
THE PRINCIPAL'S POSITION

Lost & Found

There are numerous coats, jackets, & other clothing items in the lost and found. If your child is missing some clothing, please come by and claim it. Any clothing not claimed by the Christmas break will be donated to Goodwill. Please remember to put your child's name in his/her clothing (jackets, sweatshirts, etc.). It makes it much easier to return items to their owners.

As we approach the holidays, it seems appropriate to consider the *art of giving*. Many educators feel that by helping others, children can learn responsibility, build character and citizenship, and discover the special joys of doing or giving something special. All of the Stewart classrooms will focus on helping people in our community.

Mrs. Hippen and Ms. Goodwin's classes have been collecting pop cans to raise money. The students will use their funds to shop and buy Christmas gifts for families in the community. Beginning December 2, each classroom at Stewart will begin "The Great Food Race". Each class will collect canned goods, paper products, and nonperishable food items until December 19. Please look for more details in your child's classroom newsletter.

Kids need to see that the enthusiasm for giving is also strong at home. Here are some ideas you might like to try with your family:

Start young. Encourage even your youngest child to look for ways to help others. There is almost always someone "littler" who needs a "big girl" or "big boy" to help or someone older who will, with a wink and a nod, be eager for a youngster to "help" them with a job.

Tap into their talents. Do you have an artist in residence? See if he/she would like to deliver paintings to a nursing home to brighten the walls for someone who doesn't get out much anymore.

Cast-offs can be a first step. As your children outgrow toys, games and clothes, make a big deal of how you are going to pass them on to others who need them.

Trade off. Invite your friends', relatives' and neighbors' children to join you when you are working on a community service project for others and then maybe they will include your children in their future giving projects. Kid's enthusiasm is contagious!

Finding ways for your children to focus on the needs of others is a way to help them learn how to make the world a better place. **Best Holiday Wishes for Fun Family Giving!**

Melissa Walker
Stewart Principal

A NEW BOOK FOR THE SCHOOL

Thank you to Michele Butler, who had one of the correct entries in the Jan Brett School and Library Free Book Contest! Mrs. Butler will be giving an autographed copy of Jan Brett's new book, [Gingerbread Friends](#), to Stewart Elementary.

NOTE FROM THE NURSE

December will soon be here along with colder weather. With the colder temperatures be sure to send appropriate clothing to school with your child. Coats, hats, gloves, socks and shoes will keep your child warm at recess. Layers work well, you can add or take off layers depending upon the temperature in the classroom, as well as outside.

Along with colder temperatures will come cold and flu season. Getting a flu shot for both you and your child is the best advice I can give. The flu shot is the best defense against the "Influenza" flu or respiratory flu. This flu gives you a terrible cough, high fevers (104-105 degrees), and body aches. Often you feel so awful that you have a hard time drinking enough fluids. Because of the high fevers and lack of fluid intake it is easy to become dehydrated. If you or a family member get the flu this season, it is important to take a small drink every 10 minutes, to prevent dehydration. Controlling elevated temperatures with Tylenol and Ibuprofen is also important, it will make you feel better so you drink more, and also will keep your fever at bay. When symptoms persist or worsen it is always a good idea to call your doctor for advice. Stay warm and healthy. Until next month...

Shelly Hoffman
School Nurse

PARENT ACCESS FOR POWERSCHOOL AND TO VIEW FAMILY LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Please stop in the office or give us a call to get your parent access codes. With this, you can view your child's lunch account on line, and check your child's attendance and grades. Just give us a call in the office and we will send the form home for you to fill out. On it's return, we will give you your username and password so you can log in and view these accounts. It's a great way to stay on top of lunch balances and keeping track of absences and tardies.

Stewart Office
653-3244

MEDIA CENTER MESSAGES

General Mills Box Tops for Education

Remember to keep sending those box tops and labels in! We mailed our first batch in to General Mills on Friday, October 31. We will be receiving a check for \$904.50 in December. We deposit this money in our media center activity fund and the school district lets me purchase new hardcover books for our students to check out. I order replacement copies of favorite, worn-out, well-loved books. Throughout the years, it is amazing to realize that just by clipping those 10¢ labels and sending them to school, we have been able to earn \$8,408.00! That puts a lot of books in our students' hands!

Christmas Books Tradition

Each holiday season, my husband and I have bought a Christmas book to read and share in our family. My son and daughter are now 29 and 26 years old but when they come home for the holidays, they both like to see the books out on display. And, I have even caught them reading favorites!

Why not start your own family tradition of buying a special holiday book each year? It is fun to see how books change throughout the years. And, taking some time to sit and read these books together will give you another family tradition!

Season's Readings to you all!
Ms. Kishel, Media Specialist

Stewart Shuttle

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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. Go to our district website at: <http://www.washington.k12.ia.us> and scroll to the bottom of the home page. Click on the Iowa School Alerts link to sign up.