

HILLTOPPER

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

BETH THORNTON, PRINCIPAL
November 16, 2009

CHARACTER EDUCATION QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm Sorry."
"So am I."

Thus the little quarrel ended. Thus by loving little words two fond hearts were mended.
--Leslie B. Flynn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 17 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 19 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 24 Steve France 6th Grade Volleyball Tournament, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 25-27 NO SCHOOL
- 30 School Resumes

DECEMBER

- 9 6th Grade Orchestra Winter Tour
- 10 6th Grade Westside Band Concert, Western Hills 9:15 a.m.
- 18 Winter Parties
- 21-31 WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

- 1 WINTER BREAK
- 4 Classes Resume

Dear Parents,

Traditionally, the Thanksgiving season has been a time for individuals to reflect upon the somebodies and somethings that make life more enjoyable and special. At our school, a special group of somebody's are the parents of the students we serve. Following are a few of the somethings for which the staff and I are sincerely thankful.

Thank you...for spreading the good news about our school. We have a dedicated, competent and enthusiastic faculty and staff serving your children. They are often asked to do far more than what is expected in their role. Your positive comments to staff and community members are more appreciated and do more good than you may realize.

Thank you...for recognizing that we are human. We, like you, sometimes simply make mistakes. Your understanding, forgiveness and continued trust is important to us.

Thank you...for getting involved in your child's education. Taking the time to read or listen to your child read, review math facts, give assistance on a project, look over papers, study for a test, etc. has a great impact on your child's success in our school. Though you all lead busy lives, you recognize that the education of your children is of great significance and make your involvement the highest of priorities.

Thank you...for your time. You have attended conferences, helped in the classroom, contacted us when you have had questions, served on committees, volunteered for fieldtrips, brought food, etc.

Thank you...for demonstrating to your child through your words and actions the importance of an education and your support of the teachers of this school!

Finally, a sincere THANK YOU for sending your child to school every day. We each recognize that your child is the most precious part of your life. You send your child to us with the trust that he/she will be well cared for, that his/her best interests will be kept in mind, that academic needs will be provided for and that we will never lose sight of the fact that your child is special. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are thankful to serve you and your child to the best of our ability.

Beth Thornton, Principal

STEVE FRANCE SIXTH GRADE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



The West Des Moines Physical Education staff would like to invite you to the 34th Annual Steve France Sixth Grade Volleyball Tournament. The tournament will be held at the Valley High School Fieldhouse Tues., Nov. 24 beginning at 11:30 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. It is a fun, loud and memorable afternoon at VHS for all. We ask that all parents sit in the east bleachers (and bring your ear plugs).

All sixth grade students in the West Des Moines Community School District will have the opportunity to participate. Each elementary school in the district will combine all sixth grade homerooms and have one boy's team and one girl's team. There will be seven games for each division allowing each school to compete against every elementary school in the district. Girls will play all seven of their games first beginning at 11:30 a.m., followed by the boys who will start play around 12:40 p.m.

We will be awarding a sportsmanship trophy to the boy's and girl's team which demonstrates the highest overall sportsmanship throughout the tournament. A traveling trophy is awarded to the first place team in the boy's and girl's division and ribbons are also awarded to the top four teams for both divisions.

In order to help make this event a success please discuss with your child ways to promote good sportsmanship:

1. All team members wear a school T-shirt.
2. Always demonstrate positive sportsmanship within your own team.
3. Always demonstrate positive sportsmanship toward the other team.
4. Show respect towards the officials.
5. Make sure your bleacher area is picked up before your class leaves.

Please do not park in front of mail boxes along 39th St.; your car will be towed. The WDMCSD's elementary physical education staff is proud to sponsor this event. Hope to see you there!

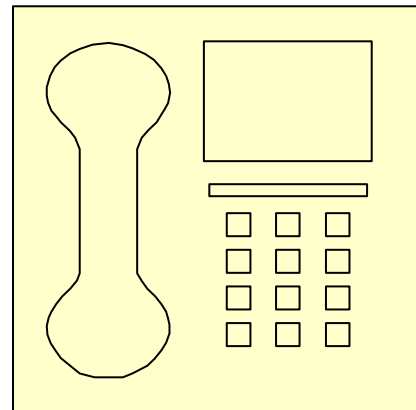
TELEPHONE/CELL PHONE USAGE

Please remember to let your child know prior to going to school what their end of the day plans are. The office is seeing an increased number of students receiving phone calls during the day regarding dismissal plans. We realize that emergencies do arise and plans need to be changed, however, pre-arranged dismissal plans will greatly reduce the stress of your child.

Students are not interrupted from instruction to talk on the phone unless there is an emergency.

