

Washington Intermediate November Newsletter

Parent-Teacher Organization

The recent 10% across-the-board budget cut announcement from Governor Chet Culver makes the support our PTO provides even more important than ever before. Although our district will need to make tough budget decisions over the next few days, weeks and years, the support our PTO and community has given our students and teachers allows us to continue providing the best possible educational opportunities for our students. Because we have PTO support, our students will still be able to attend an educational field trip. In some districts, field trips are the first item to be cut when times are difficult. This year, our students will be using technology to learn and interact with new concepts as our PTO funds have allowed us to purchase laptops, projectors and interactive white boards. You have the opportunity to show your support and be involved in this wonderful organization as Washington Intermediate hosts the PTO's second meeting of the year on November 10th. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm in Mrs. Braymen's room by the office. In addition to other PTO agenda items, we will be showing parents how you can help their child's teacher from home by learning how to use a great website, DonorChoose.org. Please join us!!

New Behavior Plan Started 2nd Quarter!

In an effort to help all students understand the importance of making good choices and positive behaviors, Washington Intermediate began using a new building-wide behavior plan 2nd quarter. I introduced our new Tiger Behavior Plan to students on Tuesday, October 20th. That afternoon, each child should have brought a note home to be signed and returned the following day.

Although I believe the majority of our students "do the right thing" on a consistent basis, it is my belief that a building-wide plan will provide the best learning environment for all students. In addition to providing students with clear, consistent expectations, our staff believes every student at Washington Intermediate has the right to a classroom free of distractions, inappropriate behavior and disrespect. We also believe...

- All students are entitled to a safe and harassment free learning environment.
- Learning will increase when all students know that consistent expectations for behavior exist in their school.
- Student, parent and teacher frustration will decrease when a clear plan for behavior expectations and consequences has been outlined.
- High expectations for respect for self and others build character and develop strong future citizens.

A Thursday "Behavior Workshop" will be held each week for students who cannot follow the expectations on a consistent basis. This will be a mandatory session for those students. You should have received the Tiger Behavior Plan on Tuesday, October 20th. The forms students will be using are on our website. If you have any questions about our Tiger Behavior Plan, please feel free to contact me anytime. I want to thank you in advance for your support as we continue to look for ways to improve our school and learning environment for all students.

Have a great November!! Always visit our website (www.redoakschooldistrict.com) for the latest updates.

He who laughs, lasts - Doug Barry, Principal

Upcoming Dates to Note...

Oct 29 K-12 ELO Parent Mtg (6:30 pm @ HS Aud)
Nov 4 Early Out/Professional Learning Communities
Nov 10 PTO Mtg (5:30 pm @ WIS)
Nov 18 2nd Quarter Midterm (grades sent home following week)
Nov 25 Early Out/Professional Learning Communities
Nov 26-27 NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break!

☺ PLEASE NOTE!! ☺

There is not an early out the week of November 16 – 20 due to our high school students taking the Iowa Tests of Educational Development that week!

Washington Intermediate November Newsletter

"Notes" from the 5th Grade Music Room

As the 2nd quarter begins, 5th grade music students have been reviewing their recorder skills from last year and will now be allowed to bring them home over the weekend to practice. They will be provided with copies of songs that we've worked on in class. **THIS MUSIC IS TO STAY AT HOME.** They don't need it at school and it shouldn't be folded up into their recorder cases. They need to find a safe place to keep it nicely at home--a desk drawer or in a folder. They will be accumulating more music to work on as the year goes on.

It is important that the students be given time and opportunity to practice at home. The time spent in class is **NOT** enough for them to become proficient with their skills. Recorder practice should be considered **HOMEWORK** as the students are expected to show evidence of improvement after they've taken their recorders home. Students who don't practice at home may find themselves becoming frustrated as the music they are to learn becomes more complex. 15-20 minutes a day is a good parameter for practice time.

Fifth graders have also been busy in music class singing, playing music games and folk dancing! They are singing canons, partner songs and songs with ostinato as they are moving away from singing in unison to singing in parts and preparing choral skills.

Thank you for supporting your child's music education. In addition to learning musical skills, students are learning other valuable skills which will help them to be successful in the 21st century workplace such as following directions, working in a group, receiving criticism and using it to improve skills, and goal setting.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns anytime!

by Mrs. Mann