

HILLTOPPER

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

BETH THORNTON, PRINCIPAL
August 24, 2009

CHARACTER EDUCATION QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We have a choice: To plow new ground or let the weeds grow."
The Virginia Dept. of Agriculture Publication

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! The Western Hills staff are looking forward to an exciting new year. We hope that you and your family enjoyed a relaxing summer and that your students are as happy about the return to school as we are to see them!

Please extend a warm welcome to our staff with new positions here at Western Hills!

- Bobbi Burns Kindergarten
- Jen Flug Spanish

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS

K-6th 9:05 A.M. – 3:55 P.M.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

K-6th 9:05 AM – 3:10 PM

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Please make sure you understand and follow the Drop-off and Pick-up procedures in order to ensure the safety of our students. If you have any questions feel free and call at anytime and we can help you.

- If you are dropping off or picking up your children by car please do so by using the west parking lot. Staff members will be on duty before and after school to make sure the students get into the building safely. **If you could pull up and let the children out instead of parking and walking them in it would help with the congestion. If you need to walk them in please find a parking spot instead of parking on the side of the lot or use the east lot.**
- We will be sending home a name tag soon with each child. The tag will be used when you are picking up your children. Put the tag in your car window sill. The staff members on duty will call the names of the students as soon as they see the tag. We will walk your children to your cars so there is no reason to leave your car unattended.
- Walkers and bikers can enter the building using the east or west door in the mornings. In the evening they may exit any door. **(Grades 4th-6th can ride their bikes and scooters.)**
- The front lot and side lot will be used by our buses and daycare vans so please do not pull into these lots during drop-off and pick-up times, **unless you are parking and walking your child inside.**
- If you need to bring your children into the building for any reasons please park in the front lot (east side). The front parking will be used for parent and visitor parking. The only door parents can enter during school hours is the front door. You will need to sign in at the office as soon as you enter. You will need to buzz in order to get access to the building, we will no longer have a security guard. All doors will be locked during the school day.

Thank you,
Beth Thornton, Principal

PICTURE DAY

School pictures are scheduled at Western Hills for Thursday, September 11th. An information packet will be sent home with your child. **Please return with your child on the day of pictures.**

HOT WEATHER ALERT

If temperatures soar during the opening weeks of school, **CLASSES WILL REMAIN IN SESSION** at Western Hills.

TILE MURAL THANK YOU

As you may have noticed upon entering our "new" school during back to school night, the mosaic tile mural is now complete. What a terrific addition this work of art is to the school remodel.

Western Hills students and staff placed the glass tiles in the design last spring during Artist in Residence week. Jeff Blosser, a Western Hills parent and an architect with RDG, designed the mural and lead the students and staff in the work for the project. Over the summer Jeff and his small army of volunteers installed the panels of the mural on the school wall.

The Tile Mural Committee would like to extend our appreciation to all who made this project possible. A big thank you to: the students and staff for their work last spring; the generous families, staff, alumni and community members who purchased the donor tiles that surround the mural; Western Hills Principal Beth Thornton; the families and alumni who donated their time over the summer installing the mural -- Alec and David Bierma; Jeff, Jill, Logan, Lauren and Libby Blosser; Ethan and Greg Bridge; Nick, Pete and Steve Economos; Andy Harding; Savannah, Hunter, Jackson and Wendy Ingham; Jordan Louis; and Angie Schmitt.

Thank you Western Hills for supporting the tile mural project!

Tile Mural Co-Chairs,
Suzie Bean, Susan Bridge, Jennifer Economos

PTA NEWS

Think **CHESS, fun, and Fridays** starting September 11th at **8:00** am in the library. I'm Lee Cole your new chess guru. Chess club is for you. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you (and it'll be so much fun you won't even know you're learning).

Chess Club annual dues: \$10. (This provides funds for trophies and snacks.)
Registration forms will be handed out at chess club and can be returned to chess club the following Friday.

I look forward to welcoming you (beginners, intermediates, and experts) on September 11th. If you have any questions: Lee@LeeCole.com

LUNCH PRICE INCREASE

Lunch prices for the 2009-2010 have increased.

- Elementary \$ 2.35
- Reduced \$.40
- Adult with milk \$ 3.10
- Milk \$.50

OUR WESTERN HILLS' FAMILY IS GROWING!

Please stop and look at the bulletin board near the Media Center and get acquainted with all the new Western Hills' Wildcats this year! Their photos and names are hanging there for you to see. What a great opportunity for everyone to make new friends!!

"Thank you" to the students who helped with the New Student Orientation on August 19th! These leaders helped many new students get acquainted with their new school for the first time! They are: Samantha Allbee, Andrew Axman, Grace Axman, Haley Buchanan, Chloe Busing, Matthew Hrdlicka and Stephany Twit. "Thank you" also to our P.T.A. Co - President Carey Buchanan, ELP Teacher Felicia Twit plus Mrs. Thornton, our Principal, for welcoming the new parents and students. P.T.A. also provided treats! **"A Warm Welcome to the New Students and their Families!"** Sue Cross - Counselor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Early Out Grades K-6 9:05-3:10
- 7 No School
- 10 PTA Meeting Media Center 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Picture Day