

Stewart Shuttle

Stewart's Vision Statement:

"Stewart School is a nurturing, safe and positive community that respects and values all individuals and inspires lifelong learning."

Volume 23, Issue 4

December, 2010

THE PRINCIPAL'S POSITION

Brrr! Time to bundle up!

With the temperatures beginning to drop, it is very important that Stewart students come to school adequately prepared for the weather. At this point, students should be wearing a winter coat, hat, and mittens. When the snow begins to fly, students should be wearing boots to help keep their feet warm and dry during recess.

If you find throughout the year that your child is missing some articles of winter clothing, be sure to stop by our lost and found. It is amazing the number of items that end up there each school year! We try to put out a lost and found table during parent/teacher conference nights and parent engagement nights for your convenience. We also recognize that for many families it is a hardship to provide some of these winter clothing articles. If that is the case, please don't hesitate to contact us and we may be able to help out. We want to make sure all Stewart children are dressed appropriately for the winter season.

May your family have a joyful holiday season!

Rhoda Harris, Principal



POP CAN CHRISTMAS

Second grade students in Miss Hunter's and Mrs. Hippen's classrooms are collecting pop cans and/or bottles until December 13th. They will use the money to purchase presents for children in Washington County for Christmas. If you would like to donate your cans and/or bottles for this project, please send them to school with your student. Your child's teacher will help get them to Miss Hunter or Mrs. Hippen. Thanks! Merry Christmas!



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



My name is Mrs. Jewell and I teach reading at Stewart Elementary. I have lived in Washington 31 years. My husband, Mr. Jewell, teaches vocal music at the high school and jr. high school here in Washington. I have 2 daughters that are married and live in California and a son, who is a senior in high school. We currently have a foreign exchange student daughter living with us, who is from Albania. We like to vacation at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. We have a little white dog named Griffin. My favorite hobby is reading and I like to walk for exercise.

SAM I AM

Helping Your Child Succeed at School

You are your child's best teacher! Research shows that children whose parents are engaged in their education are more likely to achieve academic success. It is essential to be as **positive** as possible as you support your child. The following ideas are effective for children in grades PreK-12!

1. Have high expectations for your child. Kids rise to a challenge. Make sure your child understands the clear expectations you have for them and how well they should do in school.
2. Talk to your child about school. Ask specific questions to draw out your child. Instead of asking "yes" or "no" questions, ask, "How do you think you did on the math test?" or "What is something funny that happened at school today?" or "What did you do during PE?" It is very important as you talk with your child about school to help them believe in themselves and have the confidence to know that they can succeed.
3. Get "connected" with your child's teachers. Teacher and parents should be equal partners. This doesn't mean you have the same role, but you are both equally important players in supporting the success of your child. Ask teachers about their expectations. What are students expected to master by the end of the year in each class? Ask what you can do at home to support what is going on in the classroom.

Ryan Gratz, Stewart S.A.M.



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A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

Hello Stewart Elementary,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We're senior nursing students at the University of Iowa. This semester we are enrolled in our Public Health Practicum and are here at Stewart elementary working with Shelly and the students.

My name is Megan, and I'm one of the nursing students here this semester. I'm originally from a small town in northern Iowa, Lake Mills, and grew up on a farm. I like to cook, travel, exercise, read, watch movies and hang out with my friends. I will graduate from the University in May with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in Spanish. I want to work in a hospital in an ICU after graduation and later plan to return to school to obtain my Doctorate in Nursing Practice. I'm really excited to be here this semester and have really enjoyed it so far. I'm learning more than I could have imagined and know that I will leave this winter a more well rounded student and person.

My name is Melissa and I'm the other nursing student working at Stewart this semester. I grew up in Normal, Illinois, and moved to Iowa two years ago. In my free time I like to watch movies, exercise, travel, play frisbee with my border collie and hang out with my friends and family. I too will graduate in May with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Iowa. Next year I hope to work part time as a nurse and go back to get my Doctorate in Nursing Practice in family practice nursing. I feel that working at Stewart will help me gain experience that will help me in my future career, and I look forward to getting to know the students here better!

TITLE TIDBITS

Making Inferences

Think about what goes through your mind as you interpret and make predictions about a cartoon or comic from a magazine, newspaper or book. The mental process you are using to understand is called inferring. Good readers must take clues from the text, connect them to what they already know, think, and make a prediction. As the reader continues to read, the prediction will either be confirmed or dismissed. The process is ongoing as the reader works to gain meaning from the text. The ability to infer allows one to get beyond the literal meaning of words in the text – it is deeper thinking.

How can you help your child become better at making inferences? Students can practice making inferences using picture books. (Chris Van Allsburg's books are especially good.) Picture books are accessible and excellent tools and make inferring more visible. Before you begin reading to your child reinforce the idea that titles, headings and pictures are gifts from the author. They are provided to help us with our comprehension. Make predictions using these "gifts" and tell your child what you are thinking. Start reading and as you read the text, talk about how your thinking is changing or

how your predictions are being confirmed. Two probing questions to help your child understand inferring are: What do you think? and How do you know? Demonstrating how you think as you read will help your child understand that reading is not just reading/saying the words but requires active thinking.

Geometry



The part of mathematics that deals with shapes and spatial sense is geometry. Exploring geometry with lots of hands-on experiences will help your child understand geometric formulas and concepts introduced later. Doing geometry requires a student to visualize objects and their relationships to other objects. Activities such as the ones below will help your child identify basic shapes and see how those shapes fit into the world around him/her.

1. Cut a square-or any other basic shape-from construction paper. Make several straight cuts across it to create a puzzle. Put it back together with your child.
2. Label several pages of blank paper with the name of three-dimensional objects, (cones, spheres, cubes, cylinders, etc.). Look through old magazines and catalogs for these shapes. Cut them out, and glue them under the correct label. Discuss with your child their similarities and differences.
3. Use blocks of wood to build three-dimensional shapes.
4. Because symmetry and proportion are in the world around us, look for examples in your home and community. Point out the symmetry of buildings, clothing, toys, etc. Investigate the proportion of features in your home; for example, height of ceilings and doors.

Ask your child about other shape activities completed at school. We hope you both enjoy exploring shapes.

-Title I Teachers

December – Responsibility Month



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 2 - Family Fun Night 5:00-6:30
Dec 13 – Stewart Boosters Meeting 5:30
Dec 16 – High School Holiday Children's Band Concert 7:00 @ Washington Community Center
Dec 22 - 1:10 dismissal
Dec 23-31 Winter Break – No School
Jan 3 - Professional Growth – No School
Jan 4 - Classes resume at normal time