



Cornell Elementary School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

May 2016 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Cornell Elementary

MAY 16

3rd & 4th Grade Concert at Saydel High School, 7 PM

MAY 23

Last day of Pre-school

MAY 24

Pre-school Celebration, 3 Year Olds, 10 AM & 4 Year Olds, 2:15 PM

MAY 25-27

2nd Grade Fairy Tale Plays. Times vary by classroom teacher.

MAY 26 (Rain date May 27)

4th Grade Field Day at High School

MAY 31 (Rain date June 1)

K-1st Grade Field Day, 9:10 AM
2nd-3rd Field Day, 1:15 PM

JUNE 1

Last day of school



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

Greetings from Cornell Elementary!

As many of you know, learning never stops for our students and staff at Cornell. We take great pride in trying to make learning relevant and fun every day for our kids.

This approach to teaching and learning is no different in our preschool rooms. Preschool at Cornell is a vital step for our students in helping to prepare them for even greater success as they enter into their primary school years and beyond. In my first year I have talked with numerous families that have sent their children through our program and will attest that their children were so much more prepared for kindergarten after attending our preschool.



Principal Brian Vaughan

Research will tell you that the brain never grows and develops more rapidly and dramatically than in the first three years of life. It is at this time in life that we want to begin exposing them to those important learning experiences of interacting with adults and other children to continue to grow and develop that brain growth. For those that are not familiar with what our three and four year olds do on a daily basis in our preschool program let me share a bit with you about our program.

Cornell Preschool uses The Creative Curriculum for Preschool which is based on five fundamental principles. These five principles are:

- Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.
- Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning.
- The physical environment affects the type of quality of learning interactions.
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning.

These five principles are used throughout the day as teachers guide student learning in child development. Child development is divided into the following four areas: social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.

It is because of the above stated that our district is making an effort to continue to grow our preschool program to be the premiere early childhood program not only in the area but within our state. In just a few short weeks we will begin the process of building an outdoor classroom area that takes learning and exploration of our students to a new level. We know that physical exercise and fresh air are important for young children's health and well-being.

Continued on page 2...

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
Teddell 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...

With the addition of the outdoor classroom preschool students will be able to use their bodies in increasingly skillful ways including running, jumping, hopping, climbing, pedaling, and balancing. We are excited to extend our students' learning to the outdoor classroom where teachers can encourage them to explore and nurture their appreciation for the natural environment.

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.

Go Eagles! ~ BE AWESOME TODAY!

Keep on Reading!

It's hard to believe that summer is almost here. We have enjoyed sharing our love of books and reading to your students this past school year. The Des Moines Public Library visited with the students last week to share their summer reading program. Remember, summer is a great time to read with your students.



Our last of week of book checkouts was May 2 - 4. Please make sure your student has turned in his/her library books. We will be handing out overdue notices for students. Please remember if a book cannot be found it is your responsibility to pay for it to be replaced.

Happy Reading!
Cornell Library



Nurse's Notes

By Dianne Breitbarth, School Nurse

Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped in the nurse's office and for all the donated clothes this past year! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The nurse's office can always use tops and adjustable waist pants/shorts, sizes 6-12.

Prepare now for the 2016-2017 school. Please schedule doctor/dentist/eye specialist exams now for summer appointments.

Requirements for students entering these grades are:

1. Immunizations – Preschool & Kindergarten
2. Physical report – Preschool & Kindergarten
3. Lead screening – Kindergarten
4. Dental certificate – Kindergarten
5. Vision screening – Kindergarten & 3rd grade

All documentation is needed to begin the first day of school.

Please be sure to complete the health information when registering on-line next fall. The nurse can be reached by email during summer break at breitbarthdianne@saydel.net.

News from Cornell PTO

By Amanda Stone, PTO Vice-President

We are at the time when PTO is less busy while spring sports and activities are starting up, but we are still brainstorming and thinking of new ideas for next year.

On May 25, Ginny Mitchell (PTO President) and myself (PTO VP) will be presenting the Cornell PTO scholarship to a deserving senior at the senior awards night. We had 10 applicants this year which is up from six last year. There was a group of nine who read all the essays and chose their favorite – it was very hard to pick just one! After they picked their favorite, I let them know who the lucky recipient was – names are not known until after they've chosen the winner.

