



# Woodside Middle School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

March 2016 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### Woodside Middle School

**MARCH 14-18**

No School; Spring Break

**MARCH 21**

- 7th & 8th Grade Track Begins
- School Board Meeting, 6 PM at Saydel District Office

**MARCH 23**

Grading For Growth Parent Meetings, 5:30 PM & 6:30 PM at High School

**MARCH 25**

Last Day of 3rd Quarter

**MARCH 26**

Middle School Solo Ensemble

**MARCH 29**

PERL Forum, 5 PM at Saydel District Office

**MARCH 30**

Wednesday After School Support, 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

**APRIL 1**

7th & 8th Grade Dance, 7 PM - 9 PM

**APRIL 8**

5th & 6th Grade Fun Night, 6 PM - 8 PM

**APRIL 11-15**

Iowa Assessments

## School Hours

**WOODSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

7:45 AM - 2:45 PM

Wed.: 8:45 AM - 2:45 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

# Asking the Right Questions to Learn More About School

It is hard to admit this, but my kids do not like to talk to me about school. Almost every night I ask my my third and fifth grader the standardized question, "How was school today? or "What did you learn today?" With no surprise to many of you, the common response I received was "BORING! and "NOTHING!"

I have been in my children's classrooms and they are not boring. I have been in the education profession for 16 years and I am confident more than NOTHING is being taught. So why the common responses from my children? According to Sara Goldstein, author of *30 Questions To Ask Your Kid Instead of "How Was Your Day?",* I need to be asking the different questions.

The author suggested the standardized questions I had been asking my children were boring, too open-ended and did not allow for a conversation starter with kids. After reading the article and surfing the web for other articles that compared, I attacked the supper table with a different set of questions. I was a bit nervous, but I figured anything would be better than the single word response I had been getting for awhile now.

So without delay, I asked my son, "Which of your teachers was a better athlete when they were in school?" It worked! My son was able to talk about each of his teachers like he had not before. I was able to ask my son follow up questions that allowed me to get a glimpse into what had occurred that day.

I attempted the same hypnotic approach with my daughter by asking her "What was your peak and what was your valley for the day and when did these occur?" She was able to open up and talk about her struggle at recess and her love for art. Over the month, I have attempted to ask my children some different questions in hopes they will talk to me about school. Some work. Some, not so much.



Principal Joshua Heyer

*Continued on page 2...*

**Complete the Breakfast Crossword Puzzle on page 5 of the newsletter with your child. Have them return it anytime during lunch before March 25<sup>th</sup> to enter into a BOGO movie ticket drawing. Two lucky winners will be chosen!**

## *Principal's Letter* continued from page 1...

Below are some of the questions I found to be fruitful in our house. If you get the same BORING and NOTHING responses I receive from my children, give some of these questions a try.

- What was the funniest thing that happened today? Did you catch anyone picking their nose/ something funny?
- Which one of your teachers would survive a zombie apocalypse? Why?
- What challenged you today? Why?
- Tell me something you learned about a friend today.
- Does anyone in your class have a hard time following the rules?
- Which area of your school is the most fun?
- If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?

### **Additional Math Resources**

A few parents asked during Spring Parent Teacher Conferences if we had any additional math support for their children. Online math games are available for Chromebooks and some have downloadable apps for your phone. Sites that are sometimes referred to at Woodside include:

- Math Sushi
- Math Monster
- Free Rice Math
- Khan Academy
- FunBrain.com

# Cultures in Conflict: 5th Grade Literacy Update

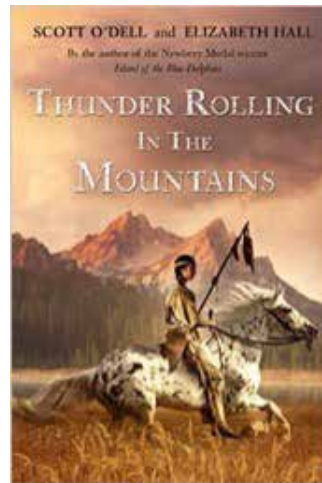
*By Mallory Stubbers, 5th Grade Teacher*

Fifth grade students are nearing the end of their first Wheatley module, Cultures in Conflict, in their literacy classes. Students studied culture, cultural values, and the Nez Perce Native American tribe in preparation for a study of Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph. Students read the anchor text *Thunder Rolling in the Mountains* by Scott O'Dell and Elizabeth Hall and inferred values and beliefs that guide Chief Joseph throughout the novel. Students then gathered relevant text evidence for each value.

