



JORDAN CREEK JOURNAL

Jordan Creek Elementary / 4105 Fuller Road / West Des Moines, IA 50265

PHONE (515) 633-5200 FAX (515) 633-5299

<http://www.wdmcs.org/jcreek>

Dr. Nancy Moorhead, Principal Mr. Graham Jones, Assistant Principal

JANUARY 11, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills results will be coming home in the next few weeks. The ITBS are one measure for looking at achievement of students individually, as a school and as a district. The ITBS results can:

- help teachers to determine if successful acquisition of the skills taught within the WDMCSD instructional program are evident.
- help teachers estimate the general development level of the students. A child should make about one year's worth of growth in one year.
- help identify each student's areas of greatest and least development, which can help in planning individual developmental goals.
- help provide academic programming decisions.
- identify areas of relative strength and weakness in the performance of groups, which may have implications for curriculum or instruction.
- provide a manner of reporting to parents that enables a home-school communication connection.

Review the results of your child's ITBS. Look for your child's Grade Equivalent; this decimal number describes your child's performance in terms of grade level and months. If a fourth grade child has a Grade Equivalent of 8.6 that means he/she scored similarly to a student in the eighth grade, sixth month would have scored taking the fourth grade test. This does not mean they would be prepared to take eighth grade classes. ITBS is useful for measuring if one year's growth has occurred. The Percentile Rank (PR) shows a student's relative position in a group of students who took the same test at the same time of year. The PR is useful in showing the relative strengths and weaknesses of students, classes, and entire grades. Grade level performance is the 50th %tile.

The ITBS reflect a small sample of the many questions that could be asked in each subject and on its own is not appropriate in evaluating effectiveness of a school program. It is a piece of information to help in a comprehensive approach to student and program assessment, and doesn't determine what the WDMCSD sets as instructional goals.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Moorhead, Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

Thu.	14	PFC Meeting, Teacher's Lounge, 2 p.m.
Mon.	18	NO SCHOOL /Teacher Work Day Martin Luther King Day
Thu.	28	3A & 3C Hall of Pride field trip
Fri.	29	3B & 3D Hall of Pride field trip PFC Book Fair/after school
Sat.	30	Book Fair/Waffle Breakfast

February

Mon.	01-05	National School Counselor's Week
Thu.	11	PFC Meeting, 2 p.m.
Fri.	12	Cultural Day Valentine Parties
Thu.	18	6th Grade Solo Band Festival 4:30-8:30 p.m. at Hillside 2nd grade field trip/Science Center
Fri.	19	NO SCHOOL for students
Mon.	22-26	Conference Week
Sat.	27	PFC/JC Auction

Notes from the Office

**Every Wednesday is an early dismissal day.
School dismisses at 3:10 p.m. Please make sure
your child knows what they are to do on those
early out days!**

Half day kindergarten dismisses at 11:05 a.m.

Lunch Menus Online

In order to continue our efforts to go green at Jordan Creek we will no longer be printing the district lunch menu and distributing copies to the students. The lunch menu is available on the West Des Moines Community School District's website, www.wdmcs.org. To get to the lunch menu, select **NUTRITION** on the left of the screen, then select **MENU** on the left of the screen. Then select the month for the menu you want to see.

**2010-11 Kindergarten
Preliminary Registration Information**

Please complete the information below and return it to the school office if you have a child who is eligible for kindergarten in the 2010-11 school year. To be eligible, a child must be five years old on or before September 15, 2010. If you know of families who do not have a child in school now, but have a child who will be eligible, please ask them to contact the school office. Please complete and return this form to the Jordan Creek Office.

Name of Child- (full legal name) _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex F ____ M ____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Are you a new family to Jordan Creek?

Yes No

I would like to request full day kindergarten.

Yes No

I would like to request half day kindergarten.

Yes No (at church)

IF you have already given us your child's name, you do not need to return the form above.

Volunteers Needed For Lunchroom

Want a great way to see your child during lunch and help at school? There is a need for lunchroom volunteers to help students get their lunches, hand out rolls and cookies or other items from the food cart. It is a great way to get involved. If you can spare an hour or more once a week or once a month, please call Nancy Dickerson at 440-0418 or Janeen Frey at 633-5228.