The carnival was another success. Thank you to Monique Nuzum for organizing the carnival and Heather Coe for organizing the raffle! We are also very thankful for all the volunteers who spent their Saturday making the carnival memorable!

We still have an opening for an individual(s) to become a Carnival Coordinator Shadow and work with Monique next year to learn the ropes. Then you will take over the subsequent year. Feel free to email Amanda at stonesfullhouse@gmail.com if you are interested.

Please welcome Gary Christensen as your new PTO VP. I am "retiring" after eight years with the Cornell PTO and serving as a PTO Board member for six of those years. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching all our students grow over the years and meeting all the wonderful staff at Cornell. As my children have grown, I find that it's time to branch out into other volunteering opportunities! You'll still see me around!

Keep clipping Box Tops over the summer! Enjoy the rest of the school year and have a wonderful summer break! We will see you in September!

SPRINGing Into P.E.!

By Melissa Cogdill, PE Teacher

WOW! Where has the year gone? First and foremost, thank you to all parents and guardians for sharing your students with me this year! I have learned so much from them, and I hope they have taken away a love of movement and physical activity from me. Each and every child has touched my heart in a way that I will never forget.

Kindergarten and first grade friends continue to focus and review the basics of spatial awareness, throwing and catching. We took an adventure outside and used the scoops to work on catching and throwing, while working on math facts. It was so much fun!



Second, third and fourth graders are having fun gearing up for some outdoor activities such as T-ball, kickball, ultimate Frisbee, and chasing and fleeing activities. We have focused all year on cooperation and team building skills, and it has shown. I have seen so much growth and improvement, and they will continue to SOAR all the way into summer.

Just a reminder that 4th grade field day is May 26 at 9 AM at the Saydel High School Track. K-3 field day will be May 31 at Cornell Elementary. K-1 will begin in the morning and 2-3 graders will begin in the afternoon.

It's Been A Great Year of Making Music!

By Jeffrey Johannsen, Music Teacher

What a great year we have had in music! To close out the year the third and fourth grade students are having their concert on May 16 in the high school auditorium at 7 PM. The first and second grade classes are beginning to create with all the concepts they have learned through the year. And kindergarten is wrapping up their unit on beat and rhythm. It's been a jam-packed year full of singing, music making and fun!





CELEBRATING EARTH DAY! *Cornell Elementary Girl Scouts earned their Earth Day Badges by cleaning up the school grounds.*

First Graders Celebrate Growth

By The First Grade Team

Our first graders are just amazed that we have only a short time left before they're second graders! When we think back to all the learning that we've done since August, we can celebrate with pride and a sense of accomplishment!

Cornell's PBIS system has been in place now for a month, and our students have really begun to take responsibility for SOARing (being safe, open-minded, accountable, and respectful). They have earned many class parties as well as a school-wide celebration at the end of April. We will continue to sharpen our academic and behavioral skills throughout the rest of this school year.

Our first graders are also looking forward to our class field trip to Living History Farms in May, as well as school field day. We hope that you and your child will continue to read during the summer and spend time making family memories.

Third Grade Students Learn About Bugs

By The Third Grade Team

Third grade has been busy with our bug unit. We have been looking at bugs and identifying different invertebrates. We were able to go outside and collect some bugs for observations.



In math, we have been learning about $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ in fractions. Our students have learned how to divide the fractions into parts and groups. This has been a fantastic year, and we have enjoyed watching our students grow in so many ways.

Thank you to our families for all their support this year.

Cornell PTO Carnival Raffle Prize Donors

Thank you to these businesses for your support! Your generosity is much appreciated!

Ankeny Community Theatre

Ankeny Diner

Angela & Henry Wood

Applebee's

Big Dog Billiards

Big O Tire

Brown Shoe Fit Company

Blank Park Zoo

Buffalo Wild Wings

Cafe Diem

Capital City Equipment Company

Central Iowa Pool & Spa

Dave's Jewelry

DeeZee

Edible Arrangements

Family Christian Store

Goode Greenhouses

Jethro's BBQ & Lakehouse

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Martinizing Dry Cleaning

Maurices

McCannic's Garage

Medicap Pharmacy

Montana Mike's Steakhouse

Omaha Zoo

Politos LaPizza House

Premier Bowling

Red Wing Shoe Store

Saydel Boosters

Scornovacca's Pizza

SkyZone

SportsClips

Springer Professional Home Svcs.

