

FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents:

Great things are happening at West Burlington Elementary! Read on....

Wow! The students at West Burlington are really reading. During 2nd quarter they took 7,180 quizzes and passed 6,812. This is 1,249 more quizzes taken over 2nd quarter last year. Students passed 1,330 more quizzes making our average percent correct up to 88.8%. However, even with the great increases mentioned above, we still have 22% of our students not attaining 85% average correct on quizzes. Students receive a TOPS report after each quiz taken. Please ask your child to see their TOPS reports. Students need to be reading 15 to 30 minutes every day at home. The only way to improve reading is to be reading.

The past three months student behaviors have been improving. We have decreased office referrals by 50%, and the number of students receiving office referrals have also been reduced by nearly 50%! The students are doing great

at making good decisions and exercising appropriate behavior. We are very proud of students when they are making good decisions. It creates a safer and better environment for all students. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the parents who are helping us to help their children be successful.

We have been collecting a lot of data on our student's math abilities, and it is obvious several of our students are struggling with math facts. Below is a list of what your child should be working "extra" on at home:

- Kindergarten: Counting to 31, beginning to add 1's and 2's
- 1st Grade: Single-digit addition and subtraction
- 2nd Grade: Double-digit addition and subtraction
- 3rd Grade: Multiplication
- 4th Grade: Division
- 5th & 6th Grade: Mastered Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division

Several students have not acquired the appropriate skills at the grade level mentioned above. Therefore, we are working very hard to help those students master their math facts. You will be receiving additional information along with practice strategies to help your child improve their math facts mastery. In the meantime, teachers will be sending practices home, and we encourage you to work on flash cards and/or computer games to help your child master their math facts.

Thank you for all your help in the evenings and on weekends for helping your child to become more successful at school. For many students it takes additional practices on the concept than what we can provide during the school day. Together we will make a difference.

Dee Crozier, Principal

Special points of interest:

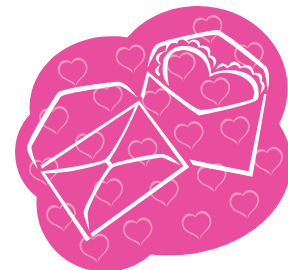
- Bullying
- PTO
- High Fives
- Emergency School Closing Information
- ITBS Testing
- Book Fair
- Staff Development
- Important Dates
- 08-09 Kindergarten Round Up
- Character Counts
- Kindergarten Screening
- Girls Softball
- Greetings from Grade 3

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is this month. Once again, please be aware of our wellness policy. We will be taking the students to King Pins for bowling on the 14th.

Students will be allowed to bring Valentines to share

with their classmates, but please DO NOT send candy in the Valentines. There will be no Valentine class parties, but the teachers will be giving the students an opportunity to exchange Valentines.



WHAT DO TEACHERS DO DURING STAFF DEVELOPMENT?

The teachers have been analyzing data on reading and math to determine individual and classroom curriculum needs. This is done through the Every Student Counts (ESC), math team recently adopted this school year. The team is learning and practicing research-based strategies in math which will improve student achievement. Much of our analysis has been centered around math facts at this time.

Every Child Reads (ECR), reading team which has been in existence for several years, has been focusing on research-based strategies: Read Alouds, Think Alouds, Concept Attainment, Picture Word Inductive Model (PWIM), Explicit Instruction, and Inductive Inquiry. These teaching strategies are used to teach reading in all areas, not just reading class. Your child should be able to demonstrate a Read Aloud for you using a non-fiction book, and many students can demonstrate a Think Aloud.

ITBS TESTING

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will be given to students in K-6 beginning Tuesday, March 4. Good attendance is extremely important since we want the students to do as well as possible.

While it is not good to "hype" these tests up too much and create anxiety, it would be particularly beneficial if all parents were to make sure bed times are strictly observed and all students take time to eat some breakfast during the first 2 weeks in March.

Additional practice on math facts and asking comprehension questions after reading a paragraph, page or book would be very beneficial for your child.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

Kindergarten Screening for 2008-2009 kindergarten students will be Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19. This year's kindergarten students will not be attending school so staff can screen the incoming kindergarten students. If you know of anyone who has a child who will be 5 before September 15, 2008 and has not yet registered, please have them call the elementary office at 754-5726.