Finally, students wrote four paragraph informative essays to answer the focusing question, "What important beliefs and values guide Chief Joseph in his life?" Throughout

the module, students have gained tremendous insight into the conflict between the United States army and the Nez Perce tribe in the late 1800's, including how each side's actions reflected their values.

We hope that you will ask your student about their essays and what they are learning in literacy. They have worked hard on this module, and we look forward to beginning a new module after Spring Break!



## ***Fifth Grade Success Students Utilize Poems To Improve Fluency***

*By Marilyn Jungman, Success Teacher*

Fifth grade Success students interested in poetry, are voluntarily coming in for a poetry session once a week. During this time, students have had mini poetry lessons, read poetry individually and as a group, and written poetry. While having fun with poetry, students are practicing their fluency. Repeated readings are one of the most studied and most effective strategies for improving fluency.

Students pictured are: Jamie Kopaska, Sarah Harkness, Kyle Jurgensen, Keynan Goolsby, Mason Hicks, Trevor Mundy, and Brooklyn Reese.



# Sixth Grade Literacy & Science Update

By Bobbie Jo Pedersen, 6th Grade Instructional Strategist

In sixth grade Literacy, the students have been studying about the Great Depression. They just finished reading the novel, *Bud, Not Buddy* and started reading *Esperanza Rising*. In these books, they talk about the Great Depression and how people and children have lived during those hard times. They also talked about immigration and the hardships that went with this time period.

Where does rain come from, and why does it rain? Consider what you know about where rain comes from and what causes it to come down to Earth. In Science, the sixth graders are learning about the Water Cycle. They had to make a project by drawing the Water Cycle. Each student had to pick five vocabulary words and had to explain what was happening in that cycle. They are posted on the wall outside the sixth grade classrooms.



# Busy Time For Seventh Graders

By Richard Wilson, 7th Grade Teacher

The seventh graders are nearing the end of the third quarter of year. They are busy in all of their classes. In Global Studies they are just starting a unit on the Middle East. In Language/Literacy, they will continue reading the novel, *Courage Has No Color*. The Math classes will be finishing up their probability unit and jumping into a unit on Geometry. For Science class, seventh graders will be working in a group to complete a project on how water quality affects the ecology of a community.

The seventh grade teachers encourage all our students to get involved with school activities. Busy involved students tend to do better in the classroom. After spring break the track season will be starting, and we hope you encourage your seventh grader to give track a try.

# 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

## 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](http://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.

# Growing Teachers & Students

By Kim Moyle, Master Teacher

Teachers at Woodside get the opportunity to engage in new learning each week through Cluster. During this time they focus in best practices in teaching while improving building-wide needs for students. During the most recent learning cycle, teachers have been focusing on one of two areas depending on what they teach.

Math, science and some special education teachers have been learning about how to support students' number sense, which is a "fluidity and flexibility with numbers," (Gersten & Chard, 2001). That means that students understand what numbers mean, how they relate to one another, how to use numbers in real world situations, and how to do mental math.

In order to support students' understanding of number sense, teachers have been focusing on concrete activities where students are in some way physically involved or hands-on in their learning. They've incorporated additional representational activities, where there is a picture or visual to help students understand the learning, and finally they've been helping students develop abstract thinking where the students have to construct knowledge in their head. Using these different levels of support and thinking along with questions that allows students to talk through their reasoning allows students to have more fluid and flexible thinking.

The other teachers in the building have been working on improving vocabulary skills and comprehension. There is a well-documented link between having a strong vocabulary and reading comprehension. It's hard to understand the meaning of a passage or article if you're not sure what some of the key words mean.

There were three types of vocabulary on which teachers focused. One was knowing content-specific words that don't have a lot of clues to help you determine what the word means. Another type was having morphemic awareness, which means using the parts of the word (prefix, root, suffix) to help figure out what the word means. Ask your student if they can share with you a prefix or root they have learned about at school. The final vocabulary type that teacher have concentrated on is words that have more than one meaning.

Teachers have also spent time in cluster working to analyze student work. This allows teachers to have a clearer understanding of what specific skills students need to work on and allows them to make modifications to meet each student's needs.

