

School ~ O ~ Gram

West Burlington School District-December 2007

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Superintendent's Remarks

By Jim Sleister

Winter and Inclement Weather Will Soon Be Here – It is a good time to remind people of our policy in regards to school starting late, getting out early, or having classes cancelled due to inclement weather. With staff and students that live in many communities outside the West Burlington

School District it has become necessary for the administration to make inclement weather decisions on weather and road conditions outside of West Burlington as well as within West Burlington. Listen to the following stations for announcements regarding late starts, early outs or cancellations on days when the weather is inclement: KBUR 1490, KGRS 107.3, The Bull 101.7, News Talk 1360, KAYP 89.9, KCPS 1150, KKMI 93.5 or KDMG 103. You can also find this information on Channel 6 and the schools' web site at www.wbschool.us. You as the parent have the right (and responsibility) to make the final decision whether road/weather conditions make it unsafe for your child(ren) to be in school even if the district is proceeding with classes as usual. As an added statement of caution I would strongly suggest that if you have a student driving on a school permit or has just received their license, that it would be a good idea to find an alternate means for them to get to school. If school starts late, all morning practices are cancelled. If school gets out early, all after school and evening practices and contests are cancelled. On days when school is cancelled, the superintendent will make the decision in regards to whether conditions have improved enough for late afternoon or evening practices and contests.

2006-2007 Annual Progress Report Summary - Each year the school district is to present its Annual Progress Report to the public. This month I am presenting a condensed version of this report.

School districts are required to test all students in Grades 3-8 plus Grade 11 on the ITBS or ITED tests and report the results electronically to the Iowa Department of Education. The D.E. then sorts this data in many different ways using the results from those students who were enrolled continuously from one year's test period to the next year's test period. This data is used by the D.E. to prepare part of the district's Annual Yearly Progress Report which is used to determine the district's No Child Left Behind progress and status. This is a federal government requirement. This data is also sorted in many different ways using the results from all students enrolled at testing time whether they were students in the district the previous year or not. This data is used to prepare part of the district's Annual Progress Report which is used to measure progress on meeting state and/or local goals for the district.

(Continued on the Next Page)

For the Annual Progress Report we look at the test results of students in Grades 4, 8, and 11. We look at the percentage of students whose test scores were deemed proficient (scoring greater than 40% on specific ITBS or ITED subtests) for all students tested as well as disaggregated by gender, socio-economic status, IEP status, and race. We didn't have to report out on race or IEP status as we didn't have 10 or more students in each race category or 10 or more with an IEP. The following tables show the test results for all students at these grade levels over a 5 year period as well as the Iowa trajectory level for 2006-2007.

Reading Comprehension

	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	06-07 Trajectory
4th Grade	61.5	70.4	81.3	64.8	66.7	70.0
8th Grade	64.4	56.1	63.3	76.4	70.2	66.7
11th Grade	75.5	82.6	74.6	86.8	82.1	74.2

Mathematics

	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	06-07 Trajectory
4th Grade	69.2	70.4	77.1	57.4	56.3	68.3
8th Grade	64.4	75.4	71.7	76.4	57.9	65.0
11th Grade	67.9	73.9	69.8	83.0	87.5	74.2

The test results are disaggregated by gender to determine if there is a gap in scoring between males and females. The following tables show the results over a 5 year period.

Reading Comprehension

		02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07
4th Grade	M	60.0	71.4	78.3	58.6	65.2
	F	63.0	69.7	84.0	72.0	68.0
8th Grade	M	66.7	48.0	59.4	72.4	70.0
	F	62.5	62.5	67.9	80.8	70.4
11th Grade	M	68.0	81.8	70.4	90.9	69.6
	F	82.1	83.3	77.8	83.9	90.9

Mathematics

		02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07
Grade 4	M	64.0	71.4	87.0	55.2	52.2
	F	74.1	69.7	68.0	60.0	60.0
Grade 8	M	59.3	68.0	65.6	75.9	56.7
	F	68.8	81.3	78.6	76.9	59.3
Grade 11	M	64.0	81.8	66.7	90.9	82.6
	F	71.4	66.7	72.2	77.4	90.9

For the past 3 years we have had enough (10 or more) low socio-economic students in Grades 4, 8, and 11 to be required to report data for those determined to be low socio-economic (qualifying for free or reduced lunch) to be compared to those not considered low socio-economic.

