



Cornell Elementary School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

December 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Cornell Elementary

DECEMBER 7

PTO Buffalo Wild Wings Night,
11 AM - Close

DECEMBER 14

Yearbook Orders Are Due

DECEMBER 17

Preschool Holiday Parties,
10 AM for 3 year olds
2 PM for 4 year olds

DECEMBER 18

Mini Sessions Schedule:

1:30 PM - 2 PM, Caroling in Gym
2:10 PM - 2:30 PM, Mini Sessions
2:35 PM - 2:55 PM, Mini Sessions
3 PM, Cookies & Drink in Classroom
Come join in the fun!
We'd love to have you!

DECEMBER 19

Holiday Break Begins

JANUARY 4

School Resumes

School Hours

CORNELL ELEMENTARY

8:35 AM - 3:30 PM

Wed.: 9:45 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

Season's Greetings!

I don't know about all of you, but this time of year gets even busier for my family than our normal schedule. On top of all of our weekly activities, we are making more runs to the grocery store as we prepare for various holiday get-togethers, we are back and forth to relatives' houses, and our bodies are trying to adjust to the ups and downs of the seasonal temperatures. Amidst all of this, I have to constantly remind myself to not forget to be engaged with what is going on in my daughters' lives. This can be challenging as I don't always know how things at school are going other than what they tell me, "everything is good dad", and/or when we get their progress reports (report cards).

As we continue our school year, our students will be learning more about goal setting. This is a life long skill that we need all of our students to know and be able to do. When report cards come home, I have found it gives parents a great opportunity to have conversations about where your child is at and set goals for them to work toward to grow both academically and social/emotionally.

I have included an article this month that does a great job outlining effective ways that you can have conversations with your child about their progress reports in a POSITIVE way. I hope that you find this useful and well worth your time.

Talking to Your Child about Report Cards...By Terry Farwell

A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride; it can also cause concern, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals as well as reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most important, it is a time for parents to communicate with their children and determine a path for future academic enrichment and social/emotional growth.

Focus on the Positive

Regardless of the grades your child brings home, you must first focus on positive aspects of the report. This is not always an easy task. For some parents, this might mean highlighting a strong effort for a citizenship grade, or congratulating an academic accomplishment. It could mean praising a perfect attendance record or acknowledging a small improvement shown in a particular area. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

Ask The Right Questions

Be careful not to overreact to low grades, or grades you view to be unsatisfactory. Instead, use this time to look at past performance and plan for the future. Talk to your child, asking questions to understand how a particular grade was earned:

- Was the work too difficult?
- Could the pace of the class be inappropriate (too fast, so that your child feels "lost," or too slow, causing your child to feel "bored")?
- Does your child complete all homework and ask questions when problems arise?

The answers you receive might indicate a need to review your child's study habits. Determine whether or not your child is recording all assignments and bringing home all materials necessary to complete them. Does your child have a specific place to study where resources (including someone to answer questions) are available and distractions are minimized? Is your child completing all homework on a nightly basis, or are assignments being turned in late, or not at all? Once you have determined the problem, you can begin to create a solution.

The Next Step

Creating a plan to maximize future academic success is an important part of every child's education. Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met, as well as rewards and consequences if they are not. Type the "official plan" and post one copy in a prominent household location, another in your child's binder, and forward another to her teacher. Involving your child gives him/her ownership and importance in this process; and this makes the report card important not only to you, but also to your child.

As parents, we want the best for our children, but in too many cases this is measured only by the number of As and Bs or 3's and 4's brought home. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job that he/she can. Encourage her/him to succeed, and measure their progress in realistic terms, letting them know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure their growth, and the most advanced child can monitor their progress. By reviewing the report card and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success.

Thank you to all of you for the trust and support you provide our great school every single day. Our partnership in educating our students goes hand-in-hand. I hope that you have a great month ahead!

Go Eagles! ~ BE AWESOME TODAY!



Principal Brian Vaughan



Nurse's Notes

When should my child stay home from school due to illness?

