

CONCORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September/October 2008
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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 10/10 Early Dismissal 11:15
- ◆ 10/13 No School/Columbus Day
- ◆ 10/17 Preschool Screening
- ◆ 10/22 1st Grade Native American Day
- ◆ 10/24 End of 1st Marking Period
- ◆ 10/31 Harvest Day Parties
- ◆ 10/31 Report Cards Issued

PARENT NEWSLETTER Dr. Laura Anderson, Principal

Principal's News

September 2008

It's hard to believe that we are over a month into the school year. Classrooms are buzzing with the sounds of children learning. Teachers and staff members are working together with parents to ensure that the high quality education provided here at Concord meets the needs of our children. Beginning of the year assessments in reading, math and science have been administered by our new MAP testing and instruction is planned and delivered based on that data. We are off to a great start and we owe a lot of that to the strong parent/teacher partnerships that have been formed. Your support is extremely important to the success of our students. Thank you.

We have also implemented our new bus transportation system. Again, without your support and input, this program would not be as successful as it is. I want to thank you for your patience and continued support regarding student behavior. When school and

home work together to deliver the same message, it goes a long way with the students.

September was busy with annual Patriotic Assembly, picture day, and a Scholastic Book Fair. In October, we are looking forward to preschool screening, our annual Fall Harvest Assembly and classroom parties.

As news reports continue to highlight incidents in schools, our staff members are working together to refine our emergency preparedness plans. As a result, we have completed fire, tornado, and lockdown drills with the students. We will continue to practice these drills again in the spring.

I want to thank you for your continued support and dedication to Concord students and staff. Your input and contributions are a valued part of our learning community.

Happy reading,

Laura Anderson



Classroom Parties

We value all of our parent volunteers who facilitate our classroom parties throughout the school year! We appreciate your creativity and time and your sensitivity to our student allergies and particular requests. In order to reduce potential distractions we would like to request that younger siblings are not part or present at the classroom parties. Younger siblings are always welcome but not during the classroom parties so that your focus can be on your child in that grade level.

Party times and dates are as follows:

Times for parties will be:

AM Classes of FS & Kdg TBA

PM Classes of EC FS & Kdg TBA

Grades 1-4 1:00-2:00

We ask that room moms not arrive until 12:55 and use the back asphalt area to park your cars.

Dates for our room parties are:

Oct. 31 Harvest Day Celebration

Dec. 19 K-4 Holiday Parties

Feb. 13 Valentine Day
TIME: 10:00-11:00 AM



School Highlights

- ✓ As part of our school emergency plan, the students have participated in a fire drill and tornado drill-they did great!
- ✓ Students and staff participated in a Patriotic Assembly
- ✓ All students have participated in NWEA testing and AIMS Web testing. The results of these tests will be shared with parents during November Parent/Teacher conferences.

- ✓ Oct. 17 PreSchool Screening-call school office to set up an appointment
- ✓ 2nd Quarter on line lunch ordering will begin Oct. 8

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUMMER READERS!



The following Concord students completed the Indian Prairie Library Summer Reading Program:

Shannon Ahern, Kyle Berg, Katherine Carder, Sierra Carder, Anushka Chakroborty, Elizabeth Janecek, Emily Knutte, Tony Lu, Tess McBride, Nina Pierce, Ajay Raigaga, James Ruzicka, Nathan Santo, Jacob Stukas, Johann Tabbilos, Miranda Zelazny, Alissa Banks, Lily Bone, Emily Collins, Marc Davis, Ben Dorrance, Courtney Fung, Dan Gard, Cole Haubenreiser, Jessica Hendrickson, Patricia Iwaniec, Taylor Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Kevin Joseph, Anish Lakhe, Keaton Lancaster, Kiley Long, Antonio, Ma, Rachel Ng, Kathleen Nigohosian, Andrea Nkansah, Joseph Ofenloch, Joseph Sheridan, Andrea Stirling, Giovanni Ahern, Michael Ardovitch, Annie Banks, Brian Baumbach, Ryan Berg, Andrew Bilodeau, Maria Boulos, Vishnu Chakroborty, Haley Der, Allison Early, Michael Early, Kevin Hamilton, Emily Hillebold, Alex Knutte, Alexis Kostiantos, Jacob Kuczaty, Dominic Loffredi, Grace McBride, David Nkansah, Gare Pierce, Patricia Pochocki, Cayla Romo, Veda Romo, Annjay Tabbilos, Matthew Vick, Afraa Waheed, Adam Zelazny, Anisha Atluri, Shalini Atluri, Nicole Carpenter, Enrique Castellanos, Erin Collins, Evangeline Eilbert, David Garcy, Kyle Heinking, Samantha Hendrickson, Christopher Joseph, Haneen Kawasmeh, Keshav Kukreja, Dennis Laison, Joshua Lalumendre, Trevor Long, Alex Mantey, Jessica Metcalf, James Musil, Piotr Noga, Gopika Patel, Radhika Patel, Maggie Reynolds, Sri Samudrala, Natalie Spencer, Michael Stoltz, Ava Stukas, Bridget Sullivan, Charles Thuruthiyil, Zachary Villarreal, Tyler Zelazny, Alex Cima, Nick Cima, Katie Bilodeau, Caroline Collins, Sean Ford, Max Han, Samantha Heinking, Jacob Hospes, Alicia Iwaniec, Julia Loffredi, Hunter Long, Tiffany Stirling,