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Reading Comprehension

	04-05	05-06	06-07
Grade 4 Low SES	81.8	69.6	55.0
Ave/Above SES	80.8	61.3	75.0
Grade 8 Low SES	59.1	69.2	43.5
Ave/Above SES	65.8	78.6	88.2
Grade 11 Low SES	62.5	85.7	80.0
Ave/Above SES	78.7	87.2	82.9

Mathematics

	04-05	05-06	06-07
Grade 4 Low SES	77.3	47.8	45.0
Ave/Above SES	76.9	64.5	64.3
Grade 8 Low SES	59.1	61.5	26.1
Ave/Above SES	78.9	81.0	79.4
Grade 11 Low SES	62.5	71.4	93.3
Ave/Above SES	72.3	87.2	85.4

What does this data tell us? The easiest conclusion that one can draw is that we didn't meet our trajectory in 4th grade reading as well as 4th and 8th grade mathematics. One can also conclude that there isn't a consistent gap between males and females as well as between those classified Low SES and those not classified as Low SES. Next month's article will look at efforts being taken to improve student scores as well as a continued look at this test data but from a different perspective. ☒

Post Prom Committee News

By Barb Luckenbill

A big "Thank You" goes out to everyone in the community for getting us off to a great start in our fundraising efforts by generously donating items to the garage sale. It was a great success! Here are some other events we need your support with:

Mark December 12, 2007 on your calendars to go to Sarducci's for dinner between 4PM and 8PM. Junior students will be serving breadsticks and getting proceeds of dinners sold for post prom. Please come out and support the WB Post Prom event!

December 13, 2007 the Post Prom committee will serve sub sandwiches/concessions at the wrestling event held at the High School.

February 9, 2008 is the Post Prom adult party at Big Muddy's Other End. Party will be from 7PM to midnight and will be hosted by the WB Junior parents. All adults are invited. A hypnotist, music, food, and much more will be provided! Come have fun, relax, visit and enjoy! Prom attire encouraged but not required. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Purchase your tickets early for this fun evening as tickets are limited. You may purchase your ticket from any Post Prom committee member or at the Jr./Sr. High School office. All proceeds fund the 2008 WB Post Prom.

Make sure to keep checking the Post Prom web site for updates and meeting times. The web page link can be found on the newly revamped West Burlington School web site located at www.wbschools.us. All junior parents are welcome and needed at meetings! ☒

Band News

By Mark Eveleth

Junior High Band

The Junior High Band will be performing in concert along with the Junior High Chorus on Friday, December 14th, 2007. The Holiday Concert will be in the High School Auditorium and will begin at 7:00PM.

Individuals are now starting work on their solos for contest. The date for this contest is Saturday, February 2nd, 2008 and the contest will take place at New London Elementary School.

We also have a few students trying out for the Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association (SEIBA) Honor Band. Auditions take place in Fairfield on Saturday, January 5th, 2008. Those who make the band will receive their music that day and have two weeks to prepare it. They will then have a rehearsal and an evening performance on January 19th, 2008 at Iowa City West High School in Iowa City, Iowa.

High School Band

The Concert and Jazz bands are in full swing! We are all working towards our Holiday Concerts.

Both Concert and Jazz band will be performing in concert along with the Chorus on Monday, December 17th, 2007 at 7:00PM in the West Burlington Auditorium. We hope to see you all there!

The Jazz band will be performing at the Mall on Saturday, December 15th, 2007 at 12:00PM in the Younker's court. Both Jazz Band and Dynamix will be traveling to Muscatine on January 26th, 2008 for the State Jazz Band and Show Choir Contest

SEIBA Auditions will take place Saturday, January 5th, 2008 at Fairfield High School in Fairfield, Iowa. Any students who make the SEIBA Honor Band will travel to Iowa City West High School in Iowa City, Iowa on Saturday, January 19th, 2008 for a day of rehearsals and an early evening concert.

We also had sign-up for Central College Honor Band which will take place in Pella on Thursday, January 24th, 2008 and also for the Super-conference Honor Band which will take place in Highland on Thursday, March 6th, 2008. ☒



EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

The school district does not discriminate in its education programs or educational activities on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. Students are educated in programs which foster knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district Affirmative Action Coordinator. The Affirmative Action Coordinator is Jim Sleister and can be reached at 211 Ramsey Street, West Burlington, IA 52655, (319) 752-8747. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 310 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 800, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2292, (414) 291-1111, or the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, (515) 281-5294. ☒

Elementary Band Notes

By Sharon Gygi

The 5th and 6th grade Band and Chorus are very busy practicing music for the Holiday Concert on December 20th. The program will be held in the High School Auditorium beginning at 7:00PM. Band students need to remember to take their instruments and music home on the 19th of December because we will not be practicing on the 20th.

