

# HILLTOPPER

WESTERN HILLS ELEMENTARY  
633-5900  
www.wdm.k12.ia.us/whills

BETH THORNTON, PRINCIPAL  
September 21, 2009

## CHARACTER EDUCATION QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision." Mohammed Ali



Every Wednesday is an early dismissal day. School dismisses at 3:10 p.m. Please make sure your child know what they are to do on these days.

## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### New Playground At Western Hills

The city has begun construction on our new playground at Western Hills. The playground is being built by the city and will be considered a city park. It will be a playground for children from ages three to eight. The students at Western Hills will be able to use the playground during school hours. The students are very excited about the construction. Please make sure you talk to your children about the construction and remind them to stay away from the construction when it is after school hours. We do not want students inside the orange fence. The playground should be completed by November 1.

### Drop off and Pick up Procedures

If you are dropping off your students or picking them up in the afternoon please remember to use the west parking lot. Do not drop off your students or pick them up from the circle drive in the front. We have some students who are running through the parking lot during these times and it is a safety concern. We appreciate your help with this situation.

## PRIMARY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Primary Enrichment Program includes kindergarten and grades one, two and three. In this program, gifted and talented facilitators work with the classroom teachers as a resource person to observe and stimulate the children's thinking. Your child may mention that Mrs. Twit, Western Hills extended learning teacher, has been working with the whole class or in a small group setting. Her purpose is to collaborate with the classroom teacher in planning and implementing activities designed for students who may benefit from differentiated activities.

Mrs. Twit may work with small flexible groups of targeted students for short periods of time. Groups will be formed based on student need and interest. These groups are intended to change depending on the purpose of the classroom extensions or activities.

The Primary Enrichment Program is based on the Kingore Observation Inventory, developed by Dr. Bertie Kingore. The KOI helps teachers to recognize behaviors in the following areas: advanced language, analytical thinking, meaning motivated, perspective, sense of humor, sensitivity and accelerated learning.

## STORAGE NEEDED FOR WESTERN HILLS PLAY SETS

Plans are underway for this year's performance! In the meantime, we are looking for a home for our play sets. In lieu of building a separate play wing :) we are hoping someone has a contact for someplace to store the theater equipment. Please contact Terry Soto at [sotot@wdmcs.org](mailto:sotot@wdmcs.org) or 556-6819 if you have any ideas.

## PTA NEWS

### Thank you, Thank you!

Thank you to the following people for spending some of their summer working on PTA projects:

- Dawn Reser for organizing and distributing the school supply orders and Kathy Bullis and Sharon Gibson for all their help with this service.
- The Talking Canvas Committee worked in the summer to redo the entire program!! Thanks for all your hard work: Heather Worthington Gloe, Michelle Bolton-King, Jill Blosser, Mrs. Pals and Carey Buchanan.
- Mrs. LaFleur for setting up the fall fundraiser.
- Suzanne Meyers and Ms. Busing for organizing the sign-up materials for homeroom parent volunteers.
- Amber Juffer and Sue Swanson for their wonderful welcome back treats for the teachers and first morning coffee.
- Mrs. Brown for beginning to organize all the wonderful volunteers.
- The group of parents and teachers who helped stuff the packets that went home the first day of school.

### Membership Drive is Kicking Off!!

The PTA Membership drive for the 2009-10 school year is underway. It is only five dollars to join and the PTA benefits the children at Western Hills. Membership forms will be coming home soon. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Kuennen.

### YEARBOOK ORDERS

Don't forget: Yearbook pre-orders are due Sept. 25!

## HY-VEE IS A GREAT BUSINESS PARTNER

The Hy-Vee on Mills Civic Parkway has been our business partner for the last three years. The support they offer to our school and students has enabled Western Hills to continue to enhance the school's character education program, plus support many programs for the Western Hills PTA. Listed below are just a few of the ways that their support is given to our school:

1. Providing a discount for pizzas for the monthly good character pizza lunch with the principal.
2. Providing a free lunch to a person chosen each month for their good character from each of the first through sixth grade classrooms.
3. Providing free popsicles and a discount on flowers each spring when the whole school delivers flowers to the homes in the neighborhood.
4. Supporting PTA with a discount on many of the food items needed for their activities.
5. Supporting Western Hills with treats for Teacher Appreciation Week.

We encourage our families to support the Mills Civic Hy-Vee as they continue to provide many supports for Western Hills! Please contact Sue Cross, counselor, or Beth Thornton, principal, with any questions.

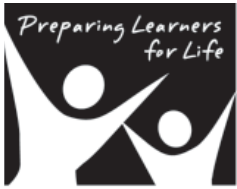
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 5-9 Western Hills Book Fair Week
- 6 Waffle Dinner
- 12 NO SCHOOL
- 15 WH PTA Meeting - Media Center 7 p.m.
- 30 Fall Parties

### NOVEMBER

- 2-6 Iowa Test of Basic Skills for third through sixth graders
- 12 WH PTA Meeting - Media Center 7 p.m.
- 13 Fine Arts Day
- 17 WH Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 19 WH Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 25-27 NO SCHOOL
- 30 School Resumes



WEST DES MOINES  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS

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

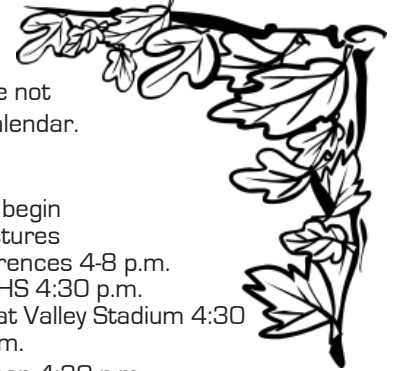
**Next meeting: Mon, Oct. 12, 2009**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Learning Resource Center**

## 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).