

WEST BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 3 Walk This Way-Safety Walk Grades K-3
- Oct. 6 – Homecoming-Parade @ 2:30 & Spirit Assembly @ 3:00
- Oct. 8-15 Book Fair
- Oct. 10 Early Out 1:30
- Oct. 15 – Grandparents Day
- Oct. 16 – PTO Meeting 6:30
- Oct. 23 Character Counts Assembly
- Oct. 23 Fall Festival of Music at 7:00 p.m. (Groups include 5th & 6th grade bands, 5th & 6th Grade Chorus)
- October 23 thru October 31 Red Ribbon Week—October 31 Red Ribbon Parade @ 12:50
- Oct. 25 1st Quarter Ends
- Oct. 26 Birthday Friday for October Birthdays
- Oct. 26 No School
- Oct. 29 No School
- Oct. 30 K-4 Swimming @ YMCA
- Oct. 31 5-6 Swimming @ YMCA
- Oct. 31 Red Ribbon Parade @ 12:50
- Oct. 31 Early Out 1:30

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.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

By this time you should have received individual mid-term progress reports. The 4th through 6th graders reports will look similar to a quarter report card. Please review these reports with your child. It is an opportunity for you to work with the classroom teacher in helping your child be successful at school. If you have any questions, please contact the teacher.

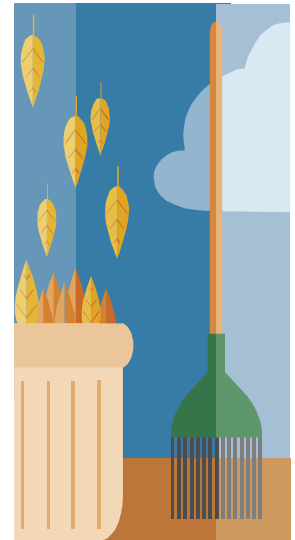
You may have received fall assessment data on your child. If you have not, the classroom teacher will be sending the information home soon. We are looking at the data to determine the students who are less than proficient and creating plans to assist the students on skill weaknesses. You will find that teachers will be sending supporting materials home for you to work on each evening. If a child is lower than proficient in a skill area or below grade level, it will require "extra" practice to

gain the skills and to become at grade level. Your efforts as parents or guardians are important to help your child be successful at school.

During the month of October we will be working on respect as our character trait. In reviewing our data from last year, 60% of our office referrals were students being disrespectful to other students and staff. Our goal is to reduce this significantly this year. Included in this newsletter is an article on helping students to be respectful.

October is a very busy month. Please note all the dates to remember. There are many opportunities to get involved at school. Please join us for the many activities.

Dee Crozier, Principal



Student Safety

Student safety is always a concern of ours at West Burlington Elementary. Parents and guardians can help the school staff by making sure your child comes to school at the appropriate time. If students are eating breakfast, they should arrive at school 7:30 or after. Breakfast begins at 7:35. If students are not eating breakfast, they should arrive at school 7:45 or after. This will ensure that we have the appropriate supervision to keep your child safe.

Students need to cross at the stop lights and walk between the white lines. Your child should not get in the car until you are parked at the stop sign and should always get in and out of the passenger side of the car. Since traffic is so heavy during the before and after school times, we recommend that you park your car near the baseball field, across the street or on Longmeadow. Also, there are fewer cars driving north on Ramsey, and the students can cross

safely at the crosswalk. **Please do not pull in the driveway or parking lot to pick up your child.** Ramsey is a very busy street, and we want to make sure your child gets to school and home safely.

WEST BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY

Exercise the Right to Read



Exercise the Right to Read is a program designed to encourage reading and exercise. These activities are combined together as a fundraiser. A husband/wife team, who are also teachers and authors, are running a marathon in New York on November 4, 2007 in order to raise money for and awareness of literacy needs. Schools all over the country will participate in the Exercise the Right to Read which incorporates physical activity and reading to help raise money for First Book which is an organization that provides books to

families in communities that cannot afford to buy books for their children. 10% of the money raised is given to First Book and 90% is given back to the school to buy books for the library and/or classrooms. The event will run from October 1, 2007 to November 4, 2007. However, because we will be completing the Tri-State fundraiser, we will be kicking off the fundraiser on Friday, October 5. Students are encouraged to get \$26 or more in pledges. This is \$1 per day - 50 cents for reading and 50 cents for physical activity. Informa-

tion has been given to staff and sponsor sheets will be sent home with students on Friday, October 5. Pledges will be due November 16. Please help your child read 26 minutes, have physical activity for 26 minutes each day, and complete their pledge sheets. Remember that the 26 minutes can include their activities at school. Have fun reading and exercising to raise dollars for books for our school.

