



PAWPRINTS

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | DAVENPORT

ISSUE SIX | THURSDAY, FEB. 7, 2008

From Your PrinciPAL



Dear McKinley Families,
Give me an "I", a "T", a "B", and
an "S."

Students in grades three, four and five will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (or ITBS) beginning Tuesday, Feb. 19 through Thursday, Feb. 21. Testing will take place approximately 8:30-10:30 each morning. The ITBS is used to measure McKinley's

success according to the No Child Left Behind legislation.

It is extremely important to have your child arrive on time and to not be absent for testing. Please make certain that your child is rested, eats a good breakfast, and is motivated to do their personal best.

Prior to ITBS testing, a "Take Home Test" was sent home which was designed to help children become familiar and comfortable with the test format. Research confirms that student and test performance increases when students are familiar with testing formats. The Take-Home booklet contained a variety of test-taking skills, tips, and an answer key. The activity provided students with a positive and beneficial experience by allowing them to practice the format while giving adults a time to praise and encourage their student.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Amy Campanile 324-0403
campanilea@davenportschools.org

MORE IMPORTANT NEWS

An important vote faces Davenport school district residents surround the Local Option Sales and Services Tax Extension. This vote is March 4. For more information go to davenportschools.org.

What is a LOSST?

The local option 1-cent sales tax is a voter-approved funding source which helps schools in Scott County pay for new construction, significant capital improvements, and technology upgrades. The voters of Scott County initially approved this tax in 1999. The ballot would be for an extension of this county tax – not for a new tax – and is not associated with the City of Davenport's Local Option Sales and Services tax.

How will the money raised be used?

Proposed projects for the next funding period include more energy efficient heating and cooling systems, major upgrades to interior and exterior facilities, continued investments in infrastructure for technology and learning labs; parking and traffic flow issues; classroom additions; security improvements; and more.

How is the project list generated?

The district conducts ongoing and extensive review of district facilities to determine and prioritize necessary long-term improvements. This is done in conjunction with principals, staff, parents and students.



A LITTLE HELP FOR THE ITBS

In an effort to provide students with optimal learning, McKinley supplied all families with activities that they could do at home with their students to help reinforce what is learned at school. Research confirms how powerful the student/parent partnership is in increasing student achievement. The focus, identified through the Iowa Test of Basic Skills data analysis, is on the Reading Process Skill: Understanding Stated information.

Understanding stated information refers to the following:

- ❖ Uses information from the story to explain or understand a character's actions
- ❖ Uses information from the story to identify cause and effect
- ❖ Uses information from the story to identify similar concepts that have been reworded or paraphrased
- ❖ Uses information from the story to identify or explain an event
- ❖ Understands the story structure (beginning, middle, end)
- ❖ Identifies major events in the story
- ❖ Uses information from the article to identify similar concepts that have been reworded or rephrased and
- ❖ Uses context of passage to determine word meaning

Parents and family members play a key role in student learning success. We invite you to help your student practice this skill when reading at home by asking the questions listed below (these can be asked when reading a book, an article, or the sample test:

- ❖ Why did the character behave _____?
- ❖ Why did the character do _____?
- ❖ What did the character do as a result of _____?
- ❖ What made the character think of _____?
- ❖ The main character was enjoying _____?
- ❖ What happened when _____?
- ❖ What did the character do at the beginning of the story?
- ❖ What needed to happen before the character could do something?
- ❖ Why did the characters do _____?
- ❖ Why did _____ do _____?
- ❖ What did _____ do when _____?
- ❖ What is one of the clues from the book that tells the reader that _____?
- ❖ What does _____ mean?
- ❖ When _____ does _____, what is it showing?

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WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

If you would like to make a submission to the Pawprints newsletter, please forward information to apnicknish@mchsi.com. If you have photos to submit (for example: Boy or Girl Scouts, sporting events, Battle of the Books, etc.) please send them to Ann Nicknish via e-mail.

FEBRUARY DATES

- 15** – Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 16** – District-Wide Orchestra Solo Festival (grades 4-8)
- 18** – No school, Presidents' Day
- 19-22** – ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) for grades 3-5.
- 26** – Variety Show tryouts, 3:15 p.m.
- 28** – Variety Show tryouts, 3:15 p.m.
- 29** – Newsletter submissions due to apnicknish@mchsi.com

It's Round- Up Time At The Old Circle K {that's K as in kindergarten}

Each year, enthusiastic pre-schoolers and their parents have a wonderful chance to see McKinley school and ask questions at the Kindergarten Round-Up.