- *Fever of 100.0 or greater, without use of fever reducing products
- *Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- *A cough that disrupts normal activity
- *Has distracting pain from earache, headache, sore throat or recent injury
- *Has yellow or green drainage from eye(s)
- *Students must stay home 24 hours after starting treatment for pink eye or strep throat
- *If your child is sent home from school with a fever, they must remain home at least 24 hours and be fever free, without the use of fever reducing products, before returning to school.
- *If your child has the sniffles, a mild cough/sore throat/congestion and is not slowing down at home, they are probably able to participate in school activities.

All medications sent to Cornell, including cough drops/syrup and over the counter pain relief, must be in their original container and a parent permission slip must be signed and turned into the nurse's office. Permission slips are available in the office and on the Cornell website.

We have noticed students with head lice. Please be proactive in checking your child's hair frequently. If you find lice, please treat your child before sending them to school. Wash all bed linens, brushes/combs, jackets/hats, stuffed animals and vacuum well. Contact the school nurse if you have questions.

The nurse's office is in need of shirts and adjustable waist pants sizes 5-10.



Preschool students painting sticks for 3D art.

Preschoolers Study Trees

By Rebecca Seidl, Preschool Teacher

Preschool students have recently finished up their study on trees. Throughout the tree study students learn what animals live in trees, what food grows on trees, and what trees are used for. The highlight of the study was going on a nature walk around our school!

In the coming weeks will be reading several versions of the Gingerbread Man. Students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the stories. Students will also be practicing songs for their Holiday Program. We look forward to having all of our preschool families join us for the Holiday Program!

Kindergarten Students Learn To Compare & Contrast

By Mariah Hoium, Kindergarten Teacher

December is here and so is the winter chill! Our student's will be cozy warm learning about compare and contrast with storybooks. We will start by using different versions of The Three Billy Goats Gruff and then move onto The Gingerbread Man books.

As we move into December your child will start to recognize patterns and be able to tell you what comes next, as well as, making patterns of their own.

We are in one of the coldest months of the year. Please make sure to dress your kids warm, as we will be going outside for recess most days.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's teacher by e-mail, phone, or stop in your child's class.

Cheerio Christmas Trees

Ingredients:

- 6 cups of whole grain Cheerios
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 4 1/2 cups mini marshmallows
- Green food coloring (optional)
- Mini M&Ms (red and green)

Directions:

1. Line a cookie sheet with waxed paper
2. Pour the cereal into a 4-quart bowl.
3. Set the bowl aside. Place the butter and marshmallows in a 3-quart saucepan.
4. Heat over low heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is smooth. Remove the saucepan from the heat.
5. Stir in the food color until the mixture is evenly colored.
6. Pour the marshmallow mixture over the cereal and stir until the cereal is evenly coated.
7. Lightly spray your hands with cooking spray.
8. For each tree, shape about 1/4 cup of the cereal mixture into a Christmas tree shape on the cookie sheet. Press the M&Ms into the trees to decorate.
9. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.
10. Store the trees in a loosely covered container.



A little Christmas Humor

Who gives puppies Christmas presents?

Santa Paws

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Snowflakes

What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?

A Cookie Sheet

What do elves learn at school?

The Elf-abet



BREAKFAST
in the classroom

Did you know that all students at Cornell Elementary receive a free breakfast in their classroom each morning? Each breakfast consists of a main item, a whole grain, a cup of fruit or vegetables and a low-fat or fat-free milk. Visit www.saydel.k12.ia.us for more information regarding our monthly menus.

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Fitness & Festive Fun in PE With Mrs. C

By Melissa Cogdill, PE Teacher

First and foremost, I want to wish your family a wonderful holiday season!

I want to take this time to reach out and THANK YOU for giving me the honor to educate your child the importance of movement, all while having fun. It has been a great year so far and I'm looking forward to 2016.

Kindergarten and first grade students have been working hard on spatial awareness and loco motor movements such as skipping, running, galloping, and jumping.

We have been doing festive stations such as turkey trotting, snowball throwing, and scooting around on scooters. Ask your child why movement is important and how does it help their health. Strive for 30-60 minutes daily of physical activity. The students continue to amaze me with their overall participation and joy for movement in my class!

