

"Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes in it to drain it dry."

Alvin Price



# ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2007

WEST BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY

### PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents,

October was a very busy month for our school. We learned how to walk safely, show respect, be prepared and safe in case of a fire, and participated in many activities about reminding us to not use drugs. The high school shared their homecoming spirit with us, and over 400 guests attended our Grandparents' Day. We finished the month with many activities supporting Red Ribbon Week, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Concert, and the students enjoyed swimming at the YMCA.

We continue to work on positive and appropriate behaviors at school. We emphasize the appropriate behaviors through our Character Counts program

by teaching the students the pillars, reinforcing their positive behavior, and making them accountable for inappropriate choices. In September we filled our school bucket over half way with many positive acts of kindness to others. In October the bucket was bursting with respectful behaviors. Overall, the students are doing a great job and improving their respectful behaviors. We are very proud of our students when they make positive choices. November we will be practicing to be trustworthy.

On Monday, October 29, the teachers learned how to use our Accelerated Reader (AR) and Accelerated Math (AM) programs to gain maximum benefits for increasing student



achievement. Please make sure your child is bringing home an AR book each evening to read. Your help in ensuring your child is reading extra at home will help them to be successful at reaching their AR goals.

Have a great November!

Dee Crozier, Principal

### Cold Weather is Here

As cold weather is almost here, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Students need to wear warm winter coats, hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots. Students need

to have boots for the outside recess. Wet shoes cannot be worn in the building, and shoes have to be worn in the building for safety reasons. Thanks for your help.



### IMPORTANT

#### NOVEMBER DATES

##### NOVEMBER 1

Picture Retake Day

##### NOVEMBER 6

5—8 PM Parent/  
Teacher Conferences

##### NOVEMBER 8

5—8 PM Parent/  
Teacher Conferences

##### November 9

No School

##### NOVEMBER 14

1:30 Early Out

##### NOVEMBER 16

PTO Fundraiser  
Delivery

##### NOVEMBER 19

Exercise the Right to  
Read Pledges Due

##### NOVEMBER 20

6:30 PTO Meeting

##### NOVEMBER 21—25

Thanksgiving Break  
No School

##### NOVEMBER 30

Birthday Friday

## 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 stations:



### High Fives!!!

Thanks to the following individuals:

- \* Deb Trousil & the Red Ribbon Week Committee
- \* Volunteers for Red Ribbon Week
- \* Book Fair Volunteers
- \* PTO for granting Teacher Wish List needs
- \* West Burlington Fire Department for helping with our Fire Drill & parade
- \* West Burlington Police Department for helping with our parade
- \* Jason Marlow, State Trooper, for our assembly & helping with parade
- \* Grandparents' Day Committee for planning a great day
- \* Grandparents and Parents for supporting our book fair
- \* WB High School students who have read to our students
- \* Mrs. Gygi & Mrs. Vedder for a GREAT Fall Concert
- \* F&M Bank Volunteers at Kid's Bank
- \* AR Committee for planning our Year of the Author
- \* Nicki Moad for "Exercising the Right to Read"



**TV Station**  
**Channel 6--KWQC**

**AM Dial**

KBUR – 1490 – ([www.kbur.com](http://www.kbur.com))

KBKB – 1360 – ([www.kbkb.com](http://www.kbkb.com))

**FM Dial**

KGRS– 107.3 – ([www.thenewmix.com](http://www.thenewmix.com))

KBKB – 101.7 – ([www.1017thebull.com](http://www.1017thebull.com))

KDMG/Country 103

KKMI – 93.5

Also try [www.KCPS.com](http://www.KCPS.com)



## Food Drive

The West Burlington Elementary Student Council will be sponsoring its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive from November 1 to November 19.

Please send canned or non-perishable goods with your student. All items will be donated to the West Burlington Christian Church's Food Pantry. Thanks for helping make a difference!



## Parent/Teacher Conferences



Conferences will be held November 6 and 8 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Conferences provide a unique opportunity to collaborate with the teachers. The insights provided by them can help both you and the teacher enhance your child's success in school. Following are some suggestions:

**\*\* Be there, and be on time.** You can help chart the course for your child's success. The ideas that come out of this meeting will not only help you help your child but will give the teacher strategies to try in the classroom.

**\*\* Ask questions.** While the teacher will have a variety of topics to discuss, don't be afraid to ask questions and make sure your concerns are addressed.

**\*\* Discuss specific strengths and weaknesses.** By getting details about what your child is doing well in the classroom, you are in a better position to offer praise and reinforce those strengths at home. You will also be better able to help your child rise above learning challenges.

**\*\* Avoid being defensive.** You may hear about obstacles that need to be overcome such as behavior or assignment completion. Keep an open mind, ask questions, offer suggestions and don't take these personally.

**\*\* Find out what you can do at home.** Work with the teacher to discover how you can reinforce the learning that is taking place in the classroom.

**\*\* Ask for contact information.** Conferences should not be the only time you have contact with your child's teachers. Perhaps you would like to trade phone numbers, e-mail addresses and best times to contact each other.

**\*\* Be prepared; your child will want to hear all about the conference.** When you get home from the conference, your child is going to be very interested to hear what the teacher had to say. Be positive and specific. Begin by talking about all the good things that were discussed, and follow up by talking about what needs to be done to improve.

# PTO

West Burlington Elementary  
PTO Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007

## **Budget report**

\* The balance is \$6,295.31.

