

WINTER'S HERE, BE READY

Don't forget to send hats and gloves/writhens with your child as well as reminding them to "zip up" when they go out to recess.



4 pawprints



McKinley 5th graders placed second in a Battle of the Books competition recently. In all, 13 students took part, reading classic literature and answering questions as a team based on the books.

GIFTS OF LITERATURE

This year's BOB list was chosen based on its appeal, literary value, curriculum connections and diversity. The books were very popular with the 5th graders!

Because of Anya by Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John H. Ritter
Chevrolet Saturdays by Candy Dawson Boyd
Passage to Freedom by Ken Mochizuki
Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff
Saving Lilly by Peg Kehret
The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg
A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements
When the Soldiers Were Gone by Vera W. Propp
A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck



FROM THE FRONT

<< *Continued from Page 1*
hall case alongside the trophy for second place in Battle of the Books held last month. Great job students!

With the change of weather, I am reminded of the snow that has already fallen on our beautiful campus creating a winter wonderland. Please remember to dress your child warmly as we make every effort to allow them time outdoors for fresh air and exercise.

The health benefits of recess are clearly documented by researchers; however recess can also be a place where some children demonstrate less than positive behaviors. The Positive Behavior Supports Team will be presenting a DVD and information for para educators reviewing the importance of monitored recess. The DVD provides models of the interactions of adults and students that foster posi-

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It's fun to be a Scout!

About 40 McKinley students are part of Pack 4. Last week the Scouts went out in the cold to bring some holiday warmth to the McKinley neighborhood by singing Christmas carols. Afterward, the Scouts were rewarded with pizza and dessert. Enjoying the "fruits" of their labor are, from left, Weston, Michael and Ever. **READ MORE ON PAGE 3.**

5th-graders show their love of reading

McKinley's 5th grade sent 13 students to this year's Battle of the Books. This reading initiative has been used in schools across the country for more than 40 years.

Its forms may vary but the reasons for its success are the same – to foster a love and discovery for reading by introducing children to quality literature, to offer books that build upon historical values and the dignity of life, and to develop friendships between students based upon socialization, competition and mutual respect.

Twenty-six teams made up of students from 18 Davenport elementary schools participated with excitement.

These 5th graders conferred with teammates and answered tough >> *Principal, Page 4*



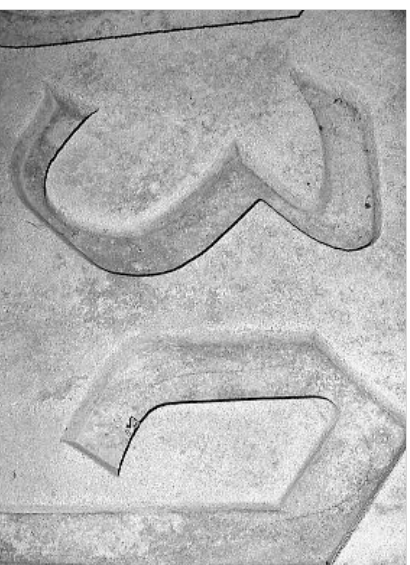
TERESA BECHEN

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It's that time of year when we all think about family, friends and festive holidays filled with gifts. McKinley Elementary will continue the tradition of the "Giving Tree" where children can place new mittens, gloves, scarves or hats to be shared with those who are in need of these items. Davenport Community School District celebrated 150 years of educating their children on December 9th. Birthday cake was shared with all faculty, staff, and students on that day during lunch. Student performers on various instruments are going to be featured at lunch this month, so please stop by for the some delightful entertainment. McKinley Elementary will celebrate 70 years in 2009. There are many accomplishments to be proud of over those years, which continues today. A group of four fifth grade students participated in a Team Quest competition of academics and problem solving. Our McKinley Team came in first place! Their trophy is in the front >> *Principal, Page 4*

PAYING ATTENTION: IDENTIFY THE IMAGE AND WIN!

It's simple, really. With each edition of Pawprints we will challenge you to know your surroundings. The photograph at left was taken outside, on school grounds. All you have to do is figure out where and what it is. Bring your answer to Mrs. Moss in the office. If you are the first student to correctly identify the image you'll win a \$5 gift certificate to our neighborhood partner, Schnucks. Winners will be announced at the end of school Friday. **Last month's winner: Chauna Donald.**



CONTRIBUTE TO PAWPRINTS

Anyone is welcome to make a submission to Pawprints. Keep us informed on the happenings of student groups such as Scouts or sports teams as well as classroom news. If you have information or photos, please send them to Ann Nicklisch at apnicknisch@mchsi.com or call 359-9242.



NEWS FROM THE NURSE

*Mrs. Hodson, RN, School Nurse
hodson@davenportschools.org*

WARM HANDS, WARM HEARTS

Cold weather will be arriving shortly and we are concerned about the children that come to school without proper protection from the elements.

With this in mind, we are continuing with our traditional hat & mitten tree. The "giving tree" will be set up in the main entrance for students and families to donate hats, mittens, socks, and boots, for those families in need.

If you would like to donate, please bring your item to school and place them on the tree. Thank you in advance for your many years of contributions.

Please keep in mind, that the Health Office has gently used winter coats for families. If you are in need of a winter coat, please call the Health Office.