The Round-Up will be held on April 17 at 5 p.m. If you know of a perspective student (child who will be five before Sept. 15, 2008), please fill out this form or pick one up at the office and share it.

Any names that are submitted help the school office generate the mailing list for all the kindergarten packets. If you need a form, please contact the McKinley office.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

(Join us on Thursday, April 17, at 5 p.m.)

If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be 5 before Sept. 15, 2008, please fill out the following and return to the Office. (Or give us a call with the information.)

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Birthdate _____

Gender _____ Ethnic _____



Webelo Scouts after a tour of the Scott County Jail, pictured are Troix Silvers, Logan Fraker, Kevin Alberts and Matthew Thomas (Pack 3004 Webelos II Scout from Washington Elementary).

Banquet Celebrates Scouting

The Blue and Gold Banquet, the birthday dinner for the Cub Scout Program, is held during February, the anniversary month for the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America was organized in February 1910, and the Cub Scout program was organized 20 years later, in 1930. February also is the birth month of Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. The pack's big celebration gets its name from the Cub Scout colors. Blue and Gold banquets are held throughout the month of February by packs all across the country.

McKinley School's Scout Pack 3004 will be celebrating their Blue & Gold banquet on Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. bringing families together for an evening of fun and inspiration.

The purpose of the blue and gold banquet is to celebrate the pack's anniversary, recognize pack leaders and other adults who have been instrumental in the pack's success, and inspire the leaders, Scouts, and parents. Packs often like to invite former members and other Scouting or community leaders to take part in the annual blue and gold banquet.

Traditions vary from pack to pack and school to school, but McKinley usually has a potluck dinner with each family bringing a covered dish to share. After the dinner, dens and packs listen to messages learned from the Cub and Boy Scout programs from the Kittan District, of whom Pack 3004 is a member. The highlight of the night is when the Webelos II boys (the highest rank in Cub Scouting) "bridge" over to the Boy Scout Troop of their choice, furthering their growth and journey into Boy Scouting. This year's Webelos II Scouts from McKinley's Pack 3004 are: Troix Silvers, Kevin Alberts and Logan Fraker. Congratulations, boys!

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, MOVIE NIGHT!

Don't miss this family event. Friday, Feb. 15. Concessions and snacks available. Children must be supervised by an adult. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a 6:30 p.m. show time.

Young Inventors Strut Their Stuff

On Jan. 24 10 fourth-grade and 12 fifth-grade students participated in the Davenport Schools Invent Iowa, Invention Convention.

Fourth-grade students were: Alexis Smith, Meg Nicknish, KatyAxel, Jevin Williams, Corey Staub, Jack Moran, Connor McDevitt, Thompson Teasdale, Justine Doyle and Jadan Meeks-Williams

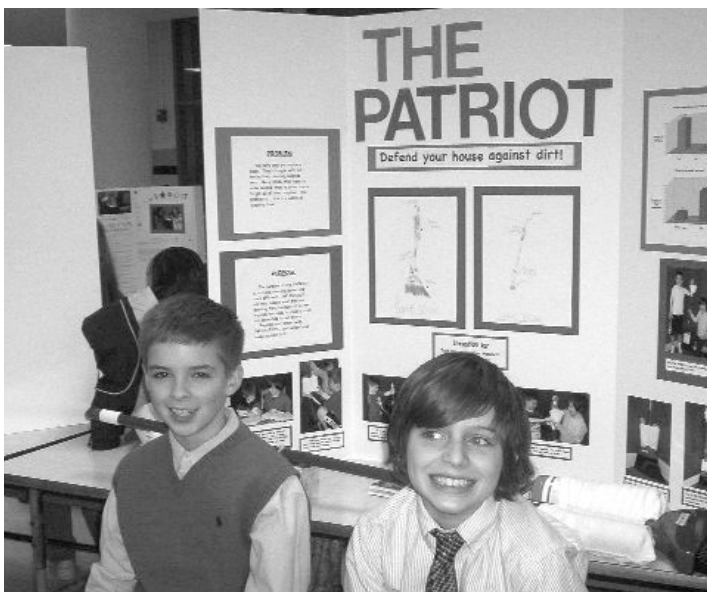
Fifth-grade students were: Mackenzie Ray, Lauren Harriman, Sadie Theis, Morgan McNeal, Paige Sherer, Lucratia Mueller, Bailey Johnston, Lynn Nguyen, Stefanie Nussbaum, Natalie Skalla, Amanda Rostenbach and Grace Stori.

These students came up with an original invention idea that solved a problem. They kept an inventor's journal to log their inventive process and built a model or prototype. The students were judged at the Invention Convention and received points. The top two inventions from each grade level will go on to the next level, a Regional Invention Convention at the Bettendorf Family Museum on Feb. 23rd.