IMPORTANT DATES



Feb 13

Early Out 1:30

Feb 17

Mid-terms mailed home

Feb 18 No School

Feb 19 PTO Meeting 6:30

Feb 21 08-09 Kindergarten Round-up Parent Meeting

Feb 27 Early Out 1:30

Feb 28 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:00 to 8:00

Feb 29 Birthday Friday

March 4 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:00 to 8:00

March 4 - 10 ITBS Test

Buy-One-Get-One Free Book Fair Coming Soon!

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair for February 26 to March 5. At this book fair, students will be able to Buy one book and get one free. The book fair will be open during parent-teacher conferences on the evenings of February 28 and March 4 also. Please watch for flyers to be sent home. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the

book fair. If you are willing to volunteer, please call the office for more information.

Please help support our book fair, as the profits from the book fair will allow us to purchase our library more books for the students.





WEST BURLINGTON KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

What is Round Up? Round Up is an informational meeting for PARENTS of children who will be 5 years old by September 15, 2008 AND will be attending West Burlington Elementary School.

WHEN: February 21, 2008

TIME: 6:00 TO 6:30 P.M.
Pre-Registration Packets turn in
6:30 TO 7:30 P.M.
Parent Meeting

WHERE: WEST BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ITEMS TO BRING: BIRTH CERTIFICATE
IMMUNIZATION CARD
PRE-REGISTRATION PACKET

**PRE-REGISTER YOUR STUDENT BY
February 14 TO RECEIVE A
PRE-REGISTRATION PACKET.
PLEASE TELEPHONE THE ELEMENTARY
OFFICE AT 754-5726.**

School Rules Against Bullying

1. We will not bully others
2. We help students who are bullied.
3. We will include students who are easily left out.
4. When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Emergency School Closings

When school is cancelled, delayed or dismissed early due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our school web site and broadcast or put on the web sites of the following radio stations:

TV – Channel 6 KWQC

AM Dial

KBUR – 1490 – (www.kbur.com)

KBKB – 1360 – (www.kbkb.com)

FM Dial

KGRS – 107.3 – (www.thenewmix.com)

KBKB – 101.7 – (www.1017thebull.com)

KDMG/Country 103

KKMI – 93.5

Also try www.KCPS.com

2008-2009 KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

PARENTS' MEETING

Parents who have children who will be entering kindergarten for the 2008-09 school year should call the school to register their child. There will be a meeting on Thursday, February 21. From 6:00-6:30 pm parents will be turning in paperwork with the meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. If you know of anyone who has a child that will be 5 years old before September 15, 2008, please ask them call the elementary office at 754-5726,

FUN FEST

Volunteers are needed for the FUN FEST on **FRIDAY APRIL 4.**

Many volunteers are needed.

People to set up and take down.

People to take a game shift.

People to serve concessions.

Home room parents will be calling for volunteers.

CALL NICKI MOAD AT 319-601-1527 TO VOLUNTEER!

HIGH FIVES!

Thanks to the following:

- AR Committee for AR Reading Incentive planning
- Character Counts Committee for assembly & reward planning
- Des Moines County Extension Office – 6th grade Life Skills Lessons
- Becky Ahern, AEA, for presenting Inductive Inquiry to the teachers
- PTO for paying for the 2nd quarter AR rewards

Second semester skills and expectations will continue to increase to prepare the students for their upcoming year as fourth graders. The activities correlating with the Character Counts program are teaching them to be respectful, responsible, trustworthy, fair, caring, and good citizens. We appreciate those of you who are helping at home to reinforce these traits to enhance their ability to be leaders in society.

We have emphasized test-taking skills and strategies that will help prepare them for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills that they will be taking March 4-10. This is the first time the students will have to read all of the tests themselves instead of having parts of it read to them. Since performance is very important, we feel it is time well spent to model and practice test-taking strategies. There will be a folder sent home during the month of February for practice at home.

Third graders are always excited about learning to write in cursive. They are doing a nice job of learning the letters we have introduced each day. In math, we are working hard at the mastery of the basic addition and subtraction facts and are now introducing the multiplication facts and telling time. Mastery/fluency of math facts is a step towards success in math.

We have experienced some fun Science lessons with Rhonda Coffey from the Extension Service. So far they have enjoyed learning about bees, bats, and Mr. Bear, which gives the students a chance to be crime solvers. She also teaches other supplemental lessons on topics related to our science curriculum such as the Earth, Moon, and Stars, and worms and will be doing Kitchen Science with them at the end of January to correlate with our Nutrition unit.