Staples

Starbuck's

Strawberry Patch

Ted's Body Shop

Therapeutic Massage Center

ThirtyOne Gifts (Melissa Teggatz)

Valley West Mall

Windsor Vacuum



Still Learning Strong!

By The Kindergarten Team

The month of May brings around our final month of learning and celebrating the learning we have done! We have spent the last month learning about plants and butterflies, as well as their life cycles. Our last month will be spent reviewing the learning we have done in fun ways. We have continued to work hard on reading grade level texts, writing non-fiction pieces, and reading and writing sight words.

In math, we have spent time working on ways to make 6 as well as decomposing 10 and teen numbers. We will finish the year working on collecting and analyzing data.

To celebrate all of our learning this year and our study of animal and plant life cycles, we will be going to the zoo on May 26 and will provide more information in the coming weeks.

As always, please contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Cornell Students Learn About Career Choices in Guidance Class

By Courtney Anderson, Guidance Counselor

The Guidance focus in April focused on careers. All of the students have been discussing different careers and what they would like to be when they grow up. The students had fun playing many career games such as career bingo and the “who am I?” career guessing game. Kindergarten-3rd grade students each identified at least one career that they were interested in and drew a picture of that career to share with the class. The 4th graders talked about how our interests and strengths can help us in our careers. During the month of May, students will be talking about safety and reviewing many of the skills we have learned throughout the year.

Fourth Graders Learn About Heroes

By The Fourth Grade Team

In our final Reading unit of the school year, fourth grade students will be spending time learning about heroes from history, literature, and in the world all around them.

Students have learned to critically think about what defines a hero as they read different passages and learn about heroes from different time periods and cultures around the world.

During the week of May 9, students will be hearing from various speakers and learning about unsung heroes in the world around us and in our community. The speakers include people who have donated organs, health care professionals, foster parents, and even how pets can be heroes for people. This Reading unit has proven to have students very motivated, engaged, and excited for learning!

Cornell Book Fair Was A Huge Success!



Cornell library would like to give a sincere and hearty thank you to the PTO and all who helped and supported this year’s Scholastic Book Fair.

The library will receive \$2,274.80 scholastic dollars, which will be used to purchase books.

The Cornell PTO also graciously offered to match the profits made at the Book Fair with an additional \$2,000 to purchase books.

From The Art Room...

By Jessica Calhoun, Art Teacher

It's been a great year in art at Cornell! As the new Art teacher at Cornell, I could not have envisioned a more wonderful community of students and staff to be a part of. We end the year in Art with a few last projects...



The 1st graders were thinking outside the box, printing castles with legos while learning about Paul Klee! (top photo)

Kindergarteners had a blast sponge painting tissue paper for an upcoming collage project. (bottom photo)



But art from Cornell does not necessarily end with the school year; I am pleased to announce that four students will be having their artwork displayed at the Des Moines Arts Festival this summer! If you are at the Arts Festival this summer, please stop by the Student Exhibition tent and check out the work of McKayla Wood, Morgan Wilcoxon, Millie Perkins, and Deeja Coe who will represent Cornell at the Arts Festival! Way to go!

Saydel Pre-school News

By The Pre-school Team

It has been a great year in preschool! The preschool staff has enjoyed building relationships with all of the students and families throughout the year.

Some of our favorite memories are learning through play in the classroom, taking a field trip to the pumpkin patch, and having our visit from Peg + Cat. We are very excited for next school year with the addition of a 4 year old classroom and the new outdoor classroom.

We wish the best of luck to our current 4 year old students that will be kindergarteners next year! We look forward to hearing about all their continued progress on their new journey to be a life long learner!

Have a great summer and don't forget to read every day with your child!

SAYDEL Eagle's Nest Summer Program Is Back

June 6 - Aug. 12, 2016

LOCATION: Woodside Middle School

- *Field Trips & Outdoor Play
- *Bi-Weekly Themes
- *Academic Support
- *Fun With Friends
- *All Districts Welcome
- *Affordable (State Assistance Accepted)
- *Breakfast & Hot Lunch Served Daily

Enrollment packets available at Cornell Elementary or online at www.saydel.k12.ia.us

Pre-K to 6th Graders Welcome



Contact Eagle's Nest Coordinator Christine Bailey for details: 515-244-8173, ext. 3207 or baileychristine@saydel.net

Saydel Community School District

"Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students"

Thank You for reading the Cornell newsletter.