Our theme for Red Ribbon Week is "Drug Free The Healthy Way to Be".

We will be kicking off Red Ribbon Week on Tuesday, October 23, with an assembly featuring Iowa State Trooper, Jason Marlow. Trooper Marlow will be presenting on drug prevention. Students will be receiving their Red Ribbons and signing the pledge poster. Students and staff are encouraged to wear the Red Ribbons through out the week.

Each day there will be a different slogan. Students will be given items to remind them not to do drugs. Following are the dates and different slogans for each day.

- Tuesday, October 23, "Don't Let Drugs Twist Your Mind."

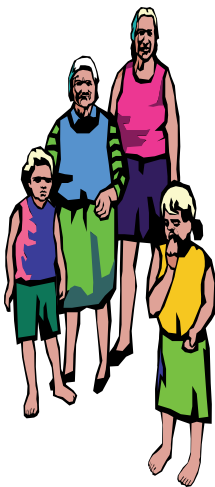
RED RIBBON PARADE

- Wednesday, October 24, "We're too cool to do drugs!" --Students are encouraged to wear sunglasses.
- Thursday, October 25, "Learn Healthy Habits."
- Tuesday, October 30, "Don't Be Tricked...Drugs Are No Treat."
- Wednesday, October 31, Red Ribbon Parade

The annual Red Ribbon Parade is Wednesday, October 31. The parade will leave the elementary at 12:50.

Kindergarten students will be riding in decorated wagons. If you have a wagon available for use during the parade, please contact April Marlow.

Fifth grade students will be allowed to ride their bicycles in the parade. They must follow a contract to be allowed this privilege. Please be sure to ask your fifth grader about this.



Grandparents' Day

On Monday, October 15, West Burlington Elementary will be hosting its annual Grandparents' Day. We would like to extend the invitation to all K-6 grandparents or their special adult guest. This event gives the opportunity for your child to share their classroom and school. The schedule will include brunch, a tour, recess, and a visit to the elementary book fair. Fliers will be coming home soon. We hope to see you there!

Fliers were sent home 9-28. Please be sure to return the bottom portion to inform us how many adult guests will be attending. Please be sure to keep the schedule information for the guests.

SPIRIT DAY

We are very proud to be West Burlington Falcons. We are encouraging students to wear green and white clothing or West Burlington Falcon clothing to school on Fridays. This will help the students show PRIDE in our school.

PTO Dates:

October 5--Tri-state Fundraiser Sale Ends Friday

November 16-- Distribution of Fundraiser Items (3 to 5 p.m.)

October 1 to November 4 – Exercise the Right to Read

October 5 – Exercise the Right to Read Pledge Kick-off

PTO News

Minutes for Tuesday, September 18, 2007- 6:00pm

Current president was not in attendance due to a class commitment. Mrs.

Crozier ran the first part of the meeting in her absence to address business from last school year. The following was addressed concerning funds to be allocated from last year.

-The treasurer passed out a copy of the current amount in the PTO account which is \$8,057.06 which will be less as we allocate funds that were approved at tonight's meeting.

-\$50 for each teacher in the elementary school to use for "extras" for their classroom- **granted on September 18, 2007 for the 2007-2008 school year**
 - \$150 for the staff Climate Committee to use collectively to use on a Wal-Mart gift card to use for any staff extras as they see fit during the school year- **granted on September 18, 2007 for the 2007-2008 school year**

-\$500 to school nurse and Red Ribbon Week Committee to purchase items for the students for Red Ribbon Week- **granted on September 18, 2007 for red ribbon week- October 23-31, 2007**

-\$1500 to have additional tether balls installed on the playground- date to be determined for installation but hopefully within the next month- **granted at the end of the 2006-2007 school year**

-\$1500 for marker boards for classrooms- **granted at the end of the 2006-2007 school year**

-P.E. teacher requested money from the PTO last year for a rock climbing wall for the 2007-2008 school year or within the near future- **looking into possibly getting a grant to fulfill that request**

-Music teacher requested money from the PTO last year for a new sound system for the 2007-2008 school year- **looking into possibly getting a grant to fulfill that request**

-Air conditioners were requested for all of the classrooms for the near future- **looking into possibly getting a grant to fulfill that request.**

Mrs. Crozier expressed her vision for this year's group.

