



WESTRIDGE NEWS

Westridge Elementary 5500 E. P. True Parkway West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Phone (515) 633-5400 FAX (515) 633-5499
www.wdmcs.org

Mary Jane Stites, Principal

November 23, 2009

Graham Jones, Assistant Principal

REMINDER—We dismiss at 3:10 p.m. every Wednesday. Please make sure your child knows what they are to do on these early out days.

Mark

Dates to Remember

- Nov. 23 Indian Hills Orchestra Concert
WR Gym at 10:40 a.m.
- Nov. 24 2C Thanksgiving Play
WR media center at 10:45 a.m.
- Nov. 24 6th grade Volleyball Tournament
Valley Gym from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Break, No School
- December 7 Westridge Singers Perform at
Airport at 10 a.m. and
Kaleidoscope Mall at 11 a.m.

Your Calendar

Thank You WR PTA!

The Westridge staff would like to give a big thank you to all the parents and volunteers who helped make the Jungle Book production a huge success. The amount of time and effort does not go unnoticed and the Westridge students had an amazing experience. We appreciate everything you do for our school and community. Thanks again for the wonderful fall play!

Sincerely,
Westridge Staff

E- Newsletters

Westridge is Going Green! Beginning in January, we will be discontinuing paper copies of the Westridge newsletter. We feel this will be better for our environment and an easier way for our families to access the newsletter online. On Jan. 11 and every other Monday following, parents will receive an email with a link that accesses the Westridge newsletter. **If you don't have a current email address on file with us or you can't access email, please let your child's homeroom teacher know as soon as possible.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact the office at 633-5400.

Drop off and Pick up!

As the cold weather conditions approach, the Westridge staff would like to remind all parents to take time to carefully read the arrival and dismissal procedures in the Westridge handbook. If these guidelines are followed, we will have a smooth transition in the morning and afternoon. **Remember that the curb lane is the only drop off lane, the middle lane is the waiting lane and the far lane is the enter and exit lane.** If you must leave your car, please use the diagonal parking. We would like all students to stay on the main sidewalk in front of the building and not wander down to E.P. True Parkway. It is also important for students to be picked up promptly after school. Please let the Westridge office know if you have any questions on drop off or pick up procedures and times. Thanks for helping us to keep all kids safe.

Conference Week Thank You!

The Westridge Staff would like to thank all the friends and family members who attended conferences, the pancake breakfast and the book fair last week. We had a tremendous turnout for all the events and we appreciate all of you taking time out of your busy schedules to support your child's education. We strongly believe that we all need to work as a team and that teamwork will help continue the success of each student in our school. Thanks again and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Principal

Westridge Singers

The Westridge Singers will have their first performances of the year Mon., Dec. 7. This fifth and sixth grade chorus will sing at the Des Moines International Airport at 10 a.m. and Kaleidoscope Mall in downtown Des Moines at 11 a.m. Each performance will last about 25 minutes. Westridge Singer members are reminded to come to rehearsals on Dec. 4 and 7 and to wear their chorus shirts on Dec. 7. Good luck, Westridge Singers!

Giving Tree

During the giving season, we hope to enrich the lives of others. Westridge is participating in our Giving Tree campaign once again. We will be adopting Westridge families in an effort to make their holiday season a happy one.

Our Giving Tree, located in the Westridge lobby, will be decorated with cards describing items needed by our adopted families during the giving season. If you would like to purchase something for one of our adopted family members, please take a card and return the item, unwrapped, with the card attached. The campaign will run from Mon., Nov. 30, through Fri., Dec. 11.

THANK YOU!

Winter Recess Reminder

Please take another look at what can be found in the West Des Moines Student/Family Handbook in regards to winter recess. Recess is a part of the daily schedule. It provides an opportunity for physical exercise, for release of energies and for relaxation with friends. A written request from a parent is needed in order for a child to be excused from recess. The note should state the nature of the illness that prevents the child from participating in recess. A physician's written excuse is necessary for an extended period of absence from recess. Outdoor recess is held except during inclement weather. During cold weather, the current outdoor temperature and the wind-chill factor are monitored. Students are asked to dress appropriately for the weather. Weather changes occur quickly, so children need to be dressed in a manner to reflect any seasonal change in weather. If anyone is in need of special assistance, please contact the school nurse.