**Jordan Creek Auction
Matching Gift Contributions**

Did you know many large corporations in central Iowa have matching gift programs for schools? This is an excellent way to maximize your auction donation by having your company match your donation dollar for dollar. Wells Fargo, for example, will match your contribution anywhere from \$25 to \$5,000 each year. You give \$25, Wells Fargo gives \$25, and the school gets \$50. Other companies have similar programs and if you are an employee of one, you should take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to contribute to Jordan Creek Elementary. Following is a list of companies that will match your donation:

Gannett Corporation
ING
Meredith*
MidAmerican Energy
Northwestern Mutual
Pioneer*
Principal*
Wellmark
Wells Fargo*

Companies marked with an asterisk (*) have forms available on the Jordan Creek Auction website (www.jordancreekauction.com). Click on Forms, scroll down to the company form you need, print it out and send it in. If your form is not on our website you can go to your company intranet or human resources to locate the form. If you have any questions, please contact Sheri Van Arnum (991-5789) or Brenda Lounsbury (224-1008). Thank you for your support.

**Auction-Classroom Baskets
Last Chance to Donate!**

A big hit last year at the Jordan Creek Auction were the Classroom Baskets. Each grade is assigned two different themes. Items were donated pertaining to those themes and placed in two baskets and auctioned off. A letter was recently sent home with the students letting you know what their themes are this year. We hope you consider donating to this great cause. You can send one of the items mentioned on the flyer or we gladly accept cash or gift cards. We will do the shopping for you! We ask that items be sent back with students ASAP. We have placed posters and boxes in each of the pods where students can drop off their items. **Any questions? Contact Tisha Hall 224-4881 or Alana Trimble 327-1212.** Learn how to be a sponsor or donor and get involved in this fun and worthwhile fundraising project. Volunteers are needed to help with the auction. **For questions please call auction chairpersons Brenda Lounsbury at 224-1008 or Sheri Van Arnum at 991-5789.** Come and join the fun!

Walnut Creek Little League 2010 Registration

Date: Now through Jan. 17

ONLINE ONLY at www.wcllia.com

Late Registration: Jan. 18 (*Registration fees will increase \$20 on Jan. 18, and will be on a space available basis only.)

Sign Up Today!!

This is not a West Des Moines Community School District announcement, nor is it in any way endorsed or sponsored by the district. This information is being provided only to inform you of other available community activities and opportunities.

Attention: Parents of Girls in Grades K-8

When Girls Hurt:

5 Effective Ways to Guide Your Daughter Through Hurtful Friendships

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2009

Time: 6:30-8 p.m.

Place: Stilwell Junior High-Auditorium
1601 Vine Street, West Des Moines

RSVP: email rsvp@wdmcs.org or
call 633-6736 (voicemail only)

Presented by: A Way Through

Website: www.AWayThrough.com

Sponsored by: West Des Moines Community School District

Community Education Registrations

Registration for Community Education classes or clubs must be directed to Community Education at the Learning Resource Center. Do not send your child's registration to school or your registration will be delayed. Payment must be made directly to Community Education. Teachers cannot process the registrations. Directions for registration and payment are on the flyers that are sent home with the students. The list of students who have registered and been accepted are sent to the teacher from the registrar at Community Education. Communication about your child's acceptance into one of the clubs comes from Community Education. Acceptance into a club is based on available space. Many of the clubs have a waitlist as they are very popular with the students. Class sizes are limited so register early!

Jump Rope For Heart

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It takes heart to be a hero! I'm thrilled that our school is participating in a very special community service program: the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart.

By participating in Jump Rope For Heart, your child will join millions of other children across the country in a meaningful opportunity to learn and help others. They will learn how their hearts work and how to take care of them through physical activity and nutrition. They will learn about children who have been affected by cardiovascular disease and how they can help them. In short, your child will have fun and feel good by helping others.

Help your child get involved! First, sign and return the permission slip and then help them with their learning and fund raising! They will be bringing home assignments to help them understand nutrition and health — and they may be practicing new jump rope skills. Your child will also be raising money to help others who have cardiovascular disease, including kids! You can help by asking friends and family to give in support of your child's efforts. Our Web site makes it easy. Your child can set up a Web page and you can e-mail friends/family to make secure donations. Visit americanheart.org/jump to get started.

