

WILDCAT PRIDE

October NEWSLETTER



Hello everyone! We have already been in school this year for 42 days and the first quarter is officially over. August seemed long, but the last month and half have flown by, and our staff and students have been working hard. I shared last spring and over the summer that we have adopted a new reading program for all K-5 students. It is called Into Reading and is a product of Houghton Mifflin. Teachers and students are learning how to navigate the new curriculum, and so far, teachers like what it all has to offer and the materials available to help them instruct.

Some of the main changes and upgrades provided in this curriculum are a much stronger early literacy and foundational skills program to address state standards and to provide emerging readers with the content necessary to adequately teach early readers. It also provides a more robust writing curriculum, and overall provides tools to help students develop critical strategic thinking skills. One significant difference you all may have noticed is with weekly spelling tests. Part of the program is to teach kids specific spelling rules to be effective spellers rather than just memorizing list words. Spelling test words do match all practice list words and the point is to get kids to learn the many spelling rules and be able to apply them when needed.

*For this year, we are continuing detentions for kids in 3-5th grade, a.k.a. Wildcat Reflections. We will continue to focus on our Wildcat PRIDE characteristics and continue to provide weekly and monthly rewards and prizes. Classroom staff will still work hard to develop good character with all students and work with them individually on meeting not only their academic, but behavioral potential. If after numerous and various attempts to shape certain behaviors do not work, a Wildcat Reflection may be implemented. Certain behaviors such as being physical towards others, or over the top disrespect may be an automatic referral. Last year we had about 8 students serve a Wildcat Reflection and so far, this year there has been just one. Overall, our students meet behavior expectations.

*During intervention groups this year, we are providing two days of targeted reading interventions, two days of math and one day of whatever is needed based on the week's work. To determine what students need during interventions, we have performed additional screeners to our primary grade students to help us narrow down each student's specific area of need. We progress monitor each student as needed and if it looks as though they have made adequate progress, we move the students on to the next skill. Our next official benchmark testing will take place in early December.

*Conferences are coming up. We have sent home scheduled times and posted reminders on Facebook. If you have missed these, please contact the office, or your classroom teacher to get your scheduled time. They are important and an exciting time to hear about how your child is performing academically and behaviorally. We typically have exceptionally good attendance and I hope it's the same this time. If you are not able to come, please contact your child's teacher and at the very least, have a phone conversation. Together, we can continue to make progress for our students.

It's crazy October is half over, and I hope you all have a fun and safe Halloween and Thanksgiving in the coming month.

There is no school Friday, October 27 and Thanksgiving break begins with NO SCHOOL starting on Wednesday, Nov. 22 and resumes on Monday the **27th**. Christmas break starts with a 1:30 out on December 15 and lasts until January 8. Until next month, take care and GO WILDCATS!

- Mr. Hansen

REMINDERS

*If a student has a fever of 100 degrees or more, they will be isolated and will need to go home immediately. They must stay home for a full 24 hours before they may return and must also be fever free without help from meds. For example, if a student is sent home at any point during the day Monday, the earliest they may return is Wednesday.

*We still have a telehealth nursing system with certified nurses at our disposal through telehealth visits. The school may still call you to report on illness or injuries, but it will mainly be the telehealth nurse. If you receive a call from a 605 area code, it is likely our telehealth nurse. Please answer if that call comes. Nurse Katie's direct line should be 605-606-0550 and is typically our designated nurse.

* **Music Programs this year are:** Nov. 17 Grades 2-3, February 23 K-1, April 5 is 4-5th. All are on Friday's and all will be at 6:30 in the gym. PK has PE this year and does not have music so we do not have a PK music program scheduled. *5th band members will also play at the band and choir concert Monday Dec. 4 and Friday April 26.

*Report cards will be given out at PT Conferences next week. Oct. 25-26. Please check your conference time.

*We are having a shoe drive. Please send all gently used shoes with your child to school. The class with the most donations will get a pizza party.

*Trunk or Treat will be October 22 from 1-3 in the HS Gym

*The track program is hosting a Turkey Trot fun run/walk. Information flyer here: <https://5il.co/26xc0>

*Accelerated Reader: We are using the AR program this year to promote more independent reading. After each book a student reads, they are able to take a test over the book and if passed, they earn points. Each classroom teacher will provide prizes and we will be doing quarterly events to celebrate and recognize students who meet their AR reading goals.

Red Ribbon Week is coming up next week, October 23-October 31. Red Ribbon Week is a nationwide drug prevention program that highlights the importance of living a drug free life.

Both our counselors, Ms. Hof and Mrs. Fitzgerald will be giving lessons related to Red Ribbon Week in our Social Skills and elementary rotations (age appropriate of course) and hope to hand out / have information hanging around the school for students and parents to see.

We will be doing various activities including daily announcements, handing out candy, giving red ribbon stickers, and have pledges for students to sign if they wish, and we hope most will! We will also be doing a dress up week for PK-12 the week of 10/23-10/26 to help support the end of drugs in our communities. The dress up days are attached.

GO WILDCATS!

CEDAR BLUFFS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Red Ribbon Week

OCTOBER 23RD - OCTOBER 31ST

DRESS UP DAYS:

MONDAY:
10/23

Follow your
dreams.
Don't do drugs.
Wear pajamas!



TUESDAY:
10/24

Drugs are
old school.
Wear tie dye or
other "old
school" clothing!



WEDNESDAY
10/25

Team up
against drugs!
Wear your
favorite sports
team attire!



THURSDAY
10/26

Rally In Red!
Wear red!



YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE. BE DRUG FREE.