



Cornell Elementary School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

March 2016 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Cornell Elementary

MARCH 10

- PTO Raffle Ticket Sales Begin
- Jump Rope for Heart Assembly, 2:40 PM

MARCH 11

No School; Spring Break Begins

MARCH 14-18

No School; Spring Break

MARCH 22

PTO / Smokey D's Night, 5 - 9 PM

MARCH 23

- Grading For Growth Parent Meetings, 5:30 PM & 6:30 PM
- PTO Raffle Ticket Sales Due

MARCH 29

- PERL Forum, 5 PM at Saydel District Office
- Cornell Fluency Night, 6 PM

APRIL 1

First Grade to Iowa State Center

APRIL 2

Cornell PTO Carnival, 4:30 PM

APRIL 12

PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM

APRIL 21

Sheltered Reality Assembly, 2:10 PM

School Hours

CORNELL ELEMENTARY

8:35 AM - 3:30 PM

Wed.: 9:35 AM - 3:30 PM

NOTE: Each Wednesday school begins one hour later for teacher in-service.

MISSION: Serving the Unique Learning Needs of Each & Every Student

Principal's Message

Happy Spring from Cornell Elementary!

I don't know about all of you, but for me the sound of that first robin singing in the morning is a game changer! I know that warmer weather is just around the corner, and the "dog days of winter" are about over.

For my family it re-opens the door to getting outside and being active away from all of the screens and technology that have become a major distraction in my girls' lives. Don't get me wrong, I find value in some of what they are doing, but it dawned on me a couple of weekends ago that I let my daughter spend over five hours of her day staring at some sort of screen. That was alarming to me!

I can't believe that I am alone in feeling guilty when I have allowed my kids to spend the better part of day in front of a screen instead of getting them actively engaged in something that does not involve electronics. I have spent some time reflecting on what as their parent I can do better to promote more engaging activities that do not require the use of electricity. This was a bit scary to me if I am being completely honest, because I quickly realized that it would take more effort on my part to help rid them of something that has become a habit and dare I say an addiction.

Well, my time has come, and I have decided to take a stand and set some limits. As I sit and type this to you, I am just a few days into these new limits and things have been a struggle, but I am sticking to it. Here is what I am doing (no science here, just trial and error):

1. **Be Fearless** -- I have decided that as the parent I am setting the boundaries for when tech time can and can't happen. I have set a specific allotted amount of time each day that the girls can have their screen time. I have chosen to start with 45 minutes in the AM and 45 minutes in the PM. Now I have to hold them to it and track this time. If they go over or argue about time I have to either shut down the wi-fi or take the device away (sometimes easier said than done).
2. **Provide Options** -- Since the girls are not always sure what to do with this "new found free time" I am making sure to provide options



Principal Brian Vaughan

Continued on page 2...

Complete both Lucky Green St. Patrick's Activities on page 5 of the newsletter with your child. Have them return it anytime during lunch before March 21st to enter into a BOGO movie ticket drawing. Two lucky winners will be chosen!

Saydel Athletic Booster Memberships

Special thanks to the following businesses and individuals who support the Saydel Athletic Boosters through membership.

BUSINESS PLATINUM EAGLE

Chemorse
Rasmussen Group
Walker Construction & Painting
Goode Greenhouses
Power Systems
All Iowa Products
Rising Star Wholesale
Jason's Lawn & Tree Care
Karl Chevrolet
A+ Flat Top Concrete Business
Tesdell Electric
Wee's Tee's

BUSINESS GOLD EAGLE

Iowa State Bank
Capital City Equipment
Affinity Credit Union

BUSINESS SILVER EAGLE

Baker Group
Casey's General Store
Telesupport, Inc.
Hy-Vee Ankeny Prairie Trail

INDIVIDUAL GOLD EAGLE

Doug & Lisa Wheeler
Kevin & Kelly Schulte
Brett Hersom
Randy & Joleen Stephenson
Rob & Shelli Stephenson
R.C. Madison
Dorothy Walter
Brian & Lori Bowman