Second, third, and fourth graders have been participating in a variety of aerobic activity. They understand the importance that healthy foods and plenty of exercise lead to a healthy heart student! We have done a variety of activities called "Raiders of the Arc," "Crazy Pin Guard," and "Tag Team partner."

All these activities increase heart rate and add fun to the aerobic concept. The fourth graders have set stepping goals, while wearing pedometers in class. Some students reached over 3,000 steps! Pedometers are a small tool placed on the seam of your pants and count the number of steps! It truly is a huge motivator for students. I am over the moon proud of each individual.



News From First Grade

By Katherine Delahunt, First Grade Teacher

The first graders have been working on identifying when the characters and narrator are speaking within the story. We have also been working on identifying the beginning, middle and end as well as the lesson learned during our literacy block.



During writing, we have been writing personal narratives, which reinforce the beginning, middle, and end.

In math we have been working on strategies and explaining our thinking while problem solving. We have finished our unit on Ocean animals where the students asked inquiring questions.

As we look toward December, we encourage you to read nightly with your child as well as practicing their sight words.

Third Grade Thoughts

By Kayla Shipman, Third Grade Teacher

Third graders have been hard at work this month! We are continuing to learn and grow together, and we are making huge strides. In reading, we have continued working with main idea and details; we've also practiced asking and answering questions.

We've continued with informational and personal narratives in writing, including memorable moments and biographies. Within math, we've continued practicing with adding numbers within 1,000. This involves breaking numbers apart and recombining them, as well as practicing various strategies.

Finally, third graders had a blast in science learning about sea turtles! We talked about ways we help and harm turtles, and we're finishing the unit by writing letters to marine conservationists.

Third grade continues to be awesome, and we are very excited for what's ahead!





Saydel Wellness Newsletter

December
2015

EAT BETTER

Try lots of different fruits, veggies, and whole grains for a healthy diet. You're bound to find something you really like!

WALNUTS

Nuts make a great occasional snacking choice especially for the holidays. Walnuts contain healthy omega-3 fats, antioxidants, fiber and lots of other healthful nutrients.



Portion Control

It is very easy to overeat during these gatherings.

Here are few easy tips to remember:

1. Eat before you go. Have a snack so you are not tempted to eat everything in sight.
2. Use smaller plates. Using the appetizer plate will reduce the number of foods you can load on your plate.
3. Go for the veggies and fruits. Fill most of your plate with healthy food so you won't feel like you ate so much.
4. Bring a healthy dish of your own to the party. Share your own healthy tasty recipe. It will inspire others to bring their own healthy dish for their next gathering.
5. Take time to eat your meal. Find a comfy spot, have a seat and enjoy your meal with people. This way, you are having a satisfying meal.

Healthy Holiday Recipe

Creating a tasty recipe is not difficult. By using produce that is in season, a healthy dish can be accomplished.

Sweet Potato-Pumpkin Mash

2 sweet potatoes—cubed
 1 lb pumpkin—cubed
 1/4 tsp cinnamon (or pumpkin spice)



1. Steam sweet potato and pumpkin until fork tender
2. Smash together with a fork or a potato masher
3. Mix in spice
4. Enjoy!

PLAY HARDER

Ok, so you had a bit too much on Thanksgiving Day. Don't be hard on yourself—it happens to be best of us! Make up for it by going a little exercise.



Happy Holidays

Fourth Grade News

By Jaime Griffin, Fourth Grade Teacher

Fourth grade has been hard at work learning some new and challenging topics in their classes. In math, students learned many useful strategies for multiplication in which they break apart numbers and make the problems easier for them to solve.

Reading has been fun in November for students because they have been engaged in mini book clubs that have allowed them to explore a character facing an extreme setting. Within these book clubs, students are learning how to make inferences in books, and supporting their inferences with evidence from their texts.

Finally, in Social Studies, students are involved in region projects where they are broken into four smaller groups, focusing on one specific region of the U.S., researching it extensively, and then teaching their region to the class.

Everyone is trying their best each and every day, and it shows in the amazing work they are creating!



Thank you Affinity Credit Union for sponsoring the Coats 4 Kids Drive in October!