-Produce an itemized list of PTO allocated funds and regular expenditures.

-Generate new ideas.

-Bring friends to meetings to encourage more parent participation in the PTO.

-Encourage other parents to participate in other ways if they're not able to attend meetings.

-Have fun!

Mrs. Crozier then turned the meeting over to the newly appointed PTO President for the 2007-2008 school year, Shannon Dameron. The following items were discussed.

-The PTO needed a secretary. Nicki Moad volunteered and was appointed PTO Secretary for the 2007-2008 school year.

-Fun Fest for the 2007-2008 school year- would like to have it in the fall but not enough time to pull it together. Suggestions were made for the spring possibly in March, 2008. **This item will stay on the agenda for next meeting in hopes of determining a date.** Suggestions for next year for the Fun Fest to be in the fall or winter.

-Tri-state Fundraiser to start Friday, September 21, 2007 and to end Friday, October 5, 2007. Students need to collect money when people order, and orders will be delivered the Friday before Thanksgiving. This is a voluntary fundraiser for the students to participate in.

-There will be a meeting on Monday, September 24, 2007 to discuss activities for Red Ribbon Week. Anyone is welcome to attend.

-Walk This Way safety program will take place on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. Volunteers are needed to help.

-A suggestion was made for a literacy fundraiser called Exercise the Right to Read. A husband/wife team who are also teachers and authors are running a marathon in New York on November 4, 2007 in order to raise money for and awareness of literacy needs. Schools all over the country will participate in the Exercise the Right to Read which incorporates physical activity and reading to help raise money for First Book which is an organization that provides books to families in communities that cannot afford to buy books for their children. 10% of the money raised is given to First Book and 90% is given back to the school to buy books for

the library and/or classrooms. The event will kick off on October 1, 2007 and end on November 4, 2007. Information will be sent out to staff within the next week and sponsor sheets will be sent home to students the second week of October in order to allow for the Tri-State fundraiser to be wrapped up. Nicki Moad will provide all information necessary for the event and give it to Mrs. Crozier.

-October 2007- swimming party for the students in lieu of Halloween parties

-December 2007- movie party for students

-February 2007- bowling party for students

*Nominal fees will be charged to students to participate. Students needing financial assistance may request it in the elementary office.

Shannon asked for ideas for new things the PTO could do for the school year and encouraged members to help make the PTO more visible at school events. The following ideas were suggested and discussed and will continue to be discussed.

-School dances

-Monthly student/family activities

-Field Day/Olympic Day

-Falcon Fridays

-School book store- Nicki Moad will assist Mrs. Crozier in opening and operating a book store in the school twice a month. Nicki Moad said she already has 25-50 new books that she will donate to get the store started. Books will be sold for less than \$3.00. We will try to provide a variety of prices and levels for students to purchase.

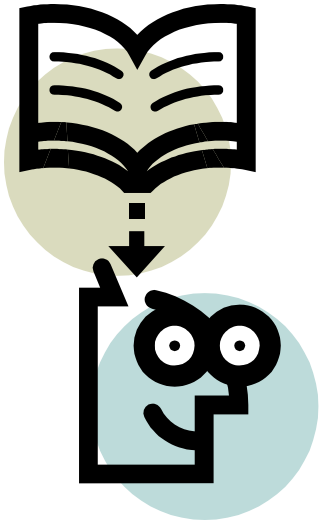
-School supply store to have pencils, erasers, paper, pens, rulers that students can purchase at school when they need to.

Everyone was thanked for coming. Shannon adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 6:30 pm. The meeting time was changed in order to accommodate other members who would like to come but couldn't because the time didn't work.

This report was prepared by Nicki Moad .

WEST BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY

Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!!!



Scholastic Book Fair comes to our school on **October 8-15** to share exciting books and learning products with our young readers. Parents and teachers will find plenty of items to interest them too. The fair is open each day from **8:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

We will be open during the **Grandparents' Day Brunch on Monday, October 15th**, and students will be able to take their

Grandparents to the Book Fair to do some shopping.

When you visit the fair, look for the Classroom Wish List display to see how you can help build your child's classroom library.

A percentage of the books you purchase will be given back to the library to purchase books for your student's use.

Don't miss out on the Scholastic Book Fair,

October 8-15. Call **319-754-5726** for more information.