# Wanted at Woodside Library: Readers, Scientists & Engineers

By Aileen Meyer, District Librarian

The 21st century library is not only a place to read but also a place to explore and create. Recently our Innovation Station got two new Star Wars BB-8 Droids for the students to try their skill at programming, and creating holographic messages.

Along with our robots, we encourage the students to check out the Little Bits Space Kit and Circuit Madness.

Currently there are also a number of new books displayed throughout the library. We have books and magazines for all reading levels and interest areas. There is something for everyone at the library.



**Innovation Station winners pictured from left: Beau Sutton, Kaleb Jaschke, Gentry Jacobs, Cole Jaschke, Maci Lowe, Madison Rogers, Katy Van Houten, and Michael Shafer.**




**Woodside Library associates Mary Cannaday and Holly Robinson enjoy assisting students with books and projects.**

**BREAKFAST CHANGES LIVES**

----- HOW? -----


**KIDS WHO EAT SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

MISS LESS SCHOOL




They attend an average of  
**1.5 more days**  
per year

DO BETTER IN MATH:




They average  
**17.5% higher**  
math test scores

**MORE ATTENDANCE + HIGHER MATH SCORES**

**20% MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE COLLEGE** 

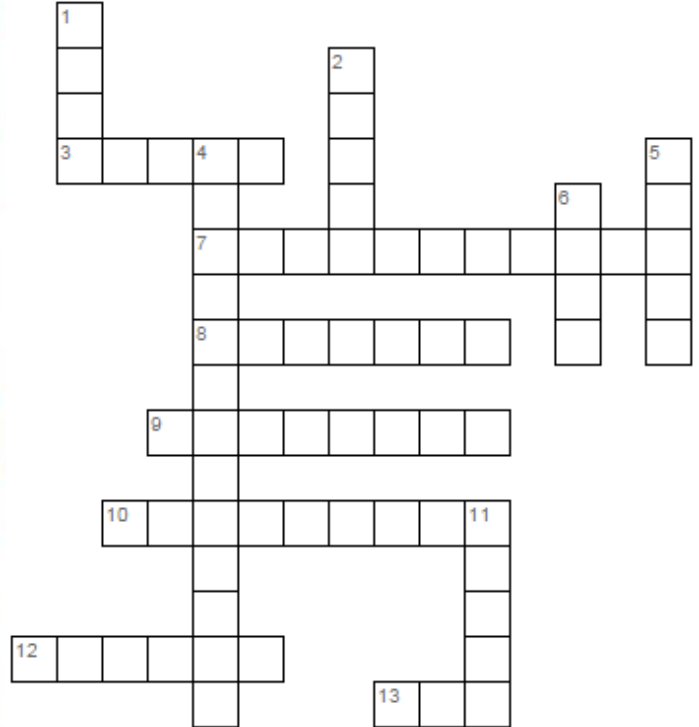
**21 MILLION** U.S. kids get free or reduced-price school lunch

 **Only 1/2 of those kids** get breakfast, even though they're eligible

Too many kids are showing up to school hungry. And hungry kids can't learn.

**BREAKFAST CAN CHANGE THEIR LIVES**

**Breakfast Crossword Puzzle**



**Across**



- 3 The small meal after breakfast and before lunch
- 7 This fruit juice has vitamin C
- 8 Eat this warm with milk, raisins, and brown sugar
- 9 Mickey Mouse shaped \_\_\_\_\_ with eggs
- 10 This meal helps you do great in school
- 12 Belgium \_\_\_\_\_ with strawberries
- 13 Ome\_\_\_ with mushrooms and cheese

**Down**

- 1 Scrambled, poached and fried \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Home fries or hash \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 This comes from a cow but it's not white
- 5 Put cream cheese or peanut butter on this
- 6 This taste great with whole grain cereal
- 11 French \_\_\_\_\_ or pancakes

**Celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday the Woodside Way**

The kitchen staff at Woodside Middle School celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday serving green eggs and ham, hashbrown, biscuit and a "cat in the hat" dessert.

**Foodservice Office:**  
 Visit [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us) for menus and more information  
 Email: [sadlerjessy@saydel.net](mailto:sadlerjessy@saydel.net)  
 Phone: 515.264.0866  
 Fax: 515.264.0869  
 Follow us on Twitter: @saydeldining

**Build a Healthy Lunch**



# Woodside Middle School STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Principal Joshua Heyer recently congratulated the students nominated for the honor of Student of the Month. Students were nominated as recognition for displaying behavior that is reflective of the “Eagle Way” and following the SOAR expectations.