All coats collected were donated to Saydel Community School District to help keep our kids warm this winter!

EAGLE'S NEST NEWS...

Eagle's Nest will be open during Winter Break.

Hours: 6 AM - 5:30 PM

Eagle's Nest will close at 3:30 PM on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve

Cost is \$20 per child.

For details, email baileychristine@saydel.net

Guidance Class Focuses on Friendship

The Guidance class focus in November was on friendship. All Cornell students have been discussing what qualities make a good friend. Mrs. Anderson has been impressed with how well students are remembering their "Bug and A Wish Statements" and "I-Messages" when they get in conflicts with friends.

Kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders have talked about how saying unkind words hurt our friends' feelings. They have made wrinkled hearts to help remind them to use kind words.

In third grade, students have talked about how they can make students who feel invisible (left out) more visible and included. The students had lots of good ideas on how to include others and Mrs. Anderson hopes to see the students showing those ideas at school.

The fourth graders have been talking a lot about the qualities that they want in a friend. For the month of December, we will continue with our friendship unit and will also talk about bullying.

Great Things Are Happening in Music!

By Jeffrey Johannsen, Music Teacher

The first and second grade students prepared for their winter concert which was held on December 1. Thanks to all who attended and enjoyed hearing our music from holiday traditions around the world.

Third and fourth graders have been learning to read and sing pitches with a technique called hand sign solfege. This technique has origins from the ninth and tenth century AD. Though it has been somewhat modified since then, it still embodies the idea of being able to audiate pitch and then produce it.

The kindergarten classes have been knee deep in hearing music, moving to it, listening to story songs or acting out songs in class. At this young age, they spend most of their time experiencing music and using it in an enjoyable way through stories, movement and activities.

Happy Holidays from the Music Department!

ELL Team Attends Iowa Culture & Language Conference

The annual Iowa Culture and Language Conference was held in Iowa City in November. Saydel was well represented -- Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Director of Student Services Julie McKibben and ELL teachers Mahnaz Shojaie and Lorrie Lockin had the privilege of attending.

We were inspired by the stories of the keynote speakers that have used the education provided by this country to earn a degree in Education which has allowed them to positively impact the lives of many students and educators. We attended small break out sessions focused on teaching strategies that make the curriculum more accessible to students learning a second language. Research has shown that when these strategies are implemented all students perform more successfully. We are excited to be back with the students putting our learning into practice.

Farmer Katie Teaches Students About Plants!

Mrs. Goetz teaches level one special education students in grades kindergarten, first, and second. Mrs. St. Peter teaches level one special education for third and fourth grade. They have been working hard to implement co-teaching in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

Co-teaching is when your student's general and special education teacher teach a subject together to a class of both general and special education students. Co-teachers plan together and support academic diversity in the regular classroom, as well as the special education classroom. They provide all students with access to the state curriculum. Co-taught inclusion classes can provide rich teaching and learning!

This month, Mrs. Greiner's class got to plant seeds and learn about plants from a real farmer. Students learned that plants need soil, water, sun, and air to live. Now students water their plants every day and are watching them grow. The picture shows Mrs. Greiner's class planting seeds with Farmer Katie.



A Highlight From The Art Room

By Jessica Calhoun, Art Teacher

The kindergarten classes recently finished their color value jack-o-lanterns! Using paint, and the colors orange, red, and yellow, the kindergarteners learned how to mix different shades of orange on their pumpkins. To make our pumpkins complete, we gave them spooky faces!



Second Graders Enjoy Arthur's Slumber Party

By Second Grade Team

Second grade students had the chance to wear their pajamas to school the day before Thanksgiving. They celebrated their love for Arthur books by having "Arthur's Slumber Party."

The students rotated through different centers where they learned more about Arthur and the author Marc Brown.

Second graders had many different opinions about how the day went. Sassy thought it was fun to read all the different Arthur books. Her favorite one was Arthur's Promise. Brody liked the chance to go into different second grade classrooms and make different things. Brooklyn really liked when they made their own cootie catchers. Raegan said she didn't know there were so many different Arthur books and really enjoyed reading them.

The students are already asking when they can wear their pajamas to school again.



