

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 24, Issue 3

December 2011

THE PRINCIPAL'S POSITION

Stewart School Communication Blog

<http://stewartelementary.posterous.com/>

* We are excited to announce a new way to communicate with parents, community members, and students! We have created a Stewart Elementary blog to share newsletters, pictures, videos, and the most up to date information.

*You can access the blog through the link:

<http://stewartelementary.posterous.com/>

*Or, go to www.washington.k12.ia.us →click on the "Schools" tab at the top of the page → select "Stewart Elementary School" → click on the orange heading "Stewart School Communication Blog" located in the middle of the page.

Adam Miller

Stewart Elementary Principal

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

My name is Kolin Ross. I was born and raised in Washington. I attended Stewart elementary when I was little. I graduated from WHS in 2005 and continued my education attending UNI and graduated in December of 2009. I now teach 2nd grade. I live in Washington. My hobbies are hunting, fishing, spending time with family and friends, drag racing, and fixing things. I do not have any pets, and have never had any. I am the oldest in my family. My brother Alex is 23 and goes to ISU for Mechanical Engineering. My youngest brother is 16 and is a sophomore at WHS. My parents own and operate Ross Auto in Washington. In the past summers, I have worked for my dad at the shop.

SIEVERS' SAYINGS

It is hard for me to believe we are already in the month of December. I have really enjoyed my time with the students and staff at Stewart Elementary so far this year. Getting to be a part of the students' days has been extremely rewarding. Whether it is through guidance lessons with Jean Knowles, greeting them at the front door every morning, or assisting them during a behavior incident, each day has been special in its own way.

We have now completed three of our character assemblies that have focused on trustworthiness, respect, and most recently, responsibility. We have also seen some improvement in overall behavior since we have started using our new "character ticket" system. All of the staff in the school carries blue and white tickets to give to students who are showing positive character traits, such as being kind, trustworthy, and responsible. These are very similar to our character cards that have been used in the past.

The blue tickets are given if the whole class is doing something well, such as lining up quietly, being respectful in the lunchroom, or following directions. The white tickets are given to individual students when they are seen exemplifying positive character, such as walking quietly down the hall, helping someone at recess, or lining up quietly and being ready to go in when the bell rings. We have a goal of getting 600 blue tickets by Winter break, and we are well on our way to achieving that goal and having a school-wide party. Classroom teachers get to decide how they will reward students who earn white tickets.

As always, my number one goal at Stewart is to make sure every student is safe. If you ever have a concern or question about your child and their behavior or safety, please do not hesitate to call me or email me. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Kelsey Sievers

Behavior Interventionist



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POP CAN CHRISTMAS

In 2nd grade, we are obviously concerned with academics but we are also concerned with developing good character and helping others. We are going to have the opportunity to experience both with a special project.

As this Christmas season is fast



approaching, we are going to have a "Pop Can Christmas" in Mrs. Hippen's classroom. Because of this, we need your help. We are going to be adopting one or more children this Christmas that might not have presents without our help. I will be finding children in Washington County in need of gifts.

We will be collecting pop cans/bottles from now until Friday, December 16. On Tuesday, December 20 we will be going as a class to Wal-Mart in Washington to purchase gifts.

I am asking that all the cans (or plastic bottles/two liter bottles) be rinsed and drained before sending them to school with your child. Also, no beer cans please. If your family has too many cans to send to school, sending a cash donation may be an option for you. In past years, some of the kids have put signs up at parent's work places announcing the project and informed neighbors, grandparents, and friends of the project. Many people are very willing to donate cans and/or money!



If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call. Thank you so much for your time, support, and cooperation!

*****You can start bringing pop cans/bottles any time! Either bring your cans to Mrs. Hippen's room or simply have your child drop them off in the office, and the office will see to it that they get to us!

Thanks, again!
Mrs. Hippen's Class

A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

The holidays will soon be upon us!!!! Along with sharing stories, food and gifts, we will also be sharing germs!!!! When we travel for the holidays we usually get together with family members from different parts of the state or even different parts of the country!! Everyone brings their own host of illnesses from the community they reside in. Therefore, after the holidays we may see more illness in our own families.

What can you do to prevent you and your family from getting ill this holiday season???? There are no guarantees that you won't pick up a virus during your travels, but here are a few things you can do to keep you and your family healthy.

1. Get plenty of rest- 8 to 10 hours of sleep is best.
2. Maintain a healthy diet.
3. Get regular exercise.
4. Practice extra good hand washing.
5. Cover your coughs and sneezes.
6. Stay home if you are running a fever.
7. Get all members of your family a flu shot.
8. Drink lots of water.
9. Wear your seat belts while traveling!!!! (I thought I would just throw that in there).

I hope you all have wonderful holidays with your families and create memories that will last a lifetime!!!! Happy holidays to you and yours! -Shelly Hoffman, Nurse

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

December 12 - Booster Meeting 5:30
December 14 - 1:10 Dismissal; Professional Growth
December 22 - Holiday Parties/ 2:20 Dismissal
December 23 - 30 - No School; Winter Break

January

January 2 - No School; Winter Break
January 3 - Classes Resume