

Irving Elementary

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2 ~ WKCE Testing Begins
- November 8 ~ PTA Meeting @ 6:00
- November 11 ~ Report Cards sent home.
- November 11 ~ WKCE Testing Ends
- November 23 ~ No School for students, Parent/Teacher Conferences continued
- November 23/24 ~ No School—Thanksgiving Break
- December 9 ~ Progress Reports sent home
- December 15 ~ Band, Orchestra, Suzuki, Choir Concert @ 6:30
- December 16 ~ 4K Winter Sing @ 10:30 and 2:30
- December 22 ~ Winter Sing @ 2:00

WKCE Begins!

In the beginning of November our 3rd-5th grade students will begin to take the WKCE test. Each day students will take one or two sections of the assessment. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be taking 3 math and 3 reading assessment. In addition, our 4th graders will be taking an additional writing, language arts, science, and social studies test. Each test will take 25-40 minutes to complete.

In order to ensure that our students are prepared parents should ensure that their children are well rested. It is also helpful to talk to your child each day about the test. They could be harboring anxiety and/or stress about testing. Talking about this could help reduce any testing anxiety. If you discover that your child is struggling with

WKCE, please contact his/her classroom teacher. We will work together to ensure your child's success.

We ask that you make certain that your child eats a healthy breakfast. Please try to avoid heavy food that will make them groggy and avoid high sugar foods that will make them hyper. It is also important to praise/reward your child for their hard work and their thinking that occurs with WKCE.

Teachers will be praising students for their thinking skills during testing. After all testing is complete we will be having a celebration for all students that have worked hard and demonstrated their thinking skills.



Winter Sing
December 22
@ 2 pm

Doors open at 1:30.

Attendance!

We are continuing to monitor and track our attendance rate this school year. We are pleased to see that overall our attendance is high, however we are still striving to meet our goal. Our goal for this school year is 96%. However, our total percentage thus far is 95.4%.

Again, we ask that parents continue to schedule appointments after school hours as much as possible and that you ensure your child is in attendance on days that they are not ill.

Week	%
1	95.2%
2	97.2%
3	95.3%
4	95.7%
5	95.0%
6	94.1%
7	95.5%
8	95.1%
9	95.0%



Get Moving

As your child blasts through the backyard like a whirlwind or jumps across the sofa-turned-lava pit, making sure she gets enough exercise may seem like the least of your worries. But once she enters school, she'll be spending most of her day sitting at a desk --and you can't assume that recess and gym class are giving her all the daily activity she needs to stay healthy and happy.

"Kids need 20 to 30 minutes of regular, nonstop exercise a day," Dr. Prazar says. Physical education classes and after-school sports may not be enough. "At softball or in gym class, most kids are standing around, waiting for the ball to come to them," he adds. Plan weekly bike rides and nature walks, and your whole family will benefit.

Positive Parent Contacts

AS THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGAN MANY OF YOU NOTICED THAT YOU WERE RECEIVING POSITIVE PHONE CALLS FROM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS. SOME OF YOU EVEN COMMENTED ON HOW SHOCKED YOU WERE TO RECEIVE A POSITIVE CALL. THIS YEAR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS ASKED ALL

TEACHERS TO CONTACT EVERY CHILD'S PARENT ON A MONTHLY BASIS. WE OFTEN REPORT TO PARENTS THE FOCUS AREAS FOR CHILDREN BUT WE FORGET ABOUT THE MANY GREAT THINGS THAT THEY DO. THIS PRACTICE WILL HOPEFULLY IN-

FORM YOU OF THE POSITIVE THINGS THAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING AND HELP TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE LEARNING THAT IS OCCURRING IN THE CLASSROOM.

Human Growth and Development

State law encourages school districts to provide instruction in human growth and development to students in kindergarten through grade 12. The WestAllis/West Milwaukee School District will continue to provide human growth and development instruction in grades 5-8. Before providing Instruction each year, the District will provide parents of students enrolled in these

grades with an outline of the curriculum, and explain how parents may inspect the complete curriculum and instructional materials.

If a parent files a written request for exemption with a child's teacher or principal, the District will not require the student to take human growth and development. Parents may exempt their children from all human growth and de-

velopment instruction or from instruction in specific subjects. For more information or to view the complete curriculum and instructional materials for grades 5-8, contact Jill Ries 604-3019

Irving will have a parent preview day on January 17th @ 6:00 p.m.

Peer Mediators

The Peer Mediation program involves training students to successfully resolve conflicts between their peers. Common mediation topics include: name calling, friendship issues, teasing, playing unfairly, rumors, skipping in line, pushing, and arguing. Irving has 10 trained 5th grade Peer Mediators who have been doing a great job!

If students would like help from the mediators to solve a problem, they are able to do so on Tuesdays and Thursdays during their

lunch. Two Peer Mediators are available on those days in a room next to the cafeteria. I oversee these mediations and am available to help with the problem solving steps and solutions, if needed.

The Peer Mediators are each assigned to one day each week when they help the K5 and 1st graders play fairly and solve problems during their recess. The Peer Mediators will also be involved in various community service projects.

If your child could benefit from learning to solve his/her problems with the help of their trained peers, please consider encouraging your child to come to the mediators for help. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Goelz
Peer Mediation Facilitator
School Social Worker

Irving PTA

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Secretary—Jessica Wallace

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PTA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please join us as we work together for our children.



Continual Fundraising

In order to help support the school, the PTA

continually collects:

~Campbell's Soup Labels

~Kemp's Milk Caps

~Box Tops for Education

~Ink & Toner Cartridges



Words Their Way vs. A Traditional Spelling Test

For many of us we went through school taking a traditional spelling test each week. On Mondays the teacher would hand out 20 words and on Fridays ask for us to recall and spell each word correctly. However, as we know this is not the approach of today's learning environment.

In the West Allis—West Milwaukee School District we use a program called Words Their Way. This program is a word study approach that allows for students

to have a hands on opportunity to manipulate words that have a similar feature. These words are out of context and allow for students to form a generalization about each word.

Words Their Way allows students to build an understanding of the relationship between letters and sounds, understand the patterns that are hidden in our language, and build meaning of each word.

This approach allows the classroom teacher to deliver a pre-test and

determine the learning needs of each student, allowing them to teach to where the student is at.

It is probable that a student may have words that are easy for them to recall. However, it is important to remember that the real goal is for the student to understand how the letters work together, the pattern in the words, and the meaning that surrounds each word.

“Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting.”

~Edmund Burke



Read daily with your children to help promote reading practice.

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Superintendent of the West Allis/West Milwaukee School District