

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 6

February, 2011

THE PRINCIPAL'S POSITION

Beginning on January 31st, buses that transport Brighton students will be using the pick-up lane after school. This affects bus #13-08, #7-10, and #5-10. Brighton students will board the bus in the pick-up lane rather than the front of the school. This change is being made in response to the number and age of students Stewart transports and safety concerns that have been expressed.

After Brighton buses arrive (or 3:30), parents will not be able to use the pick-up lane. Students will be brought to the main office to wait for parents to pick them up.

This is to avoid the possibility of students running between and around Brighton buses in the pick-up lane.

Pick-up lane students are dismissed at 3:15 each day. Usually most students have been picked up by 3:30. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to make Stewart a safe school.

Rhoda Harris, Principal

SAM I AM

How do I get the most out of parent-teacher conferences?

Be prepared to listen as well as to talk. It helps to write out questions before you leave home. Also jot down what you want to tell the teacher. Be prepared to take notes during the conference and ask for an explanation if you don't understand something.

In conferences, the teacher should offer specific details about your child's work and progress. If your child has already received some grades, ask how your child is being evaluated.

Talk about your child's talents, skills, hobbies, study habits and any special sensitivities such as concern about weight or speech difficulties.

Tell the teacher if you think your child needs special help and about any special family situation or event that might affect your child's ability to learn. Mention such things as a new baby, an illness or a recent or an upcoming move.

Ask about specific ways to help your child at home. Try to have an open mind.

At home, think about what the teacher has said and then follow up. If the teacher has told you that your child needs to improve in certain areas, check back in a few weeks to see how things are going.

Your partner in education,

Ryan Gratz

BREAKFAST AT STEWART

Please remember that breakfast will not be served after 8:05. If you are planning for your child to eat breakfast at school, it would be in your child's best interest to have him or her here between 7:45 and 8:00 in the morning. This would give your child ample time to eat his or her breakfast and get to class on time. Thank you with your help and understanding with this matter. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

TITLE TIDBITS



Monitoring and Fix-up Strategies

Good readers don't just read words; they read for meaning. When children read, they need to be aware of when meaning breaks down. Then they need some fix-up strategies to help them gain meaning.

Below are some fix-up tools to offer your children when reading is not making sense.

- Go back and reread. Sometimes that is enough.
- Read ahead to make sense of the meaning.
- Make predictions
- Figure out unknown words. Ask, "You've come to a word you don't know. What have you tried so far to figure it out?"
- Stop to think. Ask, "At what point did the story stop making sense for you?"
- Connect the reading to background knowledge
- Try to get a mental image
- Inspect pictures and other text features.
- Write about confusing parts
- Consciously think about the piece's message

Having conversations with your children as you read together will help them make sense of what you are reading. This will also reinforce the use of fix-up strategies that children need to use to make meaning as they read independently.



Patterns

Students work on a wide variety of pattern activities in our math program. These activities require students to recognize, describe, extend, and create patterns. Using concrete objects, students are finding and using patterns to solve problems in mathematics. Here are some pattern activities you may want to try at home.

1. Have your child look for patterns at home in wallpaper, floors, plants, clothing, and bedspreads. For example, the floor may be made of repeated squares. The repetition makes the pattern. Ask your child to describe the patterns he/she finds.

2. Play "I See a Pattern—Do You?" Find a pattern and then give clues about it, one clue at a time, until your child finds the pattern. For example:

I see a pattern. (A rug)
It has 8 triangles.
The triangles fit together in a rectangle shape.

I see a pattern. (A sunflower)
It has 5 yellow parts in a circle.
The center has many dots.

3. Household objects are great for making patterns. For example, lay out silverware in a pattern (spoon, fork, spoon, fork, spoon), and then ask your child to continue the pattern. Encourage your child to make original patterns using beans, toothpicks, buttons, or any other small objects.

