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From the Principal's Desk

Can you believe that it is already October? Fall has officially arrived, and the activities abound. Some of this month's highlights include the following:

- Homecoming
- Fifth Grade Large Group Band and Orchestra
- Red Ribbon Week
- Lego League
- Fall Festival and Carnival
- Costume Parade
- Parent - Teacher Conferences

The beginning of the year testing is almost complete and results will be shared at conferences.

A big thank you goes to Melissa Rinnert and Shawna Trosen for leading the annual carnival fundraiser. In addition, thank you to everyone, including several new parents, who are helping pull off this fun family event.

It is great to see so many parents helping this year. For instance, I walked into a classroom where a grandparent was listening to a child read. In the next classroom, a parent was sitting with a student who was writing a response to what he had read. Simply put, we could not do all this without so many great volunteers! The time, effort and expertise that you share are greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Goodman

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ELA – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is ELA?

A: ELA is an acronym that stands for English Language Arts. English Language Arts includes reading, writing, foundational skills (phonics), language, and speaking/listening.

Q: What is my child learning in English Language Arts?

A: The curriculum is based upon the Iowa Core which is a set of grade level expectations that Iowa has adopted. In addition to the Common Core national standards, Iowa has added other expectations, including college and career readiness skills.

Q: How is this different from previous years?

A: Much of what is being learned by students is similar, but some of the curriculum includes higher expectations.

Q: How do I know how my child is doing in the area of English Language Arts?

A: In addition to periodic screening tests like MAP and FAST, teachers are giving tests to assess how students are progressing on the priority learning targets. These results will be shared at conferences and again on report cards this year. Powerschool, the electronic gradebook used in grades three, four and five, includes details for each priority standard.

Q: If a child does not demonstrate proficiency on an assessment, what will happen?

A: Students who have not learned skill as evidenced by a test will be retaught and retested. Intervention time has been scheduled at each grade level to ensure that all students learn the curriculum.

In Town Bus Trips -

At the suggestion of some parents, this box will start including information about bus trips your children will take to places here in Muscatine. This month's bus trip is as follows:

-Oct. 7 - Fifth grade environmental trip to Monsanto (afternoon)



*"Mulberry
Elementary School
– Committed to
Excellence!"*

PTO News

HyVee Shopping Days

Shop HyVee September 29, September 30, or October 1 and Mulberry PTO will receive seven percent of the profits. Look for more information soon!

PTO General Meetings

All are invited to attend the September 25th and October 16th meetings which will begin at 7 pm. We will be finalizing the fall festival. Hope to see you there.

T-shirt / Magnet Orders

Order forms will come home in late October to ensure delivery by Christmas.

Homecoming Week

Join the Mulberry family in its support of the Muskies! Students and their families are invited to walk in the parade on Thursday, October 2. The parade will begin at 6:00 at Grant School. Meet around 5:45. Special days will be as follows:

- Mon., Sept. 29: Crazy Feet Day (socks, shoes, slippers)
- Tues., Sept. 30: Red, White, Blue Day
- Wed., Oct. 1: Backwards Day
- Thurs., Oct. 2: Mulberry Day (wear Mulberry, red, or black shirt)
- Fri., Oct. 3: Muskie Pride Day (wear purple/gold)

Shawna Trosen and Melissa Rinnert,
Co-Presidents

Mulberry Fall Festival - Carnival October 10 from 5:30 to 8:00 - Join the Fun!

Games/Events: We have 12 games/events planned that will challenge you, make you laugh and provide you with lots of family fun. *Room advisors are looking for volunteers to help run games.*

Room Basket Items: Please bring the items or donations used to purchase items to his or her classroom by October 8. Themes are as follows: Green(Disney), Garvin(Muskies/Tailgating), Mergen(Hawkeyes), Haag(Snacks), Lincoln(Popcorn), Dindinger(Sleepover), McNelly(Family Fun), Minder(Outdoors), Timmons(Art/Crafts), Meerdink(Kids Can Cook), and Grade 5(Gift Cards)

Bake Sale: Please sign up to donate baked goods. The bake sale is always in need of items to be donated. Please sign up and bring these to school the day of the carnival.

Ticket Sales: Pre-order your tickets, save time and hassle at the door. Pre-ordering really helps us to have the proper quantities and plan accordingly with pizza, pop, etc.

Raffle: Top seller prizes will be determined by sales turned in by October 8. See information sheet for various incentives, including the horse races with Mrs. Goodman. **SELL THOSE TICKETS!!!!**

Girl and Boy Specials: The American Girl Doll of 2014, Isabelle, and the Arctic Blast Lego set are this year's special baskets.

Fun Fridays: On September 26, books for the book walk will be collected. On October 3, two liter pops will be collected. Students who participate in a Fun Friday will receive two basket raffle tickets.

Costume Parade - October 31

On Friday, October 31, Mulberry Elementary students will again be parading. Due to the close proximity of three senior citizen living facilities, children will have the opportunity to interact with the elderly. Students in kindergarten through fifth grades may choose to wear costumes. Kindergarten and third grades will be walking to Sunnybrook Assisted Living. Fourth graders will assist first graders and walk to Carrington Place. Likewise, fifth graders will assist second graders and walk to Bickford Cottage. Please read the following guidelines for costumes:

- Wear walking shoes.
- Refrain from violent themes, such as blood and weaponry.
- Keep it simple! (No props to lose nor makeup to put on)
- Place your child's costume in a bag with his or her name on it. Older buddies will help younger children put on costumes, so please keep it simple.

The last hour of the afternoon will be a party in the classroom. PTO classroom advisors may be contacting parents to help with this.