FIGHT GERMS BY PROPER HAND WASHING

Most of us understand that washing our hands is the essential ingredient in fighting off colds and flu this winter season, however, reminders can't hurt. Studies show that 40 to 60 percent of people don't wash their hands after using the restroom and most individuals don't wash long enough.

According to University of Missouri-Columbia's Sinclair School of Nursing, nursing instructor Beth Traudes "Use warm water and scrub between your fingers as well as around your fingernails. Sing the 'Alphabet' song or 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' twice and you know you've scrubbed away the majority of the germs and bacteria."

In addition, pay particular attention to your cuticles and under your nails. Dirt, germs and bacteria gather in the crevices surrounding your nails and it's important to keep hangnails trimmed and bandaged to prevent bacteria and viruses from entering your body.

If hand washing is the most important key to health, then using hand lotion is second most important key. "By keeping the skin soft and supple you are preventing cracking, which in turn helps keep the bacteria out," reports Traudes.

There are bacteria that are transmitted by touch and those that are transmitted by coughs and sneezes, so it's best to use a waterless hand sanitizer containing aloe before and after touching public surfaces (aloe offsets the drying effects alcohol-based products have on the skin).

Using the sanitizer before reduces germs you spread; using afterwards not only protects you but limits your contribution to the cycle of infection.

The friction of rubbing your hands together helps these types of products remove bacteria and viruses from hands that are not visibly soiled. In the classroom and lunchroom, children who are urged to use hand sanitizers, should also rub them together for more effectiveness.

SKATE NIGHT

Thursday, Dec. 11: 6 p.m.

Roll on over to our party in Eldridge

Roller skating can be a healthy way to stimulate your muscles similar to an aerobic workout, but many people prefer it because it doesn't cause damage to the joints in the body.

The Dec. 11 Skating Party is sure to be a fun family outing for all you skaters. The Eldridge Skatepark offers skate rentals for \$1.50 and a \$3 admission fee.

There is plenty of space for free skate and organized games. If you prefer not to roller skate, there is plenty of seating provided for watching the excitement.

Note: The PTA meeting has been moved to the Skatepark so that no one has to miss out on the excitement!

The McKinley Night at Skatepark begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. The park is located at 400 South 16th Avenue, Eldridge, Iowa – turn east at exit 127 off U.S. Hwy. 61.

In case of questionable weather or for other information, call Skatepark at (563) 285-8415.



THE RULES OF GOING OUTSIDE

When will there be recess?

1.) If the wind chill is below 15 degrees, the children will stay inside.

2.) Children MUST have boots and snow-pants to go in the snow. All other children will be allowed to play on the blacktop if there is NO ice.



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PLAYWRIGHTS IN OUR MIDST

The play is called "The Big Test" and its feature character is Mr. Crumpy, who is a teacher who is giving a test. This homegrown play, written by fifth grader Thompson Teasdale – brings to life how five students are trying to overcome their test anxiety. Auditions took place in early December with rehearsals in December, January and February. Performance date has yet to be scheduled. Students are performing and Ben Geiner is directing "The Big Test." Look for more information in February!



Serving thanks at holiday luncheon

The Teacher/Staff Holiday Luncheon was started by a group of parents who wanted to create a special tradition and a special experience for the much appreciated teachers and staff at McKinley.

Part of the special way of showing appreciation is by giving staff time to leave the school grounds and relax in a home setting while being served delicious food. They have time to visit with one another away from the din of the much loved break room or cafeteria.

Staff arrive by parent chauffeur (some like to walk, too) to a festive home of a McKinley parent. A gourmet lunch is catered and served by McKinley parents. This Dec. 12 will start out the holiday season with a luncheon at the home of Cynthia Weeks and Scott Teasdale (pictured) – parents of Thompson and Linnea. The menu is sure to entice, but the hot cider and homemade baked goods are the ever favorites!

Volunteers help to make the outing a smooth one by volunteering to help drive staff off the school grounds, making entrees and desserts, and serving the lunch. If you would like to be involved, contact Jennifer Chen at 344-4939.

Be vocal about supporting school

Support a local business while at the same time supporting your school. When you go to K&K Hardware (1818 Grant Street in Bettendorf), mention that you are a McKinley Elementary supporter when you are paying.

They have a special program that gives McKinley a donation of 10 percent of the value of your purchase. It's easy to do, just voice your support and K&K does the rest.

Schnuck's grocery store also has a benefit program called "Escrip." After you sign up (by picking up a Escript card at the store), you can give the clerk your card at checkout and McKinley School can reap the benefits!

Cub Scout sales are pop, pop, popping

Jarrold Hulme was the top selling Cub Scout this year in Pack 4's annual popcorn fundraiser.

"I think Jarrod sold more this year because he's young," surmised the runner-up and former top seller, Ben Florence. Cory Hockett was close behind Ben in sales and has already promised to catch Jarrod next year.

There are about 40 McKinley boys involved in Pack 4, up from previous years. This year, they almost doubled last year's popcorn sales.

If you or your son is interested in joining up with Pack 4, look up Tina Wagschal, who's the current committee chair of Pack 4.



DECEMBER DATES

DECEMBER

- 11 — PTA Meeting 6:30
- 11 — Skating Party 6-8 pm
- 12 — Staff Holiday Luncheon: A Treat for All!
- 19 — Early dismissal: Break Dec. 22-Jan. 4