INDIVIDUAL SILVER EAGLE

Zeke & Colette Philipsen
Judy Gustafson

STAFF DUAL ATHLETIC & MUSIC MEMBERS

Penny Smith
Dia Fenton
Sherry Keegan-Bayeur
Cheri Tingley
Eric Layden
Shawn Pavlik
Joshua Heyer
Linda Reid
Melissa Sensor
Amanda Stone
Jerry Young
Jenni McKee
Dave Braman
Adam Busch
Michael Puffett

Principal's Letter continued from page 1...

as to what they can do while not being entertained by video. I am trying to make it things that can be done with mom or I, grandparents, pets, friends, each other, or on their own.

- 3. Turning it off time** -- I have set the last hour before bed as a "no tech" time. I want my girls' brains to start resting and preparing for a good nights sleep. It is harder for them to fall asleep if they are shutting off their device and then trying to get to sleep than it is for their brains to have time to rest prior to going to sleep.
- 4. Don't Engage** -- It never fails that when I ask the girls to get off of their device it turns into an argument or negotiation. I often hear "just five more minutes." I have started to be firm with my directions and I am no longer engaging in negotiations or arguments about when it is time to be done. They need to know that when it is time then it is time, but I am not going to turn things into an argument (see Be Fearless).
- 5. Role Model** -- My girls are not afraid to let people know that they feel like "dad is always working." That is because they see me tied to email, text messaging, social media, and screen time to get work completed. Guilty as charged. I have decided to set new boundaries for myself when I am working and when I am engaged with my family (that is why it is 5:30 am and I am writing this). As the parent I need to be the role model; therefore, I am trying to be present with them and remove those very same distractions from myself when I am with them.

So there you have it, my plan of action to help get my girls moving their bodies just as much as their minds. I hope that through both my parenting experiences and role as principal of this great school you are able to make connections or learn something new that is of value to you each month. It is always fun to have conversations with many of you that are going through the very same things as I am.

Thank you to all of you for your trust and support that you provide to our great school every single day. Our partnership in educating our students go hand in hand. I hope that you have a great Spring Break (March 11-18) and month ahead!

Go Eagles! ~ BE AWESOME TODAY!

Grading Is Changing at Saydel Community School District

Please attend **ONE** of the
Parent Information Sessions

March 23, 2016

5:30 pm OR 6:30 pm

at Saydel High School Auditorium



www.saydel.k12.ia.us



Saydel is striving for
100% parent participation.

These sessions will review the same material that was covered in the February meetings.

Please sign in when you arrive.

March “Happi”ness In P.E.!

By Melissa Cogdill, PE Teacher

WOW! I am so proud of the effort of all my Cornell students. We just finished up jumping our way to a healthy heart in P.E. During Jump Rope for Heart, Cornell students met our goal and raised more than \$5,000 for the American Heart Association. That means we saved 108 lives! Way to go!

We also will have a FUN assembly March 10 and some special friends will get to silly string me for their efforts along with some aerobic jumping activities such as tinkling, using the hop-its and using jump ropes!

Third and fourth graders continue to work on aerobic activity, demonstrating throwing and catching skills, and using their core muscles to improve muscular strength and endurance. Kindergarten, first and second graders continue to exercise to a “healthy heart” in P.E. Our focus is on cooperative play, which emphasizes positive social skills and teamwork.



SAVE THE DATE: May 26 is the fourth grade Track and Field Day at the High School Track. Rain date will be May 27. May 31 will be the kindergarten - third grade Field Day at Cornell Elementary.k



Cornell Students Are Busy In Music!

By Jeffrey Johannsen, Music Teacher

Things are moving along well in music this time of year. The kindergarten classes just finished up their informance for their parents. Rather than a typical concert, they demonstrated the skills they were acquiring in music through activities and songs. The kindergarten students particularly enjoyed involving their parents in the night and having them join in songs and activities.

The third and fourth grade classes are putting all their knowledge to the test and beginning to work on creating their own songs. They will do this by creating their own melody, rhythms, time signature and dynamics. At the completion of their project they will get to share their creation with their class.



