet just go to the WDM District website www.wdmcs.org and click on **Students** tab. This brings you to the **Links For Students** page where you can connect to many databases such as World Book Online, EBSCO, Nettekter and of course our library online catalog, Destiny.

Coming soon... **School Book Fair, December 7-11 in the Stilwell media center.** The book fair is open to students and parents 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

TEN WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR TEEN

1. Make yourself available for talks and try to have them each day. At the same time, be respectful of your teen's need for silence.
2. Offer praise when deserved and remember to express your love, even if your teen acts like it doesn't matter. It does.
3. Show that you're paying attention. Use good eye contact and ask for clarification if needed.
4. Be positive and encouraging, and choose words and concepts that teens understand.
5. Rather than jump to conclusions, give your teen a chance to explain thoughts and actions.
6. Ban communication-stoppers such as guilt, commands, ultimatums, preaching and judging or words like "never" or "always".
7. Be brief. Most teens tune out nagging, and retain shorter messages longer.
8. Practice win-win communication. A healthy compromise with both parties feeling like winners helps teens learn negotiation skills.
9. When the consequence of a conflict won't harm your teen, give him or her the opportunity to disagree without being accused of talking back. Your teen will gain self-respect.
10. Don't feel you have to know everything. It's OK to say, "I don't know, but let's find out together."

This information was taken from [The Positive Line](#).

NEWS FROM TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Mrs. Herzberg is teaching all of the **seventh grade technology education** block classes. They will be exploring several areas of industry during each quarter of the block class. They will work with Autosketch, a Computer-Aided Drafting program, to learn about CAD drafting and to make several drawings. Students will also be building a rubber band powered airplane to go along with their study of aviation and flight. The students will work in the materials lab (the shop) studying the tools and equipment (band saw, sanders, drill press, router, engraver and hand power tools) they will use to make clocks and clipboards. Safety is always stressed while working with the power tools in the lab.

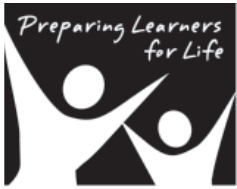
Mr. Herzberg teaches all of the eighth grade tech. ed elective classes. **Exploring technology** students study manufacturing and design processes. These students have completed a bridge building project where they studied structures and design principles and then built a bridge of craft sticks. The top bridge held over 1,000 pounds – not bad for 30 sticks and glue. Students will be working with wood, metal and plastic to produce a variety of projects in the lab while using hand and power tools. They will finish the semester working in teams to design and build a rubber band powered device that will move a raw egg. Their goal is to keep the egg safe and move it 20 meters or more!! This year we have added a new Epilog laser engraver and adopted a new textbook, **Technology – Shaping Our World**, published by Goodhart Wilcox for the students to use.

The students in the eighth grade **graphics / power and energy** class will be studying electricity, transportation and graphic communication. We started out this year studying electricity, working with photovoltaic solar panels, fuel cell cars while building and testing small scale wind turbines. In the graphics area, students will be taking photos with digital cameras, working with Photoshop and CAD programs along with designing and printing silk screened t-shirts. They will finish the semester designing and then building a CO2 powered car that they will race.

We are here to explore the world of industry and provide links and hands-on experiences with their other classes. We hope that we can open doors of interest so students can, in future years, select classes that will expand their world.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our next Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5th from 7:00 -8:00 PM in our media center. Please join us if you can. You should feel free to contact our chairperson, Deb Lind, at 222-0330 or davedeblind@mchsi.com with any questions.



WEST DES MOINES
COMMUNITY
S C H O O L S

informal

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

Nov. 2, 2009
www.wdmcs.org

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the meeting Oct. 26, the Board of Education:

- heard results of the Iowa Youth Survey from Curriculum Director Dave Blum
- reported on the Western Hills open house, Academic Awards Night at Valley, a visit to first graders at Western Hills and congratulated the fall sports teams
- adopted a resolution designating law enforcement units facilitate the exchange of information per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- authorized the amendment to the Polk County Empowerment agreement
- conducted a hearing on Valley High School softball and baseball dugout improvements
- approved change orders for Indian Hills and Crestview and the accepted work as complete by a contractor at Indian Hills and Western Hills
- approved the student teaching and practicum agreement with Iowa Wesleyan College
- approved the one-year contract with Parlant Technology to provide ParentLink emergency messaging services
- recognized outstanding accomplishments of district students and staff during board recognition
- reviewed open enrollment applications

**Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 9
7 p.m.
Indian Hills Junior High**

ONLINE LIBRARY SYSTEM

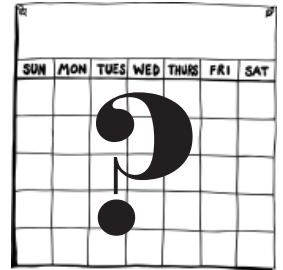
Destiny is a completely web based, automated library system. Parents and students can use any computer with Internet access to view the catalog for their school's library. You can search by keyword, title, author, subject and series. Just click on the Destiny icon to get started. You can find the link on our homepage at www.wdmcs.org.

TAKE A CLASS WITH LEARN_{west}

Don't miss out! There are still several LEARN_{west} classes being offered this fall. We know you'll find something that fits you, whether it's knitting a holiday stocking, pet massage, ballroom dancing, Microsoft Word 2007 Advanced or making a button bracelet. There is a wide variety of classes to take with LEARN_{west}. For a full listing of all LEARN_{west} classes, call 633-5001 or visit our website at <http://www.wdmcs.org/district/commed/learnwest>.

CALENDAR OPINIONS WANTED!

Don't miss this opportunity to offer your opinion on options for the 2010-11 school year schedule. A survey is posted on the district web site (www.wdmcs.org) and will be available until Fri., Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. Three choices are offered, reflecting differing start dates, winter break dates and the last day of school (without weather cancellations).



The district Calendar Committee – staff members and parents – has been meeting for several months to develop the calendar options. The survey of district staff and parents will be used by the committee to develop a recommendation to the Board of Education. The 2010-11 school year calendar will be presented to the Board for approval in early 2010, along with a tentative schedule for 2011-12.

THE GREAT COOKIE WALK



The sixth annual Great Cookie Walk benefiting the Youth Justice Initiative of West Des Moines will be held Sat., Nov. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the West Des Moines Christian Church fellowship hall located at 4501 Mills Civic Parkway.

Hosted by the Young Energetic Seniors group of the WDM Christian Church, the Great Cookie Walk is known for fresh, homemade, gourmet holiday cookies. Last year, more than 250 cookie varieties and 1,200 cookies were sold, awarding YJI more than \$4,500. In the past five years, the event has donated more than \$18,000 to YJI, which is a publicly funded, restorative justice program that positively and effectively redevelops young offenders.

Cookie pre orders and additional information are available at www.wdmcc.org/cookiewalk or by calling 515-225-0464.