

Stewart Shuttle

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THE PRINCIPAL'S POSITION

Parents as Readers

Watching parents and others use books as part of their everyday activities helps a child to become a reader. Sharing in family letter writing (e-mailing), making lists and picking up the mail can focus a child's attention on print, and how the written words are capturing the spoken word. The idea that messages can come from marks on the page that other people have typed or written with a pen or pencil, encourages children to try their skill at getting and sending messages. This is one of the ways they learn about letters and words, as they need them for their own purpose.

When children are exposed to print in the natural course of every-day life, they are developing a solid basis that gives them a great advantage at school. Learning can proceed easily, gradually and inevitably if parents are in the habit of involving their children in the ordinary things of life.

NOTE FROM THE NURSE

In this day and age of hustle and bustle it is hard to find time to eat as a family. National Eat Dinner Together Week was September 21 to 27. Research shows, just how important it is to make a real effort to eat as a family. Research shows that the more often young people eat with families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs. Teens who eat frequently with their families are less likely to have sex at a young age, get into fights, are at a lower risk for thoughts of suicide and are more likely to do well in school. Teens who eat with their families are more likely to be emotionally content, work hard in school, and have positive peer relationships.

To sum this up, eating as a family results in a lot of positive behaviors from your children. The dinner table is a great place to find out how your child's day was at school. It gives your family an opportunity to find out what is going on in each others lives. Life gets very busy, but hopefully not too busy to enjoy the company of your family at the dinner table. Until next month, happy eating together...

Shelly Hoffman, School Nurse

STUDENT ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

Welcome to October! Fall is a great time of year for all of us to enjoy!

I want to give you an update on what has been happening with our weekly meetings in the Kindergarten classrooms. We have been reading books that talk about our feelings. We discussed how our face and body can tell others how we feel. This lesson leads into our introduction to the Four Steps. Students use the Four Steps when they have a conflict. The Four Steps include:

1. Say the person's name.
2. Tell the person how you feel.
3. Tell the person what they did.
4. Ask the person to please stop.

This conflict management tool is something we ask the students to try first before getting help from a teacher. Many of the conflicts in the classroom, hallways, lunchroom, and recess can be resolved with these 4 little steps.

Bullying is an important concern of ours at Stewart. It is important that these situations be reported. Bullies can be identified in three ways: students report to a staff member, staff members report, or parents report. This can happen on school grounds, traveling to and from school, or within the building. If your child has reported to you problems, please gather as much information from your child and report that to me. I will discuss with their teacher your concerns. I will also talk to the students involved to determine a plan. I will then notify the parent of what is being done here at school to stop the problem. We want everyone to feel safe and enjoy being at school.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate contacting me by telephone or e-mail 653-3244 or aasix@washington.k12.ia.us. I often have student lunch groups and meetings after school so please contact me to set a time to meet if there are concerns you would like to discuss.

Aaron Six
Student Assistant Coordinator

MEDIA CENTER MESSAGES

Remember to stop in and visit our book fair on Tuesday, October 21, or Thursday, October 23. We will be open for sales from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. each day. Parent notes and book flyers showing just a very few of the items that will be on sale will be sent home with the students. Our Stewart Boosters volunteer their time working at the book fair, and do a great job helping with the sales. Think about donating a book to your child's classroom with our Classroom Wish List program. I know that our teachers enjoy using the books year after year with their students and the bookplate we put in the front of each book you donate makes them think of your child in a special way. Our book fair is a great way to put books in your home and help our media center - since the book profit is used to buy books for our students to check out and read. We would also like to start saving to bring in another author or illustrator to visit our school. Our students are still talking about our visit from Derek Anderson last March. They are checking out his books from our media center constantly. See what he thought about his Stewart visit on his web site:

<http://www.derekanderson.net/BreakingNews20.htm>
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Ms. Kishel
Stewart's Media Specialist

PAYSCHOOLS

Pay Lunch Fees and School Registration Online

Paying your child's lunch fees and school registration is easy with PaySchools. PaySchools is a secure, online payment processing system that lets you pay by electronic check or credit card. PaySchools allows parents to have easy and convenient online access to purchase and pay for items and fees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Using PaySchools is easy - just visit the school district's web site, <http://www.washington.k12.ia.us> and click the PaySchools link. Any deposits that are made by 10:00 a.m. will go into your child's account that school day. If you make a deposit after that time, it will be deposited into your family's lunch account the next school day. If you have any questions, please contact Stewart Office at 653-3244.

IOWA SCHOOL ALERTS

Iowa School Alerts allows you to sign up and receive notifications when a school or school district closes, has a delayed start or an early dismissal. There are two ways to receive notifications: e-mail alerts or cell phone text messaging. Receive e-mail/text message notices when a school or school district delays starting or closes early. With Iowa School Alerts, you can have notifications sent to as many e-mail addresses or e-mail enabled device addresses as you would like.

The district will still make sure that local media outlets are notified, so notices will still be made on the television (Channel 9) and radio (KCII 1380 AM or 106.1 FM). We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to be directly notified.

POWER SCHOOL PARENT ACCESS

We will be giving out parent access at parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, October 21, and Thursday, October 23 for parents to sign up for Power Schools and the School Dining System (family lunch accounts). You will need to fill out a form, which we will keep on file, and we will give you your username and password for your student(s) at that time. Please stop in the office before or after your conference time and we will be happy to help you.