Saydel Pre-school News

By The Pre-school Team

Preschool students have been busy with studying buildings over the last couple weeks. Students have been learning about different sizes of buildings and what tools are needed to build buildings. The *Three Little Pigs*, *The Napping House*, and *Changes, Changes* were very popular books amongst the students during the study. Students in our three-year-old program are busy practicing the letters in their names and recognizing numbers 1-5. Our four-year-olds are focusing on letter sounds and rhyming. Just a friendly reminder that students who consistently come to preschool, grow both academically and socially. These are two important skills to have going into kindergarten!

Kindergarteners Prepare For First Grade!

By The Kindergarten Team

Where has the time gone? Can you believe we are so far into the school year? The weather has been a bit crazy this year with high and low temperatures. Please make sure your students are dressed appropriately for outdoor play.

The kindergarteners have been working hard on sight word recognition and becoming readers. Ask your student about the seven continents and all of the information they have learned about each one. They have enjoyed getting to know about different people and places throughout our world. As we continue to get ready for first grade it is our hope that you are continuing to read nightly and practice words with your student.

Be sure to enjoy your time with your family over break and hopefully some warmer weather too.

First Graders Work On Addition & Subtraction Strategies

By The First Grad Team

First graders have been working on addition/subtraction strategies and practicing those skills through a variety of games. Some of the games we have been playing are dot and number dice games, addition/subtraction bingo, tens go fish, and other card games to improve our fluency. We have been working on fluency in reading as well using a rubric. It focuses on automaticity, phrasing and expression. After scoring themselves, students have made a goal and a plan to improve this area. We read with fourth grade students to practice and received feedback.