It is that time to think about extra materials that our elementary students might enjoy playing. It is always nice to have other music to practice other than just music out of our lesson books. "Tons of Tunes For The Holidays" is such a book and I recommend it highly. It has many holiday songs as well as an accompaniment CD for your students playing enjoyment. Your child will enjoy performing these songs for you and your entire family during the holiday season. We enjoy using them in our lessons and playing them in some of our assemblies.



These books are available at Mundt's on Jefferson Street in Burlington or here at the school. They cost \$12.95 for the book and accompaniment CD. ☒

West Burlington High School Internships

By Cindee Reed



Ten high school students have been placed in career-related internships this 2007-2008 school year. This program differs from work release in that the students are exploring career options. Those businesses participating in the program are:

- Great River Medical Center
- Cardiology Associates
- Preschool Handicap Instruction
- Smith Engineering
- Visual Merchandise Design
- First Rate Accounting
- U. S. Marine Recruiting
- Balzer Brothers
- Holtkamp Trailer Service

I am very pleased with the evaluations that have been received after first quarter. I feel these students are learning a great deal of "hands on" education that will help them immensely in their post-high school career planning. ☒

Fall Elementary Chorus and Band Concert

By Nancy Vedder

****Repeated From the October School-O-Gram****

K-4 Concert:

This year, the West Burlington K-4 students will present one concert, instead of two. The '07-'08 concert will be in the spring, with the '08-'09 concert tentatively set for December. The reason for the switch to one concert, is that the curriculum emphasis for K-4 students is knowledge/skill development and not performance preparation. Each concert takes approximately 6 weeks to prepare for. If there are 2 concerts in a year, that equals 12 weeks of performance preparation. This amounts to almost one third of the school year that is spent rehearsing concert music, and not covering the music education curriculum.

Please mark you calendars for the following 2008 spring concert dates:

THURSDAY MAY 15TH	6:30PM	KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE
	7:30PM	SECOND GRADE/THIRD GRADE
TUESDAY, MAY 20TH	6:30PM	FOURTH GRADE

You're invited to attend



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America's Most Well-Attended Seminar



"My four-year-old son and my six-year-old daughter don't interrupt me on the phone anymore and they get themselves up and ready for school on time. Believe it or not, they even keep their rooms picked up without me always having to tell them"
Nancy Gillian, New Orleans, Louisiana

"I had lost hope over my 13-year-old and her bad attitude until I spent a wonderful evening learning about Dr. Koenig's Smart Discipline System. It's six months later and I'm thrilled to report our daughter has rejoined the human race."
Dee Dee Melancamp, Orlando, Florida

"My wife and I laughed all the way home from Smart Discipline. We stayed up half the night talking about it. Everything is just the way they said, too. Our son has ADD and he really did learn to control his behavior..."
Ralph Gibson, Boston, Massachusetts

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- Stops fighting and bickering
- Stops disrespectful language
- Puts end to homework hassles
- Instills positive beliefs
- Gets kids to clean up rooms
- Gets kids to do what you ask the first time
- Gets kids to bed on time
- Builds self-confidence
- Puts end to whining
- Gets kids self-motivated
- Stops interrupting
- Curbs negative attitudes
- Helps with ADD/ADHD kids

Just answer this...would you come out of your snug home for a guaranteed way to stop the fighting and bickering between your kids... or, to get your kids to do what you ask the first time (without screaming at the top of your lungs)?

If your answer is yes, we have a great deal for you! We're bringing the nationally acclaimed **Smart Discipline** workshop to our place. You'll learn guaranteed ways to sky-rocket self-esteem (even in negative kids) and proven techniques to get your kids to cooperate!

Sounds absolutely wonderful, doesn't it? We hope you will treat yourself and join the fun. We've even made signing up simple. Just fill out the form below, or give us a call. It'll only take a minute, and it'll make a tremendous difference! We'll be waiting!

Give us 2 hours ... We'll give you kids that behave!

Thursday, December 6, 6:30-8:30PM

WEST BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY GYMNASIUM

Parents, Grandparents, Educators, and Child Care Providers Welcome!

Materials for Purchase

Pre-register by doing on of the following options. Please pre-register by December 4.