Lori Bowman's second grade class.

Sign Up to Receive All of Saydel's e-newsletters



Thank you for reading the Cornell e-newsletter!
Would you also like to receive the e-newsletters that feature what is happening at Woodside Middle School and Saydel High School?
You can subscribe to get these e-newsletter by emailing newsletter@saydel.net.
Community members & grandparents are welcome to sign up too!



Superintendent Douglas Wheeler and Principal Brian Vaughan helped serve Thanksgiving lunch to Cornell students. Each year the district's Child Nutrition Department cooks a Thanksgiving meal for students. This year the meal included turkey and noodles, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, hot roll and apple crisp.



From left: MJ Swanberg, Mowai Bogess, Julie Steemken, Douglas Wheeler, Cheryl Porter and Andi Olopwi.



School Emergency Closing Information

2015-2016 School Year

Emergency Closing Notes:

- ✓ For AM Delays, Eagles Nest delays from its original start time
- ✓ For PM early release, Eagles Nest will be open one hour after school dismisses
- ✓ If there is a delay, AM preschool will be cancelled
- ✓ Check the school website for information on practices and events for your child

1-Hour Delay Start Times

- ⇒ Cornell - 9:35
- ⇒ Woodside - 8:45
- ⇒ HS - 8:45
- ⇒ Eagles Nest - 7:00

2-Hour Delay Start Times

- ⇒ Cornell - 10:35
- ⇒ Woodside - 9:45
- ⇒ HS - 9:45
- ⇒ Eagles Nest - 8:00

Automatic e-mail / text alerts available from:

www.kcci.com
www.who.tv.com
www.woi-tv.com

Emergency closing information will be communicated through the following:

1. School Messenger (voice & e-mail) by 6:00 the day of a closing
2. District Website
3. www.facebook.com/saydelcsd
4. www.twitter.com/saydelcsd

We Notify the Following Television, Radio and Internet News Stations for Emergency Announcements:

WHO Channel 13
KCCI Channel 8
KDSM Fox 17
KCWI Channel 23.1
WOI Channel 5
Kiss 107.5
WHO 1040 Radio
The Bus 100.3
Alt 106.3
KXNO 1460
13Now Smartphone App
The Des Moines Register

Please note: While these sites allow us to communicate delays and cancellations, we are not able to provide details through these services. The most detailed information regarding how delays and cancellations affect events, practices, meetings etc. can be found on our website and school messenger broadcasts

Cornell PTO News

By Amanda Stone, Cornell PTO
Vice President

The Cornell PTO is on break until January, but that doesn't mean we're not busy!

We support the annual Mini-Sessions that are held the Friday before winter break. This year Mini-Sessions will be held is December 18. Although Mini-Sessions will look a little different this year, due to new administration and new ideas, it will be fun for all!

Please consider joining your student at 1:30 pm when students will be heading to the gym for an assembly, then crafts and snacks follow.

Holiday gifts for teachers are on our list of things to do. We appreciate all that the teachers do for our students and how hard they work all year and enjoy giving them a small token of our thanks!

Keep clipping and saving your Box Tops for Education. Our November submission looks to be earning us \$900!

Congratulations to the winners of the SkyZone passes for selling the most during our fundraiser: Piper N., Zander F. and Gavin H! Final numbers for our fundraiser show that we earned \$6,200. Thank you to all who supported the PTO.



From left: Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Cornell PTO President Ginny Mitchell, Woodside PTO President Julie Jennings, and Saydel School Board President Brian Bowman.

At the November Saydel School Board Meeting, our PTO President Ginny Mitchell and Woodside PTO President Julie Jennings (former Cornell PTO Treasurer and long-time Cornell volunteer) were honored for their service and dedication to the betterment of the Saydel Community School District.

Please join us at Buffalo Wild Wings in Ankeny on December 7 for our next PTO Family Night Fundraiser. PTO earns a portion of the sales. And join us for our next PTO Meeting on January 12 at 6:30 pm in the Cornell Library.

Happy Holidays from our "family" to yours!

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 6 pm

EDUCATION FOR
LEADERSHIP;
LEARNING FOR LIFE

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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.