The Students of the Month were treated to a limousine ride, courtesy of community member Doug Sassman. The limousine took them to lunch, courtesy of Montana Mike’s Steakhouse.

January Student of the Month winners were:

8th Grade: Tobey Ellis and Alexis Young

7th Grade: Lia Iverson and Madison Padgett

6th Grade: Astrid Abbas and Emma VanZant

5th Grade: Mason Sutton and Amber Schippers



## Students Honor Dr. Seuss’s Birthday

Miss Reid’s 6th grade Literacy classes honored Dr. Seuss’s birthday by participating in an NEA project -- Read Across America. The students read Dr. Seuss books to each other in small groups. Then the small groups engaged in a creative writing project. They produced the next best selling Dr. Seuss book. They read the created Dr. Seuss stories to their classmates.





## 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.



## 8th Grade ETS Students Visit Capitol

Two of Woodside's 8th grade students in the ETS program recently visited the Capitol. Karlee Nelson and Jaylynn Wood went to talk with our state representatives about TRIO programs that help students prepare for college.

## Fun Spring Break Activities

The weather is warming up and everything's turning green. Here is a list of fun ways to enjoy the spring season.



- Plant something green
- See the cherry blossoms
- Have a picnic at the park
- Jog outside
- Take a hike
- Play softball
- Enjoy the day with a friend
- Sit outside at a café
- Visit a farm to see the animals
- Play a round of golf
- Fly a kite
- Look for four-leaf clovers
- Get dirt under your fingernails
- Blow bubbles
- Find a playground and swing on the swings
- Feed the ducks at a pond
- Draw pictures on the sidewalk with chalk
- Skip stones across a pond
- Plan a spring break vacation
- Roast a bunch of asparagus
- Steam whole artichokes and eat them leaf by leaf
- Bake cupcakes with pink frosting
- Visit the farmers' market
- Pick strawberries
- Eat jellybeans
- Buy a package of Peeps
- Listen to the rain
- Watch bumblebees at work in a garden
- Notice the trees budding
- Spot a rainbow
- Listen to the birds singing
- Feel the sun on your face
- Ride a bike
- Pet a bunny
- Wear open-toed shoes
- Buy a fun umbrella
- Visit the zoo



# Staff Spotlight:

*Highlighting staff members at Woodside Middle School*



**Name:** Amanda Stone

**Position at Woodside:** Kitchen Aide

**Family:** Husband of 14 Years - Jeremy, Three Kids: Chase - 7th Grade at Woodside, Peyton - 5th Grade at Woodside, Riley - 2nd Grade at Cornell

**Previous work/College experience:** "I graduated from Saydel in 1996 and attended Drake University for two years. I worked for Polk County for five years before staying home to raise my kids. After my youngest started school in 2013, I started my employment with Saydel in the Woodside Kitchen."

**One thing you have enjoyed about working at Woodside:** "I really enjoy working in the kitchen with my fellow kitchen staff. Everyday is a new experience preparing a meal, wondering if students will like a new item on the menu, etc. It is a wonderful feeling to receive positive feedback from our students!"

**One thing you did not realize about Saydel before starting this position:** "I didn't realize just how many of the employees were graduates of Saydel."

**One thing you want others in the community to know about Woodside:** "Woodside has a great group of students and a fabulous staff to work with them. From top to bottom, Woodside is going in the right direction and I'm not only happy to be a part of that, but to also have my children be a part of it!"

## Pennies for Pasta Challenge Update

Woodside Middle School students raised \$917 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society during the Pennies for Pasta Challenge this month. Olive Garden will be serving a pasta party to Mr. Cline's class in April. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Challenge!

*Subscribe to receive all of Saydel's newsletters by emailing [newsletter@saydel.net](mailto:newsletter@saydel.net).*

### SAYDEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Brian Bowman**, Board President  
**Jenn 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 6PM

EDUCATION FOR  
LEADERSHIP;  
LEARNING FOR LIFE

**Woodside Middle School**  
5810 NE 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
515-265-3451

We're on the Web:  
[www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://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](mailto:mckibbenjulie@saydel.net). Office for Civil Rights, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.