Second Graders Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday

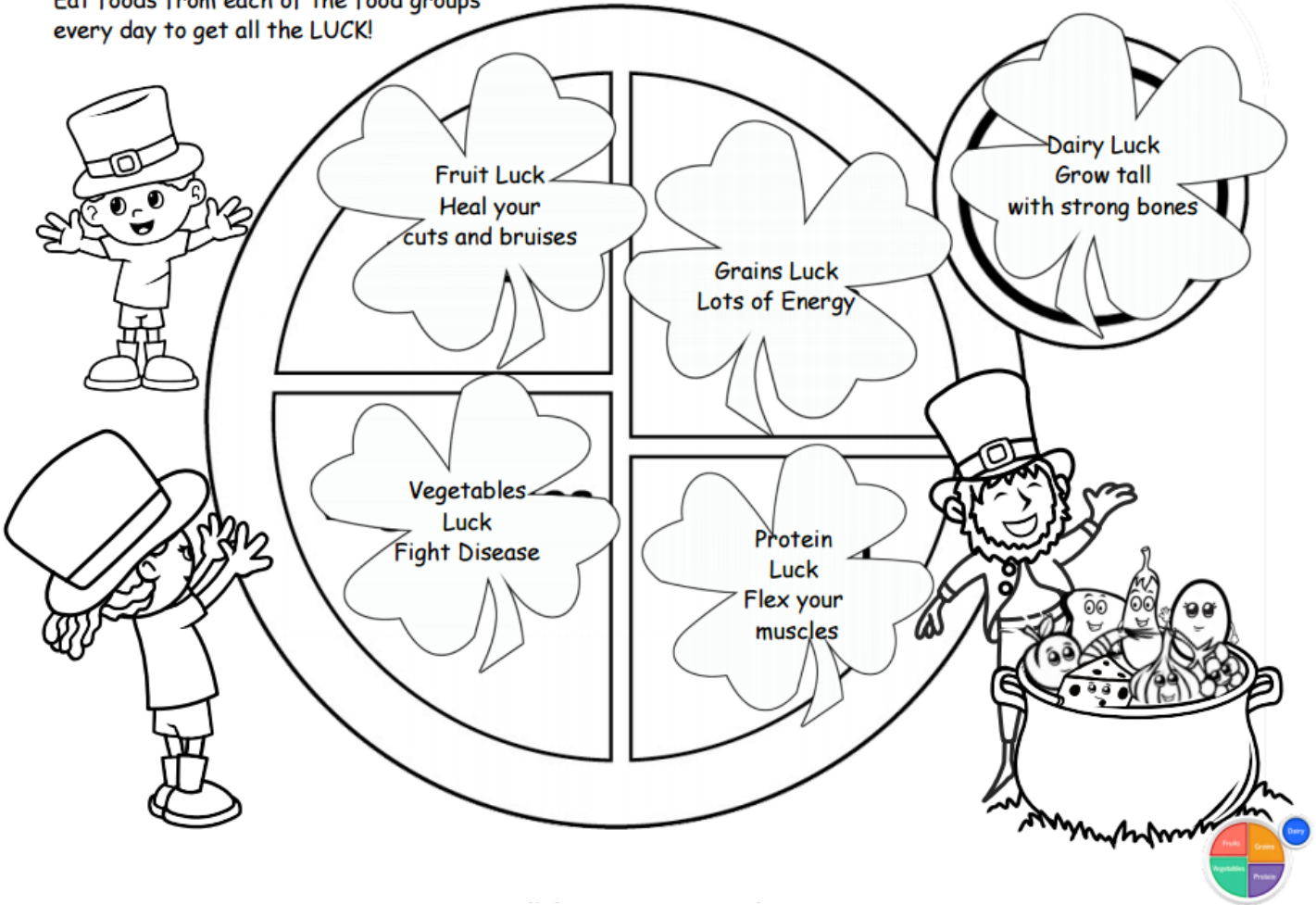
By The Second Grade Team



Second grade celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday during Read Across America Week! Students and staff dressed up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. They spent the afternoon doing a variety of Dr. Seuss activities including creating Oobleck, graphing *One Fish, Two Fish* goldfish, making a silly *Wocket In My Pocket* book, and a hat for *Cat In The Hat*. The week was filled with reading many Dr. Seuss books including a special visit from high school students to read with the second graders!

Lucky Green St. Patrick's Activities

Do you have the Luck of the My Plate?
 Eat foods from each of the food groups
 every day to get all the LUCK!



Are you eating the lucky color green? Unscramble and color some of the best green foods!



iccoblro



hicuzeni



ccubumre



acinshp

Foodservice Office:

Visit www.saydel.k12.ia.us for menus and more information

Email: sadlerjessy@saydel.net

Phone: 515.264.0866

Fax: 515.264.0869

Follow us on Twitter: @saydeldining

Build a Healthy Lunch



Third Graders Are Working Hard To Be Fluent Readers

By The Third Grade Team

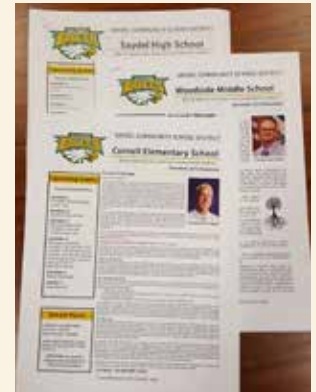
Our students have been working hard to be fluent readers. They have been learning to evaluate their own reading by using the iPads and listening to themselves read.

As you listen to your child read at home, listen to see if they are smooth, quick, and accurate with their words. Also, are they reading with expression to show what the characters in the story are feeling? Being a fluent reader equals greater comprehension.

Subscribe To All Of Saydel's Newsletters

Thanks for reading the Cornell newsletter.

If you would like to receive the monthly newsletters that feature what is happening at Woodside Middle School & Saydel High School, you can subscribe by emailing newsletter@saydel.net.



Guidance Focuses On Kindness & Empathy

By Courtney Anderson, Guidance Counselor

The Guidance focus in February has been on kindness and empathy. In the beginning of the month, all students talked about how they could be kind and caring to others. The students really enjoyed talking about how to be bucket fillers instead of bucket dippers. It is fun to still hear students saying how people are filling up their buckets with kind words and acts.

