

Tiger Times



Colorado Elementary School

149 COLORADO STREET

MUSCATINE, IA 52761

(563) 263-4998

February 2012

From the Principal's Desk...



Important Dates:

Feb. 2	Third Quarter midterms sent home
8	Career Day <i>(Dress for the job you want as an adult!)</i>
10	"Fun With Physics" School-wide Field Trip
14	Valentine's Day Celebrations
16	Beginner Band Concert
17	Read With The One You Love!
20	No School — Presidents' Day
21	4th Grade Symphony Day — 6:30 pm - PTO Meeting in Library
22	12:55 pm - Leader in Me Assembly - Habit #4
24	3:15 pm 4th-5th Grades Jump Rope For Heart
Mar. 8	Spring Picture Day
Mar. 9	No School
12-16	Spring Break

It's hard to believe February is already here! Although it is a short month, it will be a very *busy* month for Colorado School. You can see from our list of "Important Dates" that we have many things going on. We have several special learning trips planned for our students, as well as several opportunities for our students to once again display their Leadership Habits.

With the recent spell of warm weather, it feels more like Spring Break. Our students and staff have certainly been enjoying the opportunity to get outside during recess with the mild weather. However, according to Phil the Groundhog, there are 6 weeks of winter still to come! Please be sure to dress children accordingly.

Midterms are coming home this month, and will provide a snapshot of student learning during 3rd Quarter. All students have taken the Winter DIBELS literacy assessment, and we are proud of the progress they are making! Please contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Our next Leader in Me assembly will take place on February 22nd at 12:55 p.m. Third Grade will present *Habit 4—Think Win-Win*. We hope you can join us. Have a great month!

Together in education,
Mr. Spies

Lost? Still time to be Found!

If your child's coat is missing, please check out our **LOST AND FOUND**. We have a lot of sweatshirts and coats that haven't been claimed. Our collection is growing, so items left at Spring Break will be donated to Goodwill!



Also, please remember to **label your child's outerwear** so that if it gets lost, we can easily return it to them.

Nurse Kulick's Corner

Last week the Iowa Department of Public Health said that reports of norovirus outbreaks have been increasing in recent weeks in Iowa.

Because this virus is so easily spread, the IDPH medical director states that “we need everybody to stay home when they are ill with diarrhea and vomiting.” There is no vaccine or antibiotic for norovirus; it can spread in food, in the air, by shaking hands and by touching things like door knobs that an ill person has touched.

Norovirus is sometimes called a “stomach bug”. Symptoms usually include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach cramping. Anyone can get norovirus and become ill and you can get norovirus illness more than once. Norovirus can spread quickly from person-to-person, especially in crowded, closed places like schools, hotels, malls and day care centers.

Common Ways To Get It

- Eating food or drinking liquids that are contaminated with norovirus (someone doesn't wash their hands after using the restroom, for example, and then touches your food or drink).
- Touching surfaces or objects contaminated with norovirus and putting your hand or fingers in your mouth.
- Being near someone who is vomiting or having diarrhea.
- Having direct contact with a person who is infected with norovirus (for example, when caring for someone with norovirus).

How to stop it

- Stay home when ill and do not prepare food for anyone but yourself until three days after all diarrhea and vomiting have stopped.
- Keep hands and fingers out of your mouth.
- Wash hands frequently, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers and always before eating or preparing food.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's health please feel free to call me anytime at 263-4998.

With Healthy Regards,
Teresa Kulick RN
School Nurse



PTO News

Our classroom contest for Boxtops just ended, and results are being tallied up. The winner will be announced soon!

Our next general meeting will be Tuesday, February 21st in the IMC. We hope to see you there! Please remember we have two positions available on our Executive Board for the 2012-2013 school year. The positions of Vice President and Treasurer are both up for election. These are two-year positions. If you are interested in serving, please contact Doreen Borde at n_borde@hotmail.com. You may also contact any other board member, or leave your name with Mrs. Reynolds at school.

We are also looking for help in planning next year's Fall Festival! If you would like to help with this long-standing Colorado tradition, please contact Anna Mandsager, Francesca Vitale, Doreen Borde, Susan Smith or Mrs. Reynolds at school.