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones to school. Telephones are available in all classrooms and staff members will assist students in making all necessary calls. If cell phones are brought to school, they must be kept in their locker between 8:45 a.m. and 3:55 p.m.

The school district is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen cell phones. Cell phones used during the school day will result in confiscation of the phone.



SPRING MUSICAL



If you had three wishes, what would they be? One of ours is that we'd have a huge turnout for the auditions for the Spring All School Play - Aladdin Jr.! Auditions for kids interested in the roles of Aladdin, Genie, Jasmine and/or Jafar will be Sat., Dec. 6 from 2-5 p.m. We will then host auditions for kids interested in any of the other roles (listed below) Sat., Dec. 13 from 2-5 p.m. Now you might be asking, why are we auditioning so early? Good question! The reason is, Aladdin Jr. is a full-blown MUSICAL! And, oh my, is that exciting, but with that excitement comes a whole new dimension to our all school play – singing and lots of choreography! We want to get scripts into the kids' hands before holiday break so they can begin memorizing lines and getting familiar with the songs. Now for the details:

1. If you audition on the 6th you do not need to come back on the 13th even if you're interested in another role.
2. All auditions will be in the music room at Western Hills. Student will gather in the cafeteria.
3. It's first come first serve, so if you want to wait and come at 4 p.m. because of other commitments, that's great.
4. Due to the nature of the play (line memorization, singing, choreography, etc.) principal roles are likely more suited for older students (e.g. 4-6 graders). All kids are welcome to audition for any role but we want you to be aware of this guideline. We want to set realistic expectations.
5. Kids will be asked to read from the script (acting out a scene or two) and/or sing as part of the audition. To gauge their singing ability we will let them select from any of the following songs: "The Star Spangled Banner," "Happy Birthday" or their very own favorite. We won't require that they sing a song from the show.
6. At this point in time we're limiting auditions to first through sixth graders. We are working on an alternative option for our kindergartners. For example, we might have an opening song or two (pre-show) that the kindergartners would have all to their own. More details to come as the play gets closer.
7. Please fill out the attached audition sheet and bring the completed form with you to your audition.
8. Not sure about the singing part of it? Come audition because there are always some non-singing roles.
- 9.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Soto at sotot@wdmcs.org or Mike Schneider at mschneider@guideone.com.

Other roles include: attendants, guards, Iago, Magic Carpet, narrators, Prince Baba of Ganoush, Prince Dahdu Rahn-Rahn, (The) Prince Formerly Known as the Artist, Razoul, Sultan and lots of townspeople! Now....on with the show!

Aladdin Jr. Audition Form

Name _____ Grade/Class: _____

Parents' Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

Role auditioning for: _____

If you're not cast for the role you are auditioning for, are you willing to accept a role that we select for you? Circle one: Yes No

Have you participated in a Western Hills Play before? Circle: Yes No

If yes, which role(s)? _____

How many times have you auditioned for a Western Hills play? _____

If you are not cast, are you interested in being contacted for behind the scenes work (painting, props, costumes, backstage, etc.)? Circle: Yes No

Return this form to the office or bring to auditions.





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

Nov. 16, 2009
www.wdmcs.org

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the workshop Nov. 9 at Indian Hills Junior High, the Board of Education:

- took a gallery walk and learned about technology, interdisciplinary activities, collaboration, benefits of teaming, middle school characteristics, ESL and explorative coursework at the school
- learned about Positive Behavior Support at Indian Hills and the expectation for students to be responsible, be respectful and be ready
- learned about the pyramid of interventions for students who are identified as at-risk
- learned about the school's reading and math resource programs
- learned about the After the Bell program for students who want extra homework time at school
- learned about the many before and after school activities for Indian Hills students.

At the regular meeting Nov. 9, the Board of Education:

- approved a change order for Indian Hills construction
- approved the contract with Drake University Head Start to provide space at Phenix Elementary
- approved a contract with Iowa Network Services to provide additional bandwidth to the District
- reviewed open enrollement applications

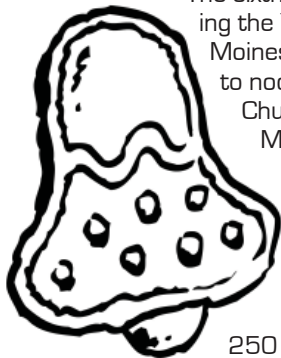
Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 23

7 p.m.

Learning Resource Center

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.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

This week is American Education Week, designed to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The weeklong celebration spotlights the different people who are critical in building great public schools for the nation's 50 million K-12 students. American Education Week's celebration days include:

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.



The district will send a test message via ParentLink in the next week or two. By implementing a test message, we are able to assess the system and make any modifications prior to the onset of severe weather conditions.

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.