1. Sign and return the bottom of this flyer to Mike Magel, K-6 counselor
2. Telephone 319-754-5726 and ask for extension 200
3. E-mail Mr. Magel at magelm@w-burlington.k12.ia.us

NAME _____ NUMBER ATTENDING _____

5-6 Science & 2-4 Computer Skills

By Marlo Prickett

As we hurriedly rush through the remainder of 2007, it is a good time to pause and reflect on what we have been doing so far this school year. This article is designed to contemplate some of our activities and highlights. We will reconsider topics from fifth and sixth grade Science, along with computer skills in fourth grade, third grade, and second grade.

Fifth grade Science began with a study of those things we can see in the night time sky. Namely, stars, planets, comets, asteroids, constellations, galaxies, and nebula. We discovered that more is being discovered all of the time and that it seems there is no end to the vastness of space. The wonder of it all is that everything appears to be in balance and thankfully gravity works to keep everything together (although it is always expanding – kind of like a cake rising in an oven as it bakes).

From the many things we have explored about the greater beyond, we have moved onto life forms here on the Earth. We started with simple plant cells and grew from there. We have moved into ecosystems and are gaining an understanding of the need to treat this planet better.

In Sixth grade Science we began with the other extreme of size – atoms and the parts of atoms. Just as there seems to be no end to those things in space, there is possibly no end to the way the various elements work and react together. Most of us understand that electrons orbit the nucleus of an atom similar to planets orbiting a star, and that forces keep everything together (unless acted upon by some outside force).

We have explored how acids and bases react to form salt and water, and how different numbers of atoms are needed of different elements if a molecule can remain stable. We even made molecular models of sugar (from sugar no less) that were a sticky experience for some. As we finished our study of matter we moved into a study of cells – especially protists and other microscopic (and some not so microscopic) life forms. In this, the fifth and sixth grades have been able to use some of the same terms to communicate about what was being studied.

As we think about communicating, we must mention computer classes. In fourth grade, we have been working

(playing ??) to make electronic slide shows. Some have been doing very well and should be a help to their teachers and families with the skills they are acquiring. In third grade, they explored typing and (some) word processing skills to have the students develop a lifelong ability to utilize effective forms of communication.

In second grade, most are moving along quite well in learning where the keys are on the keyboard and even pressing the correct ones as needed so that we will be able to develop some typing skills. The third graders miss going to computers but there are only so many time slots in a daily cycle.

As the year progresses, a younger class will be attending computer skills classes each quarter with the Kindergarten class in the fourth quarter. This will give them more time to develop the coordination that we find helpful in using a mouse and keyboard. All in all, we seem to be on target with our yearly goals but the year seems to be slipping away very fast. It seems to true what they say, “Time flies when you are having fun!” ❖

Dance Team Update By Cinee Reed



Dance team practice is in full swing under the direction of St. Ambrose dancer and choreographer Megan Reid and coach Cinee Reed. This year the team consists of Courtney Dochterman and Audi Gahn (seniors), Alicia Jennings, Courtney Quam, Brooke Schramm, and Megan Switzer (sophomores), and Tayler Johnson, Taylor Roberson, Lindsy Tillo and Mariah Young (freshmen).

The team has planned several performances for the 2007-2008 basketball and wrestling season. The dance schedule is:

December 7 – basketball
December 11 – wrestling
December 20 – basketball
January 25 – basketball
February 4 – basketball

Other community appearances are scheduled as well.

Hope you can enjoy one of these performances! ❖



New Logo (Gray (yellow)– part will be white)

Help Support Our PTO

This year our PTO will be selling t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, hoodies, and sweatshirts. We have a new design so this is a great idea for Christmas gifts. Order by December 7th and have them back for Christmas. If you would like to place an order fill out the bottom portion and send back with your money and give to the child's teacher. If you are writing a check make it out to West Burlington PTO.

Name

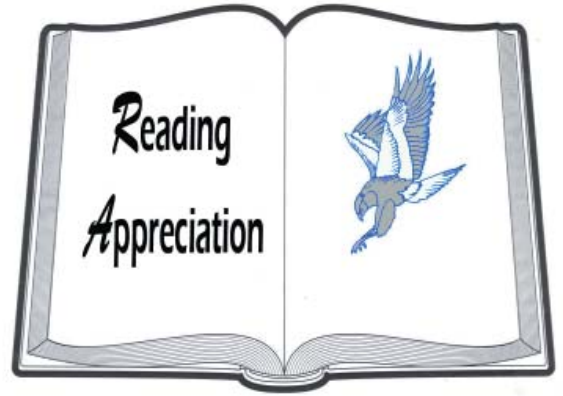
Phone #

 All shirts and sweatshirts are available in black, gray & green.
 (Except youth long sleeve are only available in black & gray.)