Have fun exploring patterns together. – Title I Teachers

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A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

February is Dental Health Month. This is a great month to remind your family about good oral hygiene habits. Brushing two times each day, in the morning and before bed and regular flossing, are a very important part of keeping your mouth healthy. Children learn by example, so it is very important that your children see you practicing these same hygiene habits. Taking good care of your teeth and gums is a life long skill. Instilling this in your children at a young age will help them maintain good oral hygiene throughout their lives. Along with good brushing and flossing, you also need to avoid sugary treats. Choosing healthy snacks such as fresh fruits and vegetables is a great way to avoid tooth decay, and those costly trips to the dentist. It is also important to see your dentist every six months to prevent problems before they arise.

As of a couple of years ago, the state of Iowa has mandated that all incoming kindergarten and freshman students provide proof of a dental exam. If you are the parent of a kindergarten or freshman student, please check with your school nurse to make sure she has this on file for your child. Public Health will audit these records in the spring.

February may also be a great month to get new toothbrushes for the family. A toothbrush would be a great Valentine in place of sugary candy!

REMEMBER: ONLY BRUSH THE TEETH YOU WANT TO KEEP!

Shelly Hoffman RN - Stewart School Nurse

FEED YOUR BRAIN

Mark your calendars! Stewart Elementary will be hosting a food drive from February 14 – March 11. Bring any non-perishable items to your classroom. The theme of this event is "Feed Your Brain" and will highlight specific themed items each week.



- Feb. 14 – 17: Fruits and Veggies**
(canned, dehydrated or dried fruits and veggies)
Feb. 21 – 25: Paper Products
(diapers, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper)
Feb. 28 – Mar 4: Boxes
(cereal, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, pasta)
Mar 7 – Mar 11: Your Favorites
(powdered milk, pb and j, sauce, meats, etc)

The Stewart Office will also house a jar for spare change. Bring in any coins that you would like to donate to the cause.



Let's see if we can fill it!

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



My name is Cindy Gonterman. I have worked for the WCSD since 1999. I started in the kitchen at the Jr. High for one year was transferred to the High School kitchen for 3 years. Next, I worked at the High School in the Learning Center. I wanted to work more closely with the students. I enjoy interacting with all ages of children and wanted to do all I could to help them learn. I am so happy to have been transferred to Stewart this year and meet all the great kids here, as well as a wonderful caring staff. I now work in the Media Center and assist Ms. Schreur and help in the computer lab.

I have been married for 24 years to Dale, and we both brought 2 children to the marriage which we raised all 4 kids as one family. They all went to school here in Washington. They are adults now, so I am lucky to have 8 adult children and 6 very loving grandchildren. We live in the middle of 20 acres of timber that is very pretty come spring and fall.

My hobbies are spending time with my grandchildren. Koal, 13 in Ia City, Jazmine 9 (Stewart school), Jacob, 8 Ia City, Taylor, 2 ½, Caleb, 15 mos. and Kinley, 6 months, all from Washington. I also like to crochet, read and go fishing when it is warm. My husband and I have several very spoiled pets; 3 large horses (Perchons) and several outside cats, as well as one hunting dog, and one inside cat.

One of my most important passions is to find a cure for cancer. That is why I have been on the RELAY FOR LIFE PLANNING COMMITTEE for over 10 years.

I feel very lucky to have joined this wonderful staff and students here at Stewart and look forward to learning more every day from them as well as helping to teach them new things. Feel free to come see me either in the library or the computer lab any time.

What is Early ACCESS?

Have you ever had concerns about your child's development? Does your child have any existing health or medical conditions, including prematurity or life changing conditions such as foster care, drug or lead exposure?

Early ACCESS is a cooperative effort between Grantwood AEA, Public Health and DHS, for children birth-age 3 experiencing developmental delays, or with a qualifying condition. It is a service at no cost to you that evaluates your child's speech, hearing, play skills and general development. The teachers and therapists will show you things that you and your child can do throughout daily routines. A service coordinator assists families in finding community resources to meet their needs. All services can be provided at home, or wherever childcare is provided.

If you would like more information regarding Early ACCESS or you would like to refer your child to Early ACCESS, call 319-399-6746.