Quick Notes

Our Website

www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/col

Remember to visit our website. You'll find an up-to-date calendar of events, including field trips, meetings, and school-wide activities! You'll also find pictures of recent events, copies of the current lunch menu, and other important information! Check it out!



Read With The One You Love

Our February reading celebration is called Read with the One You Love! Each child and/or class that meets their reading goal for the month will be able to have a guest come to their classroom to read and then join them for lunch. This will be held on **Friday, February 17th**. Guests will join us 30 minutes before lunch for the special reading time. A sack lunch will follow this time. Please return registration slips by **Friday, February 3rd**.



Student Council

A big THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for dinner on Feb. 1st at Pizza Ranch. A portion of the night's sales were donated back to Colorado School for various student council projects! Thank you, too, Mr. Schuler and Mrs. Dahms, for organizing and supervising students during the evening!

Midterm Reports

3rd Quarter midterm reports were sent home on Thursday, Feb. 2nd. If you have questions about your student's progress, please contact your child's teacher.

Kindergarten Round-Up

All families in the Muscatine Community School District interested in Pre-School and Kindergarten should attend Kindergarten and Preschool Roundup.

Roundup and Pre-Registration will be held **Thursday, April 12, 2012** from 8:00 am—7:00 pm at the District Administration Center, 2900 Mulberry Ave.

Children must be 4 (Preschool) or 5 (Kindergarten) by September 15, 2012 to register. (Children 4 years old who have already registered for fall preschool do not need to attend.)

If you have questions, please contact Debi Welk, Early Childhood Coordinator, at 563-263-7223.

SMART Board Update

Has your student mentioned the SMART Board in our school? Wonder what they mean? A Smart Board is a big, interactive white board that contains the same images found on the computer monitor or screen. The difference? Students can use their fingers and special pens to interact with text and graphics on the screen. Students are excited to use this technology. **GREAT NEWS!!! We have partnered with PTO to purchase 6 additional SMART Boards for our classrooms!** They are ordered and we hope to have them installed soon!

IMPORTANT Calendar Change

As of this printing, we have been notified that there will be a **2-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, March 7th** during conference week. This will allow additional time for Parent-Teacher Conferences. *We apologize for the last -minute change.* We will always do our best to keep you up-to-date and informed of changes to our calendar. Thank you for your understanding.



More Quick Notes

The Leader in Me

This month we highlight **Habit 4: Think Win-Win.** Habit 4 teaches conflict resolution by using win-win agreements. When you create a win-win agreement everyone is clear on what they are supposed to do. This helps kids feel confident about their responsibilities. Making a win-win agreement allows both people to discuss what needs to be done so there is not a conflict. It allows both people to know what is expected because they are making the agreement together.



Fun With Physics!



All students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will attend a "Fun With Physics" performance at Central Middle School on **Friday, February 10th.** This event is sponsored by the **Quad City Arts Visiting Artist Series.** Students will enjoy learning about scientific concepts through a fast-paced, fun-filled show.

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Classroom Valentine's Day celebrations will be held on **Tuesday, Feb. 14th.** Please check your child's planner and Thursday Folder for more information from each teacher. (*Mrs. Hawkins' pre-school will hold their celebration on Monday, Feb. 13th.*)

If you volunteered to help bring treats or supplies, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements, and THANK YOU for offering to help.



Colorado students take time to "Sharpen the Saw" at recess, enjoying the first big snowfall!

Conferences

Conferences are being scheduled for the week of **March 5th–8th.** You should receive a notification of your child's conference in their Thursday folder on **February 16th.** Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions or are unable to keep your appointment. Also, please note, there is **NO SCHOOL on Friday, March 9th.**

Spring Garage Sale

Colorado School is holding a spring garage sale on **Saturday, April 28th from 8am–Noon.** Our parking lot spaces will serve as "stalls" for those wishing to sell items. There will be a small registration fee for each stall. Registration fees will help provide books for our library! Begin thinking about items you want to sell at this event!