The two fourth-grade winners were Jack Moran and Connor McDevitt with "The Patriot" and Justine Doyle and Jadan Meeks-Williams with "Sock Grabber".

The two fifth-grade winners were Stefanie Nussbaum and Natalie Skalla with "The Good Hair Day Hat" and Amanda Rostenbach and Grace Stori with "Kool Kat and Kanine".

According to Mrs. Barry, TAG Facilitator, "These students worked very hard and did a great job!"



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DON'T FORGET HATS AND MITTENS

With cold weather in the forecast it is important to dress your child for the weather. We have outside recess unless the temperature or weather doesn't permit. Thank you for your cooperation!

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

Rachelle Hodson, RN, School Nurse

February is Dental Health Month. We will celebrate this month by learning the importance of our teeth and giving all our students at a toothbrush. Our teeth are meant to last a lifetime. Healthy baby teeth are important. They are the placeholders for the permanent teeth that follow. Studies show that 50 percent of 2-year-olds have one decayed tooth or more, so visiting a dentist can ensure that those baby teeth are getting the attention they deserve.

How can you make your child's first visit to the dentist easier?

A positive first dental visit can benefit your child's dental health for many years to come and can actually affect how your child views the dentist for the rest of his or her life. Here are some tips:

Keep it low key. Going to the dentist should be treated as a routine event. Discuss it with your child no more than a day or two ahead of the visit. Your child will have less time to become anxious and hear horror stories from friends.

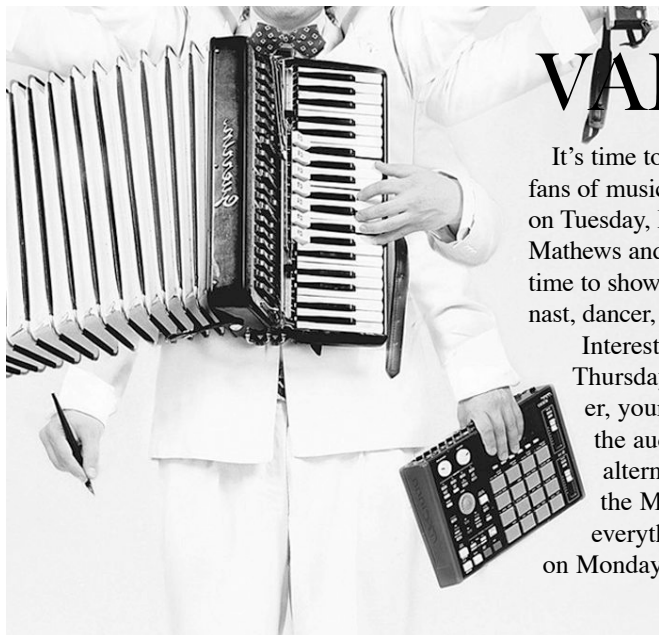
Stay upbeat. Say a dentist is a doctor who makes sure our teeth are OK. Don't make promises – such as saying "It won't hurt" – that you may not be able to keep

Use your dentist's name. Hearing the dentist's and other staff members' names brings the visit to a more personal level.

Make the appointment early in the day so your child won't have all day to think about the visit.

HEALTHFUL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

McKinley School has formed a Wellness Committee and is looking for a parent volunteer to serve on that committee. The committee meets approximately three times per year: October, February and May. We generally meet on a Friday at 7:45 a.m. until school begins in the months of October, February and May. If you have a special interest or understanding of health issues, sign on to give your input! Contact Rachelle Hodson about the opportunity.



VARIETY: LIFE'S SPICE

It's time to start thinking about an annual event that fills the McKinley Auditorium with fans of music, laughter and creativity. The 5th Annual McKinley Variety Show will be held on Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. The moderators of this year's event are Mrs. Berthel, Mrs. Mathews and Mr. Scott. The show can't go on without student and staff talent. Now is the time to show your specialty. You may be a singer, poet, comedian, juggler, magician, gymnast, dancer, or play an instrument and here's your chance to share your talents.

Interested students must prepare something for tryouts on Tuesday, Feb. 26, or Thursday, Feb. 28, at 3:15 p.m. You can perform a solo or work as a group; however, your act must be prepared, polished, and ready for an audience at the time of the audition. REMEMBER, if you are a student who rides the bus, please find alternative transportation if you stay after school for either of the tryouts. Prior to the March 18 show, the moderators are planning to have one rehearsal to put everything in order. There also will be a "Dress Rehearsal" for McKinley students on Monday, March 17.