All of the students also talked about how they could show empathy to others by pretending to stand in other people's shoes and think about how others are feeling. Students made shoes to help remind them of empathy. We also practiced showing empathy in various situations.

During the month of March, students will be working on teamwork and group skills.

Fourth Grade Classes Participate In Oil Spill Simulation



By The Fourth Grade Team

This month our fourth grade classes were all able to participate in a simulation of an oil spill. Once the oil spill simulation was made, students were challenged to find the best way to clean up the spill. By working together they were able to discuss and determine which method of clean up worked the best and provide reasoning for why they picked that method.

The simulation was concluded by discussing how the oil spill simulation was similar to a real oil spill, how oil spills affect the environment, and how oil spill clean up teams and animal rescuers work hard to minimize the effects.

Students are finishing the unit by transferring their knowledge about oil spills by writing letters to thank oil spill rescuers for the important job they do.



VOTER INFORMATION

Saydel Community School District

Please Vote in the April 5 Special Election on the Public Education & Recreation Levy (PERL)

This information is not intended to advocate for or against PERL. The intention of this communication is to inform you of the facts related to the election.

What is PERL?

Revenues from the Public Education & Recreation Levy (PERL) are used to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds in the public school buildings and grounds of the district. The PERL revenues are also used to provide public educational and recreational activities within the district boundaries and for community education as defined in Iowa Code. The levy provides \$0.135 per \$1,000 to support public education and recreation opportunities in the Saydel School District. If approved, the tax would take effect for the 2016-2017 school year. There are 23 districts in Iowa that currently levy for PERL.



Why has the public requested a vote for PERL?

Saydel resides in an unincorporated area of Polk County. While we have strong established communities, these communities do not have the incorporated local government of neighboring districts. There is no public entity to support public recreation for younger youth and adult educational opportunities for the general public. While Saydel has a strong and successful history of youth athletic programs, the scope of these programs is limited by available volunteer coordination and funding. In addition, there are no opportunities for the general public to fully utilize our school facilities for recreation and learning.

If approved, PERL will generate approximately \$95,000 per year (based on yearly valuation) to support:

- Creation, organization and staffing of a community education program.
- Funding to support facility and resource enhancements to areas utilized by the general public for non-school related activities.

By creating a Community Education Program, we intend to:

- Increase access and availability of athletic, fine arts and club programs for K-6 students outside of the school day and year.
- Increase availability for facility use and community learning opportunities for the general public, including creating adult education courses and community engagement opportunities.
- Complement and enhance opportunities for 7-12 students for community engagement and activities.

PERL Forum

An Informational Forum about PERL will be held Tuesday, March 29 from 5:00 - 5:45 PM in the District Office Board Room.

PERL Ballot Language

SHALL THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEASURE BE ADOPTED?

PROPOSITION ____

YES

NO



Shall the Board of Directors of the Saydel Community School District in the County of Polk, State of Iowa, be authorized to levy a tax upon all the taxable property within the School District of not to exceed thirteen and one-half cents (\$13½¢) per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of the taxable property within the School District for public educational and recreational activities and community education purposes?

[END BALLOT LANGUAGE]

What is the estimated tax impact on \$100,000 home?

The estimated tax impact on a \$100,000 home is \$6.85 after residential rollback.

Why not just start community education programs without assessing the tax?

PERL will give us the funding to create a self-sustaining community education program. Currently, these programs are coordinated by volunteers and exist outside of the Saydel Community School District. Because of this status, the Saydel Schools cannot fully assist in the promotion, organization or operation of these programs. The largest share of any community or private organization is staffing costs. Having paid staff to coordinate volunteers, arrange events and assist in promotion and communication will be essential in increasing opportunities. Community education offerings will have a fee structure, but this fee structure will not be affordable if it must also cover staffing costs. This money can also be used for upgrades of property owned by the school district, but primarily dedicated to public use. Examples include the Woodside baseball fields, Cornell field, and connector trail between schools.

"Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students"

www.saydel.k12.ia.us

It is the policy of the Saydel Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services, 5740 NE 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50313; mckibbenjulie@saydel.net. Office for Civil Rights, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.

Art Center Exhibits Saydel Student Works

By Jessica Calhoun, Art Teacher

An exciting highlight from the Art Room this past month was the opening of our district art show at the Ankeny Art Center! This show displayed selected works from the high school, middle school, and elementary! The opening reception was a great turn out, a big thank you to everyone that was able to attend. If you weren't able to attend the opening, the show will remain through March 9!



Plans Underway For Cornell PTO Carnival

By Amanda Stone, Cornell PTO Vice President

Your Cornell PTO has been working hard behind the scenes. During conferences, the Scholastic Book Fair was held in the library. The PTO offered to match whatever the library makes in Scholastic funds (up to \$2,000) to purchase more books – what a great way to doubly help your library!

Carnival Coordinator Monique Nuzum has been working on getting the Annual Cornell Carnival ready to go. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 2 from 4:30 - 7pm. There are a variety of games planned throughout the school. Maps will be available.

In the cafeteria, we will be selling bottled water, pop and popcorn and you can find the raffle prizes on display.

Our Raffle Coordinator Heather Coe has been busy securing donations for the raffle from some amazing people and companies! This is a fun family event that you won't want to miss! Raffle ticket sales will start soon, and you can always purchase raffle tickets the day of the carnival. Top sellers per grade level will receive a \$50 Visa gift card from PTO. It's a great incentive for the students to get excited about selling tickets!

Keep checking your children's backpacks for information about ways to donate items and volunteer your time – it takes a village to have a successful carnival!

We have a few open PTO Board positions for the upcoming school year. We are looking for parents wanting to be involved and continue to help our PTO grow and be successful.

The positions are as follows with a short description of duties:

- **Vice President** – Take over for President when they are unable – run meetings, communicate with other members, etc. Responsible for updating the Cornell PTO Face Book page and responsible for writing an article to be included in the Cornell Newsletter.



- **Volunteer Coordinator** – Responsible for organizing lists of parent volunteers and clearly communicating with them about homeroom parent/classroom volunteers, parties, and other volunteer opportunities that come up throughout the school year.
- **Box Tops Coordinator** – Responsible for counting, organizing and mailing in Box Tops.
- **Carnival Coordinator Shadow** – This person would work with Monique Nuzum next year (16/17) and then take over in the 17/18 school year. Responsible for preparing for the carnival – purchasing prizes, preparing games, recruiting volunteers, etc.
- **Fundraiser Coordinator** – Responsible for organizing the Fall and Spring fundraisers.
- **Community Coordinator** – Responsible for organizing community fundraising events, such as Wendy's Nights, Smokey D's Nights, etc.

If you are interested in any of the positions or want to find out more information, feel free to email me at stonesfullhouse@gmail.com and/or come to our next meeting on April 12 when we will be voting, and we can add your name to the ballot.

In early April you should receive information about purchasing items with your child's artwork on them from Square 1 Art!

And remember....keep clipping your Box Tops. Every single one counts!

Other upcoming dates to remember: Smokey D's Community Night with PTO will be Tuesday, March 22 from 5 to 9 pm. And mark your calendar for our last PTO meeting of the school year – Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30 pm.

2016 Cornell PTO Carnival Raffle Prizes

Below you will see the different categories for the Carnival Raffle Prizes. When you purchase raffle tickets, you can select which category that you want your raffle tickets entered into. All prizes are drawn at the Carnival. You do not need to be present to win, but you do need to pick up your prize before April 30, 2016. Cornell students are selling advance tickets. You can also buy tickets at the Carnival in the cafeteria.