Preview some of the titles that will be at our Book Fair and learn more about the benefits Book Fairs bring to schools, students and teachers by looking at the below website.

www.scholastic.com/bookfairs

Friday October 5, Day 1

(Preview Day)

6C, 2-Nelson, 3-Williams

Monday October 8, Day 2

K- Wilkerson, 1-Kavallieros, 4-Asher

Tuesday October 9, Day 3

5A, 6A, 1-Dotson, 3 Elliott

Wednesday October 10, Day 4

K- Sherwood, 1-Melssen, 4-Mineart

Scholastic Book Fair Student Shopping Dates!!!

Thursday October 11, Day 5

6B, 2-Reid, 4-Shinn

Friday October 12, Day 6

5A, K-Marlow, 2-Sleister, 3-Denning

Monday October 15, Day 1

GRANDPARENT'S DAY!!!



High Fives!

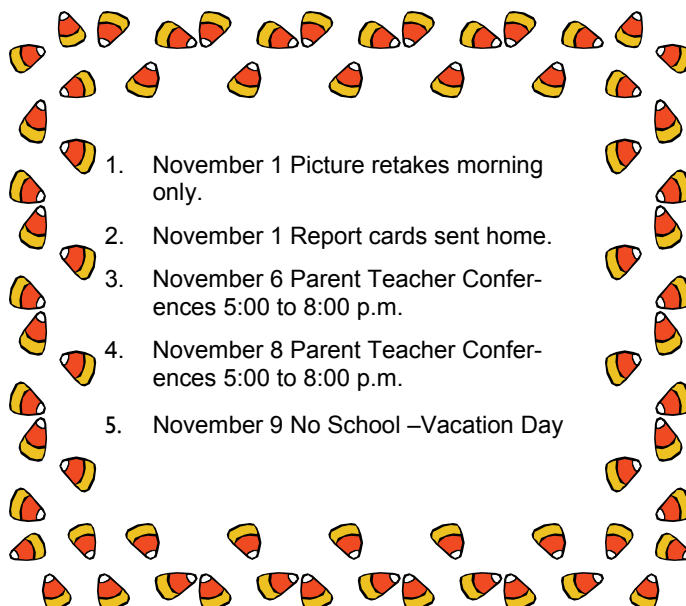
- Target for \$173.82 from their Take Charge of Education Program
- Melissa Dellanos for serving as PTO President – Thank you Melissa.
- Debbie Rokosz for serving as PTO Secretary – Thank you Debbie.
- Parents for completing the Safe-Routes-To-School Survey

Kid's Bank

Opening Day for the Kid's Bank is Friday, October 19.

We partner with F&M Bank & Trust to provide a bank for students. Our location is in the gym and hours are every Friday morning from 7:50 to 8:10 a.m. Students receive a pass-book when they open an account. Minimum deposit is \$1.00 with a maximum weekly deposit of \$20. Withdrawals over \$5.00 will require a parental note. The bank tellers and board of directors will attend training in October. Students are encouraged to participate in saving money at the Kid's Bank. If you would like more information about the Kid's Bank, please stop by the gym during our Friday morning banking hours.

Upcoming November Dates:



1. November 1 Picture retakes morning only.
2. November 1 Report cards sent home.
3. November 6 Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
4. November 8 Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
5. November 9 No School –Vacation Day

Character Counts

What parent doesn't want their child to be a strong person of character? The more difficult question is: How you can as parents help our children become people of character?

At West Burlington Elementary we are committed to helping with this, and we will

be using the nation's most widely used framework for character development.

Character Counts is based on shared beliefs and consensus values called the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. This year

West Burlington will be focusing on Respect twice.

We know that working together on this will help our children embrace the idea of showing good character.

Thanks for your help!

How respectful is your child?

How respectful is your child?

Are you teaching your child to be respectful. It is important to be respectful to others and to yourself. Our school data shows our students need to be more respectful at school. Below is a quiz to see if you're teaching your child to be respectful. Please answer yes or no.

- _____ 1. I model respectful behaviors. Example: listening, not yelling, no hitting
- _____ 2. I teach manners. Example: Please, thank you, excuse me
- _____ 3. I teach my child to not be physical. Example: Not allowing physical fighting with siblings
- _____ 4. I show my child how to get what they want. Example: Ask nicely, accept "No" for an answer
- _____ 5. I praise my child. Example: Thank you for picking up your toys.

How did you do? Each yes answer means you are teaching your child to be respectful. If you answer no to any answer, try the example given. If you would like more information, please contact the classroom teacher, Mr. Magel, or Mrs. Crozier. Please help us to teach children to be respectful.