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

The image features a circular plate diagram divided into five sections: 'HALF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES' (broccoli, bell pepper, tomato, grapes, carrot), 'GRAINS, MOSTLY WHOLE' (bread, rice, pasta), 'PROTEIN FOODS' (chicken, fish, eggs, nuts), and 'DAIRY' (cheese, milk). A blue water drop character with arms and legs is smiling and raising its fists. The text 'What's on YOUR plate?' is written in a stylized font, and 'Go off the plate!' is written in large red letters.

The plate diagram above provides fantastic advice on how to fill your plate. But can you name one of the best things you can drink that isn't even on the plate?

It's water! Kids should drink about 6 to 8 ounce servings of water a day. Try having water instead of soda or other high-calorie, low-nutrition drinks as often as possible!

Learn more at www.CHOOSEMYPLATE.gov

MEAL ACCOUNT BALANCE REMINDER

Please take a moment to check your child's account.

ALL NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES MUST BE PAID BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016.

There are several ways to deposit funds into your student's meal account:

- Send cash or check to school
- Apply online:
Saydel CSD Website → Parents → Nutrition Services → Payments → Food Service Payments

Questions regarding your child's meal account can be addressed to Jessy Sadler, Director of Food Services at sadlerjessy@saydel.net or by calling 515-264-0866.



A graphic with a yellow speech bubble that says 'Did You Know?'. To the right, it says 'You build 95% of bone strength by the time you are 18 years old. Drink plenty of low-fat or fat-free milk now to avoid breaking bones when you are older!'. Below the text are three bottles of milk: Strawberry Milk, Milk, and Chocolate Milk.

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





Turner Bennett



Landon Soma

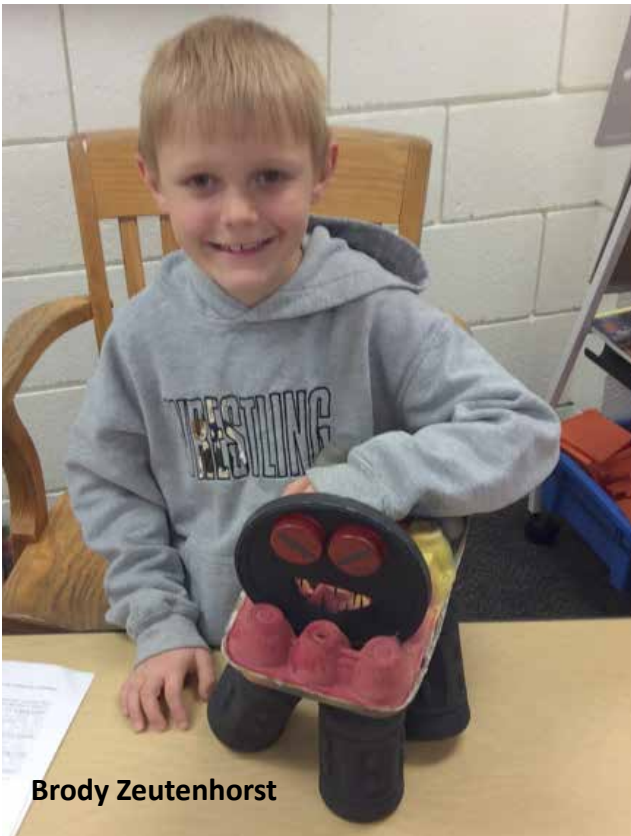


Tammy Buman

CREATURES!

Second graders have been learning about habitats and adaptations! These students made creatures out of junk around their house. They presented their creatures to the class, sharing with them the creature's habitat and adaptations. We have some very creative second grade students!

This year has flown by! We are all so proud of the growth that all of our students have made! We are excited to announce that we will be presenting plays at the end of May! It is called the Second Grade Fairy Tale Follies! They are twists on the traditional fairy tales. Mark your calendars for May 25, 26, and 27! Contact your child's teacher for more information.



Brody Zeutenhorst



Emma Plascencia

School Boards Matter: Making a Difference for Iowa's Students

Saydel Community School District is joining other districts and communities across Iowa this May to thank our elected school board members for their commitment to public education.

Iowa School Board Recognition Month honors Iowa's volunteer school board members and recognizes that they are providing leadership, through responsibilities ranging from strong financial stewardship to ensuring rich and diverse curriculum, to make sure all students are prepared for a bright future when they graduate.