We are really excited about this year's Jump Rope for Heart event and the experience it offers our students. We hope you will support your child's participation in this lifesaving, educational event. To learn more about the American Heart Association, Jump Rope for Heart, how children are affected by heart disease and how to keep your own family healthy, visit americanheart.org/jump.

Let's help our children be heart heroes!

Sincerely, Lu Suarez – Jordan Creek Physical Education

Collection Envelopes Due: Friday, January 29, 2010

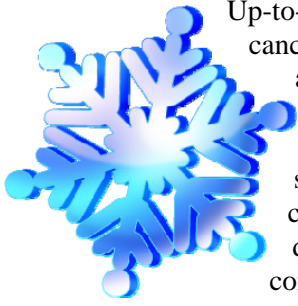
Special Notes:

**Your child will receive thank-you gifts based on the donations he or she collects (or you can elect not to receive them.)*

**Our school will also earn free physical education equipment.*

**For the safety of our children, we ask that your child not go door-to-door or ask strangers for donations.*

SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS



Up-to-the-minute recordings about cancellations, dismissals and closings are available at **633-5555**. The WDMCS hotline is provided as a service for students, parents, staff and community members to call if school must be cancelled or dismissed early due to weather conditions or other emergencies.

ParentLink, the district's emergency notification system, will be used to notify families of cancellations, early dismissals or other emergencies. Calls are made to home phone numbers, cell phone numbers and/or work numbers as provided to the school and entered into the Infinite Campus data system.

This information is also shared with the local media on **television stations** KCCI-TV 8, WHO-TV 13 and WOI-TV 5; **FM radio stations** KJJY (92.5), KIOA (93.3), KGGO (94.9), KHKI (97.3), KWQW (98.3), KZZQ (99.5), KSTZ (102.5), KAZR (103.3), KLTJ (104.1), KPTL (106.3) and KISS (107.5); and **AM radio stations** KPSZ (940), WHO (1040), KWKY (1150), KRNT (1350) and KXNO (1460).

Student days missed due to school closing will be made up beginning June 3, 2010.

Jordan Creek Scholastic Book Fair and Waffle Breakfast

Flyers were sent home last week with information on the Jordan Creek Scholastic Book Fair and Waffle Breakfast. Orders are being taken for the Waffle Breakfast. Come and enjoy the "All you can eat DADS Belgian Waffles!" Tickets are \$5 per person in advance and \$6 at the door. Children five and under eat free.

The Scholastic Book Fair starts Fri., Jan. 29 right after school. The Waffle Breakfast and Book Fair will be held at Jordan Creek Sat., Jan. 30 from 8-11:30 a.m.

Order forms for the Waffle Breakfast must be returned to school by Fri., Jan. 29.

Please come and enjoy the fun with your neighbors and classmates!

School Attendance Policy at JC

Regular school attendance maximizes student learning and achievement. We appreciate parental reinforcement of a positive attitude toward school attendance and promptness.

One hour or more of absence (a.m. or p.m.) is considered absent for the session. Less than one hour of absence (a.m. or p.m.) is considered tardy for that session.

Teachers, guidance counselors and administrators work very closely to carefully monitor every student's attendance pattern. Every effort will be made to communicate and work with the families of our students who demonstrate a pattern of poor attendance or habitual tardiness.

It is important for students to be in their classrooms and ready to start the school day no later than 9:05 a.m. Continual tardiness results in serious loss of instructional time for your child.

Thank you to all of you who manage to get your students to school each and every day in a timely manner. It is the desire all Jordan Creek personnel to insure each student's success beginning with a prompt arrival each and every day!

Jordan Creek Newsletter Online

This is the first Jordan Creek Journal you will be receiving through the West Des Moines Community School District's Messenger system. It is important for us to have your correct e-mail address so that you will receive the newsletter. We will continue to post the newsletter on the Jordan Creek website. Just log on to www.wdmcs.org/jcreek. Select **NEWSLETTER** on the left side of the page and then select the date of the newsletter that you want to read.