COUNSELORS CORNER

“Manners Matter”

In case you haven't heard, at Concord School “Manners Matter.” They matter everywhere; school, classroom, lunch room, on the playground, and at home. In response to the “School Improvement Plan” and to foster our school and home partnership the fine arts team, Mrs. Voss, Mrs. Zurawski, Ms Rogers, and Mrs. Scott came up with the slogan. The entire staff is placing emphasis on manners in order to prepare the students with life long skills which they must master in order to communicate successfully in the world in the future. The magic words are: good morning, please, thank you, I'm sorry, please excuse me, may I please.... It is exciting to witness students greeting one another and the adult staff. There are smiles everywhere. If you have been at school perhaps you have noticed the bright blue posters in the halls to remind everyone. In addition the familiar Concord Caring Being is in every classroom as a reminder. From my experience these skills are also very important in the family. We'd appreciate your support in this endeavor. Using the same vocabulary at home would be most helpful. It is more fun to be with a respectful friend and family member than one that fails to use his/her manners.

One article I read recently suggested that the dinner table is a great place to teach and practice manners. Do you remember when you were reminded to chew your food, not to chew with your mouth open, keep your elbows off the table, to take turns talking and not interrupt? I certainly do. We didn't have to worry about TV being a distraction for there was no TV in our home till I was in high school. Dinner together was a time when we were able to catch up and share what each family member was doing. It can be memory making time if you share stories about growing up.

Our character program, “Skills for Growing” supports this campaign. It promotes behavior which works at home and at school. The program helps the children strengthen self-discipline, responsibility, good judgement, and respecting others.

The lessons are tied to the **Illinois State Social-Emotional Standards of:**

- Goal 1. Develop Self-Awareness and Management Skills to achieve school and life success.
- Goal 2. Use Social Awareness and Relationship Skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
- Goal 3. Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community context.

Research shows us that these social/emotional skills lead to better behavior and less bullying. It also shows that successful academic performance by students depends on developing these social emotional skills with caring adults in a safe, supportive school climate and a warm caring family. The skills become internalized when they are taught in coordinated, continuous, and consistent ways. Their use must be recognized and appreciated and shown to have value. Let's work together to help our students do and be their best.

June Scott, Concord Counselor

Pizza Day

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Lunch on Fridays is pizza! It would assist the management of Pizza Day if you would kindly put the exact change in an envelope marked with the amount of money and your child's name. This will expedite the process and ensure that your child gets exactly what he/she wants.

Special thanks to all of the lunch volunteers five days a week! We appreciate all you do!

Just a friendly reminder, please remind your child to ensure that any water containers are securely tight in their backpacks. In some cases, the water has dripped on library books causing damage. Thanks for your cooperation with this request.



Clifford Visits Second Grade

Children are fascinated by dogs, especially a big red one by the name of *Clifford*. The second grade had a surprise visit from Norman Bridewell's special character on Wednesday, Sept. 24th. The second graders met in one classroom and then suddenly, *Clifford* appeared! Hmm..wonder who's in that red costume?!?! We'll never tell!!



We're on the Web!

www.cassd63.org

Our website is going to be revised in the months to come - please continue to check the website for more information.

A World of Living Things



Fourth grade science students began the year using their scientific inquiry skills to investigate various living things. The beginning of the unit started with learning about mealworms. They began studying and observing the life cycle of a mealworm and continue to watch as the mealworms change to pupae and then beetles. Next, students completed a "hands-on" lesson of creating an animal cell model using gelatin to represent cytoplasm, raisins for mitochondria, Good and Plenty for vacuoles, and a Milk Dud for the nucleus. In addition, students examined natural and artificial sponges, cones and fruits, fungi, and vertebrates. Throughout the year, students will continue to use the scientific method to discover and investigate new and exciting things.



Note Totes - Remember note totes are being sent via email and are posted on the District website
www.cassd63.org

How Does F.A.R. Work?

This year the students in grades 1-4 are participating in Concord's version of "Map Quest". Each class walks/jogs laps to reach a destination in the United States. Every month, the class will mark its progress on a large map in the hallway. Ask your child where he/she is heading! This activity emphasizes the importance of physical fitness and cooperative group effort. Another new F.A.R. feature is the "Field Game of the Week". To encourage small group participation, a specific F.A.R. game is chosen for the students to play on the grass field. The game and the appropriate equipment changes as the students learn more games.

Our goal is for every Concord student to celebrate Fitness At Recess!