The men and women serving Saydel Schools are Brian Bowman (president), Jennifer Van Houten (vice-president), Melissa Sassman, Henry Wood, Chad Vitiritto, Doug Kayser, and Roland Kouski, Jr.

"These men and women dedicate countless hours of volunteer time to provide the best possible education for our students, and we want to recognize that in this community," said Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler. "As your elected leaders, they represent you in their continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making for our public schools. We proudly join community members and educators in saluting these public education advocates."

The students from Saydel Schools are acknowledging the dedication and commitment of the Board in a variety of ways during the May



Serving on a local school board is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of rapid change and financial uncertainties. These men and women are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They tackle a difficult job and shoulder enormous responsibilities. Overall, they represent you and take their leadership roles seriously by attending lengthy meetings; broadening their knowledge at conferences and seminars; and talking about the schools with business leaders, parents, and neighbors. Saydel School Board members front row, from left: Henry Wood, Chad Vitiritto, Doug Kayser. Back row, from left: Roland Kouski Jr., Brian Bowman (president), Jennifer Van Houten (vice-president), and Melissa Sassman.

Regular School Board Meeting. Special treats will be provided by Cornell Elementary art students, Woodside Middle School technology, art, and ELP students, and Saydel High School culinary students.

Our children benefit every day from the hard work and long hours contributed by our trustees. Serving as a crucial link between the community and classroom, this board is responsible for an annual budget of \$26 million, 1,327 students, 238 employees, and three buildings.

Please take a moment and tell

school board members "Thanks for caring about our children and giving so much to our community." Let them know we support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated.

"Even though we are making a special effort in May to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-long effort on their part," said Mr. Wheeler. "They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and striving for the best for all of our students."

Teacher Traci Lust Is Honored At White House Event

Traci Lust, an elementary teacher in the Saydel Community School District, joined the national teacher of the year, state teachers of the year and other educators May 4 at the White House for an event marking National Teacher Appreciation Day.

Lust was recommended to attend the event by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching. She represents district and school communities that are increasing student academic achievement and making great classroom teaching the centerpiece of their work.

“Attending the event at the White House today was a once in a life time opportunity,” Lust said in a news release. “It was inspiring and reenergized me to continue to work each and every day to make a difference in the lives of all of the students who cross our paths.”

Lust plans and implements weekly professional development for classroom teachers at Cornell Elementary. She conducts announced and unannounced classroom observations that are tied to follow-up support in the classroom.



Cornell Teacher Traci Lust at the White House.

Families Enjoy Fluency Night at Cornell

Cornell Elementary parents and students enjoyed the first Fluency Night with free books, cookies and fun. Author Laura Jensen-Kimbell read the book she wrote called *Momster* to parents and students. If you would like to order this book, here is a link to use online: <http://www.wackystackbooks.com/blog/momster/>



FUEL UP™ FOR SUMMER FUN



Eat Smart. Play Hard.™

Fuel Up is a trademark of National Dairy Council.



FREE!

Summer Meals for Kids & Teens Open to ALL Children 18 & Younger

*Adults may eat for a fee at Woodside location.

June 6 - August 12
Monday - Friday

Woodside Middle School

5810 NE 14th Street, Des Moines

Breakfast: 8 AM - 9 AM

Lunch: 11 AM - 12 PM (Noon)

Sunnybrook Mobile Home Park

5975 NE Berwick Drive, Berwick

Lunch: 11:30 AM - 12 PM (Noon)

Questions?

Contact **Jessy Sadler**, Director of Food Services,
at 515-264-0866 or sadlerjessy@saydel.net

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"It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office building, 400 E. 14th St. Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515-281-4121, 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>."

CARNIVAL

The Cornell PTO ended the 2015/16 school year with the annual Cornell Elementary PTO Carnival. It was a fun event enjoyed by many families. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and donors - without all of your help, the carnival would not be possible. Here are snapshots from the Carnival which included a Selfie booth, spinart, sandart, face painting, balloon animals, duck pond, pop toss, temporary tattoo parlor, hot rod derby, fortune telling and much more.



SAYDEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brian Bowman, Board President
Jennifer Van Houten, Vice-President
Melissa Sassman, Board of Director
Henry Wood, Board of Director
Chad Vitiritto, Board of Director
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.