Another way we have enhanced our learning in science is through visits from our friends at Starr's Cave. We have had four sessions where they have shared information that goes along with our science units. We have learned about Bats, Birds' Beaks and how they are adapted for the food they eat, Migration, and Food Chains. The students participate in hands-on activities to reinforce skills we have learned in the classroom.

We are starting the 3rd quarter of Accelerated Reading Goals and are also working on our monthly Book-It certificates. Please remind your child that it is their responsibility to remember to bring a book home each evening. Have them read to you, a sibling, or by themselves. The best way to become a better reader is by reading each day.

PTO NEWS

BUSINESS

1. FUN FEST—The new date is Friday April 4 from 5-8 pm. We'll serve hot dogs, pizza and chips. We'll have a "Kiss the Pig" raffle. (Kids can bring in pennies to place into the appropriate can for the teacher they want to kiss the pig at the Fun Fest. Pig will be supplied by Liz Nelson.) There will be a cookie table. GRADE A PLUS will supply the carnival games, and each grade level will be responsible for a game. (Homeroom parents will need to be contacted. Dee will supply the list to organize volunteers.) Also, each class will make a raffle basket.
2. BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—The survey was sent out to parents. Dee will report more information as it comes back into the school.
3. MONTHLY FUN NIGHT—Two dances will be held, one for k-3 and one for 4-6. Robin needs to be contacted to schedule the availability of dates & times (probably 3:45 to 5 or 5:30).

NEW BUSINESS

1. GRANTS—We have applied for a grant from Wal-Mart for \$600 to purchase books for the library. We are in the process of writing the preschool grant to hopefully have the 4 year old state voluntary preschool at West Burlington by the 2008-2009 school year.
2. AR GOAL PARTY—The PTO approved paying for the cost of the "RUSH" arcade on Thursday & Friday (1-17 & 1-18) for the AR goal party. Cost is \$1 per child.
3. PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES—February 28 and March 4 are the conference dates. PTO will be providing snacks for the teachers. (Soup on the 28th supplied by Pam & Jamey Dochterman and sub sandwiches on the 4th supplied by Jennifer.)
4. IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS WEEK—Testing will be March 4—10, and PTO will be providing healthy snacks for students. Jennifer volunteered to be in charge of purchasing the snacks. Students will need to bring in their own water (if desired).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is February 19, 2008 at 6:30 pm.

GIRLS SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

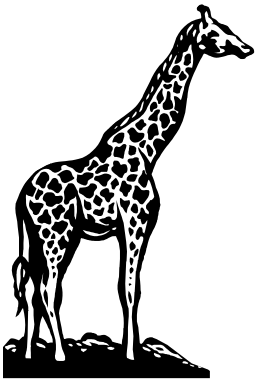
Girls currently in 2nd—6th grades may register for softball during parent/teacher conferences at the West Burlington Elementary School. Registration will be Thursday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 4 from 5-8 pm. Registration deadline is April 5. Registration fee is \$28 per child. (\$18 for a second child in the same family.)



GIRLS SOFTBALL COMMUNITY NIGHT AT WENDY'S

West Burlington Girls Softball League will sponsor Community Night at Wendy's Restaurant from 5—7 pm on the nights listed below. All you have to do is enjoy supper at Wendy's. The League will receive a percentage of all revenue collected between 5 and 7 pm. We hope to see you there or at least use the drive-thru and honk.

Monday, March 10
Monday, April 14
Monday, May 12



FAIRNESS

- PLAY BY THE RULES.
 - TAKE TURNS AND SHARE.
 - BE OPEN-MINDED; LISTEN TO OTHERS.
 - DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHER.
 - DON'T BLAME OTHERS CARELESSLY.
-

CHARACTER COUNTS COUPON FOR FEBRUARY

FAIRNESS

(PLEASE RETURN ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 29.)

MY CHILD _____ DEMONSTRATED THE CHARACTER
OF FAIRNESS BY

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

- SIX CHARACTER COUNTS TRAITS WILL BE FEATURED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. EACH TRAIT BEING EMPHASIZED FOR ONE MONTH.
- STUDENTS MUST RETURN ONE COUPON PER MONTH FOR THE FEATURED TRAIT.
- STUDENTS WHO RETURN ALL 6 COUPONS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHARACTER COUNTS PICNIC HELD AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.
- AS WE STRIVE TO INSTILL THE QUALITY OF RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR STUDENTS, NO LATE COUPONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!