DINING OUT

Ankeny Diner – 2 Dinners & 2 Beverages
Applebee's – Dinner for 2
Buffalo Wild Wings – Snack Pack Wings
Cafe Diem - \$10 Gift Card
Jethro's BBQ & Lakehouse – \$25 Gift Card
Kentucky Fried Chicken – (2) 2 pc Meal Gift Card
Montana Mike's Steakhouse – (2) \$25 Gift Cards
Politos LaPizza House – \$25 Gift Card
Scornovacca's Pizza – Large Pizza Gift Card
Starbuck's – 1 lb Coffee & Mug

GENERAL

Central Iowa Pool & Spa – Cue Stick with Case
Edible Arrangements – \$25 Gift Card
Family Christian Store – 2 Books
Goode's Greenhouse – (2) \$25 Gift Cards
Martinizing Dry Cleaning – (2) \$10 Gift Card
Therapeutic Massage Center – 30-Minute Massage
Strawberry Patch – Iowa & ISU Shirts
Windsor Vacuum – Vacuum (\$250 value)

ENTERTAINMENT

Ankeny Community Theatre – 2 Play Passes
Big Dog Billiards – Gift Cards for 2 Hours of Pool Play
Blank Park Zoo – Family 4 pack
Omaha Zoo – 4 General Admission Tickets
Premier Bowling – Bowling Party for 6
SkyZone – (4) 30-Minute Passes (\$40 value)
Staples – iHome Speaker
Staples – Travel Speakers with Case

FOR HER

Brown Shoe Fit Company – \$25 Gift Card
Dave's Jewelry – \$35 Gift Card
Kenmore Sewing Machine – \$100 value
Maurices – \$20 Gift Cards
Medicap Pharmacy – Basket of Tea (\$25 value)
ThirtyOne Gifts (Melissa Tegatz) – ThirtyOne Gift

FOR HIM

Big O Tire – Tire Rotation (\$20 value)
Brown Shoe Fit Company – \$25 Gift Card
DeeZee – Truck Toolbox
DeeZee – Wall Clock
McCannic's Garage – 1-Year Free Oil Changes
Red Wing Shoe Store – \$100 Gift Card
SportsClips – (12) Gift Card for Free Haircuts (\$16 value each)
Ted's Body Shop – Car Detailing (interior, exterior & engine degreasing \$265 value)

KIDS

Brown Shoe Fit Company – \$25 Gift Card
Capital City Equipment Company – (3) Bobcat Toys (\$35 value each)
Family Christian Store – DVD & Journals
Saydel Boosters – Saydel Gear
SkyZone – (4) 30-Minute Passes (\$40 value)
Valley West Mall – Backpack With Coupons (\$30 value)

PRIZES TO BE INDIVIDUALLY RAFFLED:

Please Note: The tickets display a 10-speed Bike; however, this is actually a Mountain Bike.

- Bike 24" Girls Roadmaster Mountain Bike
- Springer Professional Home Services – Whole House Carpet Cleaning (\$265 value)
- Cornell PTO – Quilt

Special thanks to all the businesses that donated prizes for the PTO Raffle. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Iowa Public TV's Peg & Cat Visit Cornell



The Cornell Library recently hosted two special visitors who were characters from Iowa Public Television. Stacie Stevenson brought Peg and Cat to visit with our pre-school, kindergarten and first grade students. After listening to two delightful stories about Peg and Cat, the students were given the opportunity to greet Peg and Cat with hugs and high fives. A special thank you to our middle school students, Katherine Tylavsky and Gabriella Neddermeyer who helped us by dressing as Peg and Cat.



SAYDEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Jennifer Van Houten, Vice-President
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Doug Kayser, Board of Director
Roland Kouski, Jr., Board of Director

Superintendent: Mr. Douglas Wheeler
 Board Secretary: Beth Vitiritto



School Board meetings are held at the Saydel District Office on the second Monday of each month at 6 PM

EDUCATION FOR
LEADERSHIP;
LEARNING FOR LIFE

Cornell Elementary School
 5817 NE 3rd Street
 Des Moines, IA 50313
 515-244-8173 FAX 244-0084

We're on the Web:
www.saydel.k12.ia.us

It is the policy of the Saydel Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination.

If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's **Equity Coordinator, Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services, 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313; mckibbenjulie@saydel.net.** Office for Civil Rights, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.