Teacher Assistant Subs Needed

Westridge has a number of dedicated and helpful people who are willing to substitute for our teacher assistants if they are going to be absent. However, we are always looking for additional people willing to be on our substitute list, especially during the winter months, when illness is more likely. If you would be interested in having your name added to our sub list please contact Mr. Jones at jonesq@wdmcs.org or 633-5400.

A Note From Your School Nurse

Good oral health is a big part of your child's overall health. Healthy teeth make it possible for your child to eat, speak, feel confident when smiling and ready to learn. Iowa law requires that any child who is entering kindergarten, ninth grade or is an out-of-state transfer student must provide the school with proof of a dental check-up. For elementary students, a screening done between the ages of three and six is acceptable. For high school and transfer students, a screening completed within one year prior to enrollment is acceptable.

If your child has already received the required screening or has seen a dentist, please obtain a Certificate of Screening from the dental provider or contact the school nurse for one. Return the completed screening form to your school nurse by the end of February. If your child has not received the required dental screening, please contact an appropriate provider and schedule a screening. If you do not currently have a provider, your school nurse can provide a list of community resources that can assist you in getting your child screened.

SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Up-to-the-minute recordings about cancellations, dismissals and closings are available at **633-5555**. The WDMCS hotline is provided as a service for students, parents, staff and community members to call if school must be cancelled or dismissed early due to weather conditions or other emergencies.

ParentLink, the district's emergency notification system, will be used to notify families of cancellations, early dismissals or other emergencies. Calls are made to home phone numbers, cell phone numbers and/or work numbers as provided to the school and entered into the Infinite Campus data system.

This information is also shared with the local media on **television stations** KCCI-TV 8, WHO-TV 13 and WOI-TV 5; **FM radio stations** KJJY (92.5), KIOA (93.3), KGGO (94.9), KHKI (97.3), KWQW (98.3), KZZQ (99.5), KSTZ (102.5), KAZR (103.3), KLTI (104.1), KPTL (106.3) and KISS (107.5); and **AM radio stations** KPSZ (940), WHO (1040), KWKY (1150), KRNT (1350) and KXNO (1460).

Student days missed due to school closing will be made up beginning June 3, 2010.

BOX TOPS AND SOUP LABELS

As we approach the holiday season, we would like to remind all parents that we would appreciate receiving the **UPC bar codes** from any and all of the following companies: Campbell's, Franco-American, Pepperidge Farm, Spaghettios, Swanson, and Prego Italian Sauce. We also accept and count the **caps** from V8 Beverages and V8 V-Fusion. We are also continuing our collection of box tops. They can be found on cereal boxes, Pillsbury items, and Kleenex brand items. We love the money we are making from these companies. Thank you for your continued support!!!

Managing Morning Madness

Is the morning routine at your house busier than a three-ring circus? Is the rush to help your kids bathe, dress, and find their homework leaving you feeling frazzled? Here are a few ideas for managing morning madness.

1. For kids who are hard to wake, try an alarm clock. Be sure it is set each night, and place it across the room so they must get up to shut it off. Most children will respond to this new responsibility.
2. Set the breakfast table and make lunches the night before. Keep menus simple. Breakfast can be cereal or toast, fruit and milk.
3. Lay out clothes the night before. Avoid last-minute problems by checking often for loose buttons, rips or stains.
4. Set aside a place near the door for books, homework, backpacks and lunches. This saves looking for a lost book while the bus driver leans on the horn outside.
5. Take baths at night. It saves time and helps children unwind after a busy day.

Whatever routine you use, beat morning madness by staying organized and be sure the children share in the responsibility.