**School Bookstore update:** Nicki Moad and Dee Crozier presented a proposal to the PTO for \$500 to purchase new paperback books under \$5 from Scholastic to start up the book store in November 2007. **Proposal approved.**

\*A separate account was set up with Scholastic for the PTO so that points from books purchased by the PTO can be used solely to replenish the WB Bookstore. The bookstore will allow students to purchase new books for \$3 and under 1-2 times a month. A suggestion was made by Megan Silva, K-3 Resource teacher, to look into literacy grants to also help replenish the books.

\*The bookstore will also be selling school supplies at a minimal cost. Shannon suggested a proposal for \$200 to purchase school supplies such as pencils, pens, erasers, notebook paper, and folders.

**Proposal approved.**

## **Exercise the Right to Read update:**

Nicki Moad will be sending home an update newsletter containing ideas generated by the children for healthy snacks, ways to stay fit and favorite books to read. The newsletter will start going home the week of October 29, 2007 and continue through the end of November 2007 in order to keep the students motivated about collecting their pledges to be handed in on Monday, November 19, 2007. Nicki has sent home a note to the students asking them to send in their ideas on the form provided. Students may send the forms back to the office up until November 19, 2007. This is an extension from the original date of November 5, 2007.

**Tetherball update:** Tim Kesterke is working on it and hopefully the tetherballs will be installed soon.

**Fun Fest update:** Everyone was in agreement about doing a Fun Fest in 2008 for this school year. We will be picking a date at the November PTO meeting.

**Scholastic Book Fair update:** Dee Crozier informed everyone at the meeting that the book fair was a great success and will have exact profit amounts

to share at the next meeting. Profits from the book fair will be used to purchase new books for the library and classrooms.

**Red Ribbon Week update:** Liz Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, gave the update. Tulips will be planted by the children during Red Ribbon Week.

- \* Wagons are needed for the parade- the sixth grade students will be pulling the kindergartners in the wagons.
- \* Fifth graders will be riding their bikes in the parade.

## **New Business**

### **“Display My Art” Fundraiser**

\*Shannon Dameron shared a wonderful fundraiser for the school called the “Display My Art” program. Students are given a square of paper in art class and can create what they want. Students not in art class this quarter will receive the square of paper from their home-room teacher. The artwork is then sent in to “Display My Art” and students will receive a free magnet with their artwork regardless if they place an order. Parents and families are given the opportunity to order items with their child’s art on it. Shannon expressed that it is a great way to showcase your child’s art, buy Christmas gifts for family and raise money for our school. Shannon was also sending home a note to families regarding the participation of anyone at home that wanted to draw a picture and submit it.

### **Monthly fun night for the kids**

\*The PTO would like to sponsor a fun night each month that would take place after school in order to provide a fun and safe activity for the WB students.

\*Jamie Dochterman suggested collaborating with Fun City. Fun City, in the past, has done such events with area schools and even provided transportation from the school to Fun City \*The first event would possibly take place in January, 2008 in the school gym and would be a dance. Date is yet to be determined and a minimal charge of \$1 would be charged to students attending to provide them with a snack.

## **Spring Fundraisers**

\*Suggestions were made to possibly have a Yankee Candle and a magazine fundraiser in the spring. This will be discussed again at future meetings.

## **Santa’s Workshop**

\*The idea of Santa’s Workshop was brought up and if it should continue for this year. Jamie Dochterman and teachers present expressed that they would like to see it continue this year.

**A vote was taken and passed by a “yes” majority.**

\*Jamie presented a proposal for up to \$1200 to shop for merchandise needed for the Santa’s Workshop. **Proposal approved.** \*Jamie will be in charge of the Santa’s Workshop along with any others he can enlist.

## **WB Apparel Fundraiser**

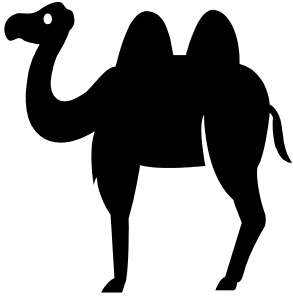
\*Tara Thuleen proposed an idea for the elementary school to sell WB Elementary apparel for the students and teachers to purchase and part of the profits would benefit the school and allow students to show their school spirit. Tara will be in charge of this project and will consult with Alicia Sherwood. \*T-shirts and sweatshirts would be sold at reasonable prices. Price sheets would be available to parents at parent teacher conferences November 6-8, 2007 in order to get a good response.

## **Parent Seminar**

\*Dee Crozier shared with the group a proposal made by Mike Magel, school counselor, to bring in a speaker to conduct a two-hour parent seminar titled “Smart Discipline for Parents” which would take place on December 6, 2007. The proposal was for \$350 and we need at least 50 people to attend for the speaker to come. More information will be provided.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 6:30pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Everyone was thanked for coming and the meeting was adjourned by PTO President, Shannon Dameron at 7:30pm.



# TRUSTWORTHINESS

- BE HONEST.
- DON'T DECEIVE, CHEAT OR STEAL.
- BE RELIABLE...DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU WILL DO.
- HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
- BUILD A GOOD REPUTATION.
- BE LOYAL...STAND BY YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COUNTRY.

CHARACTER COUNTS COUPON FOR NOVEMBER  
TRUSTWORTHINESS

PLEASE RETURN THIS COUPON ON OR BEFORE  
NOVEMBER 30TH.

MY CHILD, \_\_\_\_\_, DEMONSTRATED THE CHARACTER OF RESPECT BY:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE

- SIX CHARACTER COUNTS TRAITS WILL BE FEATURED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. ONE TRAIT WILL BE EMPHASIZED FOR ONE MONTH.
- STUDENTS MUST RETURN ONE COUPON/MONTH FOR THE FEATURED TRAIT.
- STUDENTS WHO RETURN ALL SIX 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!