Shirt Options	Quantity	Size	Color	Price
Hoodie Sweatshirt				
Adult \$25/Youth \$20				
Long Sleeve Tee				
Adult \$15/Youth \$12				
T-Shirt				
Adult \$12/Youth \$10				
Sweatshirt				
Adult \$20/Youth \$15				
			Total	

Why R.APP. (Reading APPreciation) - An Open Letter to Our Jr./Sr. High Students

By Mark Adams



I remember too many times in my life when I said to my Dad “This is stupid, why do I have to do this?” His reply was often the same. “Because it is good for you.” Of course, so often when I was younger, I knew much more than my Father and “Because it is good for you” was never enough of an answer to satisfy me. Some of you, our students, are asking the same questions about RAPP. In reality, we could just say, “because it is good for you” and not be wrong, but my hope is that maybe we can show you the “why” it is good for you in this article.

There are many skills you will need to succeed in the world after you leave the shelter of WB. Your teachers, support staff, and administration hope that each of you leaves prepared and ready to embrace a happy and successful life. The reality is the one skill you will use in some way, shape or form almost daily, is reading. Most of you already text message, email, and read the paper on a daily basis. Even with all of our technology, reading is still a key component in being able to understand and communicate with each other. Yet, in our TV, video game age, it has become harder and harder to get this and to some degree the generation before you to read. Research shows that like any skill, the best way to improve reading is to practice. Sustained silent reading at a level you are comfortable with makes you improve a little every day, but that’s only part of our goal. We also want to instill an enjoyment of reading in as many of our students as possible. It makes the mind work and improve, just like exercising the body makes the body bigger and stronger. Logically, the more we exercise the mind the better thinkers we become. So, even though you don’t want to hear, “because it’s good for you...” in reality it is.

We started Reading APPreciation years ago in different forms. Many of your teachers have volunteered a lot of time to try and develop a program that can best serve and help our students during that 1/2 hour, and it is still evolving. They did and do this because they care about you.

We know the program isn’t perfect yet, and we will always be tinkering with it, trying to make it serve you in the best way possible. You need to know, RAPP will not go away, our goals for you are too important, and we welcome your positive input on how we can keep improving it.

Students should always ask themselves, “Where will I use what you are teaching me today?” When it comes to reading skills the answer is simply, everywhere. ☒



West Burlington School Menu

December 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Brd Chicken Patty/Bun Oven Fries Green Beans Fruit 6B	4 Egg Sausage Bagels Potato Roundabouts French Toast (J&H) Juice Fruit 1A	5 Hot Dog/Bun Pickle Relish Onion Ring Baked Beans Fruit 2B	6 Bosco Sticks Tomato Florentine Soup w/Crackers Baby Carrots Fruit 3A	7 Mac N Cheeseburger Casserole Broccoli Fruit* 4B
10 BBQ Pork Rib/Bun Tater Tots Mixed Vegetables Fruit 5A	11 Hoagie w/Lettuce & Cheese Vegetable Soup w/Crackers Fruit 6B	12 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato w/Chicken Gravy Corn Fruit* 1A	13 Sloppy Joe/Bun Potato Wedges Candied Carrots Fruit 2B	14 Pizza Dippers w/Dipping Sauce Peas Fruit Cookie 3A
17 Hot Ham & Cheese/Bun Oven Fries lima Beans Fruit 4B	18 Chicken Fajita w/Lettuce & Salsa Cheese Spanish Rice w/Tomato Fruit 5A	19 Fish Munchies w/Tartar Sauce Cheesy Potatoes Green Beans Fruit* Cookie 6B	20 Corn dogs Potato Starz California Vegetables Fruit 1A	21 Brd Mozzarella Sticks w/Marinara Sauce Chicken Noodle Soup w/Crackers Fruit 2B
24	25	26	27	26
<h2 style="color: red;">Happy Holidays</h2>				
<h2 style="color: green;">Happy New Year</h2>				
21				

Elementary Breakfast 7:30 AM-8:00 AM Junior Senior-High School 8:00 AM-8:23 AM Breakfast Price: Elementary and Junior Senior High \$.85 Reduced \$.30
 Menu Subject to Change without notice
 Lunch prices: Elementary \$1.60 Junior Senior High \$1.70 Lunch accounts that are negative will be charged a \$.10 per meal surcharge until paid. Reduced meals
 \$.40. Students 5th-12th may buy seconds if they have money in their accounts: entree: \$.75, sides: \$.50, Bread and margarine: \$.25