

WASHINGTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2009 - NEWSLETTER

Changes, Changes and More Changes!

Beginning this month, we will post our newsletter on our district website – click on Washington!

www.redoakschooldistrict.com

The staff at Washington knows that I enjoy and welcome change.

This year changes have been aplenty for our school and district! First, our newsletter will appear differently as we move from a multipage newsletter to a shorter newsletter in order to provide easy to find and useful information for our parents while saving trees! Those familiar with our previous newsletters know that we included a lot of student writing and pictures each month. Our students will still be writing 'newsletter' articles and we will be sharing pictures from events, field trips and classroom projects. Instead of including it in the newsletter, we will be moving those to our school website located at www.redoakschooldistrict.com. If there is interest from parents to have a hard copy of student's work and pictures, we may look at doing a year-end publication we could make available for families much like Inman Primary has done.

Outside of changes with our newsletter, other major changes at our school include our math program and the way we are delivering our science instruction. This fall, our kindergarten through 5th grade adopted Saxon Math then spent a half-day training before school started. Students and teachers have noticed some positive changes along with some challenging work with our new series. We truly believe it will help students retain math concepts and skills as each lesson does not allow students to forget previous learning! We will also begin an additional 30 minutes of math four days a week during math lab so stay tuned! In science, both grade levels are using a Science Literacy block of time four days a week to teach science concepts while including reading and writing skills. All students are with a different group of students than their homeroom class and will switch teachers each quarter. This will allow our staff to be able to meet the needs of all levels of learners.

Finally, I want to take this time to invite any parent interested in being a partner in our work with your children to be a member of our Parent Advisory Team. Our first meeting will be at our school on **Monday, September 28th, at 7 pm**. Call (623-6630) or email (barryd@roschools.com) to let me know if you can make it.

Good Searching = Money for Washington!

I wanted to make all of you aware of another ongoing fundraiser that does not cost a dime! Do you use Google or Yahoo to search online? If you use Good Search (www.goodsearch.com) to do internet searches and identify "Washington Intermediate" as your charity, we earn 1 cent for each search. It is not much, but it can add up quickly. We are nearing \$100 earned since we started and would love to double that amount this year so please pass this information on to friends, family and neighbors near and far!

Media Movie Madness Request

Mrs. Burnison would like your assistance with a little Media Center project. Throughout the years, teachers have come to the Media Center in search of movies to show their students as a follow up to a book they have read in class, as rewards for good work, good behavior, during recess on rainy days, etc. We are wondering if anyone has used movies (either DVDs or VCR tapes) they would like to donate to the Media Center for such occasions. Mrs. Burnison would love to have some that are already in the center as books, such as *Because of Winn Dixie*, *Flicka*, *My Side of the Mountain*, *Shiloh*, *Shiloh Season*, *The Borrowers* and *Holes*. If you have these or any other age



appropriate movies you think our 4th and 5th graders would enjoy and you are finished with them, we would love to make Media Movie Madness a part of WIS.

Parent Teacher Organization Supports Our Kids

Finally, our PTO Trash Bag Kick-Off will be this coming Friday. Students will be bringing home the forms and may begin selling trash bags Friday night! This fundraiser combined with the spring carnival allowed the PTO to donate over \$18,000 to Inman Primary and Washington Intermediate for this year!! We have used PTO money in the past to purchase Smartboards (interactive whiteboards), books, fund field trips and this fall, every classroom teacher has a projector that can be used with their computer during class time! These are just a few of the items made possible by our PTO. Please help anyway you can.

Thank you for all you do! *He who laughs, lasts.* Doug Barry, Principal

A Message from Our School Nurse, Mrs. Kathy Koepfel

The flu season will quickly be upon us. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in the Red Oak Community School District. We want to keep school open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. **But, we need your help to do this.**

We are working closely with the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa/Montgomery County Public health department to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. Please visit the school district's website often for updated information <http://www.redoakschooldistrict.com>

If the flu becomes severe, we make take additional steps to prevent the spread such as:

1. conducting active fever and flu symptoms screening of students and staff as they arrive at school,
2. making changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks farther apart and postponing class trips
3. students may be dismissed from school for at least 7 days if they become sick.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help.

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

For information visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. For more information about the flu in our community and what our school is doing, visit Red Oak School website- health department. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.