



Cornell Elementary School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

October 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Cornell Elementary

OCTOBER 6 & 8

Parent-Teacher Conferences

OCTOBER 9

No School, Professional Development

OCTOBER 12

Buffalo Wild Wings Ankeny Cornell Day,
11 AM - 11 PM

OCTOBER 13

PTO Meeting in Library, 6:30 PM

OCTOBER 14

4th Grade to Art Center & Pappajohn
Sculpture Park

OCTOBER 20

PTO Fundraiser Pickup in Cafeteria
3 PM - 6 PM

OCTOBER 22

3 & 4 Year Old Preschool to Geisler
Farms

OCTOBER 23

3rd Grade to Jester Park

OCTOBER 30

Kindergarten to Center Grove Orchard

OCTOBER 30

Fall Parties, 2:30 PM

OCTOBER 31

2nd Annual Saydel Spook Run at Saydel
High School, 10:30 AM

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

Greetings from Cornell!

It is hard to believe that we have already completed our first month of school. It has not taken long for me to realize how lucky I am to be a part of this school and community. Cornell Elementary School is an awesome place! In fact, we think it is such an awesome place we have adapted "Be awesome today" as our theme this year. We hope that our kids and families find it to be as well.

Our teachers have been busy honing their skills and providing a laser like focus on teaching and learning through the use of the TAP framework. The program uses teacher collaboration and mentoring to improve the instructional ability of teachers. It fosters a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement by supporting teacher needs and providing opportunities for each teacher to succeed and then rewarding that success. Through this approach, teachers can excel in their profession, and our students benefit.

Our staff has been busy teaching, modeling, and practicing school wide expectations so our students will know and display "The Eagle Way." Teaching students to be Safe, Open-Minded, Accountable, and Respectful (SOAR) is an important part of them becoming successful learners. My goal, as Principal, is to support teachers in providing each student with a positive, inspiring, and rigorous learning experience throughout this school year and many more to come. We want to encourage each student to reach their full potential and be successful!

At Cornell, our students are provided a challenging and supportive academic environment, along with opportunities for enrichment. In addition to our core academic curriculum, students have art, music, physical education, and the media center classes. Beginning this academic year we offer Spanish classes to our kindergarten through second grade as well as technology instruction to our third and fourth grade. Students in each grade participate in a musical program as well as a field day experience to all grades for physical education. Every morning, we have announcements done by students and throughout the year, every child will lead the Pledge of Allegiance on the announcements. We started a new tradition this year with a school gathering at our flag pole on day one to raise the U.S. flag and say the Pledge of Allegiance. Last but certainly not least, I hope that you have heard good things about their morning fist bumps from Mr. Vaughan, new Cornell t-shirt (purchased by the PTO), participation in morning meetings, and visit from our high school peers to discuss sportsmanship to name a few things happening in our building the first few weeks.

Finally, parent involvement is evident throughout the school year at Cornell and we continue to encourage our parents to be involved. We have a vibrant and actively involved PTO that we encourage all families to join. Parents can also participate in their child's education by volunteering in the classroom or for special events. Furthermore, communication with our classroom teachers regularly is very important for your child's educational development. Remember if you have a question or concern, the classroom teacher is the place to start for answers. Talking early and often makes a difference in your child's career.

We want you to feel welcome at Cornell Elementary. We have an open door policy, so please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions. I am looking forward to a successful year at Cornell!



Principal Brian Vaughan



Exciting First Day of School at Cornell!





Miss Seidl's three-year-old students love to sing *The Wheels on the Bus!*

Preschool Is Off To A Great Start!

By Rebecca Seidl, Preschool Teacher

The beginning of the preschool school year is off to a great start! All of the teachers have greatly enjoyed getting to know each and every child over the past few weeks! Students have been busy learning the names of their friends and teachers at school.

Students have also been learning the classroom rules and routines. Some of the books we have been reading are *Pete The Cat I Love My White Shoes*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See*.

Our three year old students have been actively engaged in learning colors, shapes, and counting to five. They are also practice recognizing their name and the letters in their name. During center time students are using social skills such as sharing and turn taking to build relationships with peers.

Our four year old students have also been using social skills to build relationships within the classroom. Students are working on finding their name and naming the letter in their name. Our focus letters have been A, B, and C. Students are working on recognizing these letters and producing the sound they make.

Please continue to read with your child daily and ask them about their school day. Going on a color/shape hunt and finding letters around your house are great activities to do with your child at home!

Students Improve Social Skills in Guidance

By Courtney Anderson,
Guidance Counselor

The Guidance class focus in September has been on social skills. All Cornell students are working on following instructions, listening, not interrupting, sharing, and teamwork. The kindergarten and first grade classes have worked a lot on sharing and enjoyed creating their own Rainbow Fish, which reminds them to share like the Rainbow Fish who shared his beautiful scales.

The second and third graders have been working on making sure their mouths aren't like volcanoes that "erupt." The students have come up with some great strategies to make sure that they don't "erupt" during class.

The fourth grade students have focused a lot on following instructions and teamwork. A few favorite activities among the fourth graders include the "Silly Directions Game" and the Lego teamwork activity.

In October, the focus in Guidance class will be on feelings. The students will be spending a lot of time working on "I messages."

I am very pleased at how well the students are doing with their social skills and is excited to start talking about our feelings.

Cornell Students Get Moving in Music!

By Jeffrey Johannsen, Music Teacher

Music has been a blast since the beginning of the year! We are currently review previous concepts from previous years through songs and movement that incorporate the skill.

The songs they sing and the instruments they play are all a means to learn authentic music literacy and independence. Second through fourth grade are currently writing class songs using concepts from previous years, demonstrating their understanding and their ability to use what they have learned. Kindergarten and first are exploring their voices along with different sounds that are all around them.

Maybe you want to ask your first grader or kindergartener about the "Surprise Symphony" in music class. It left quite an impression for several of them.



Saydel Community School Food Services

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Breakfast and lunch are provided to all students at no charge!

Cornell Elementary participates in the Community Eligibility Provision. Through this program, all students are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost.

*There will be a charge for extra milk or for a second entrée.



You are invited!

National Take Your Parents to
LUNCH DAY

October 14, 2015

Please join your child for a meal in the school cafeteria. Learn how school meals are meeting new federal nutrition standards and let us know what you think about our lunch program!



Miss Johnson's second grade class sporting their Cornell/Saydel Pride t-shirts.

News & Events from Cornell PTO

By Amanda Stone, Cornell PTO Vice President

Your Cornell PTO started off the 2015-16 school year by giving every student, PK-4, a Cornell Elementary/Saydel Pride t-shirt!

Mr. Vaughan envisions these shirts being used for various Cornell activities, and of course, the green and gold looks good at all Saydel events!

If you filled out a PTO volunteer form, you were entered into a drawing for a Family Activities Pass -- congratulations to our winner, Kelly Lenhart!

We are just wrapping up our fall fundraiser and pickup will be on October 20 in the Cornell cafeteria from 3 PM - 6 PM. Thanks to everyone who helped make this fall fundraiser a success!

A Box Tops incentive is in the works, so keep watching your students' backpacks for more information.

Please join us at our next meeting on Tues., Oct. 13 at 6:30 pm in the Cornell Library. Attend and you could win a \$30 gift certificate to use on Saydel Spirit Gear! This is a great way to get involved with your child's school.

The 2015-16 PTO Board members are:

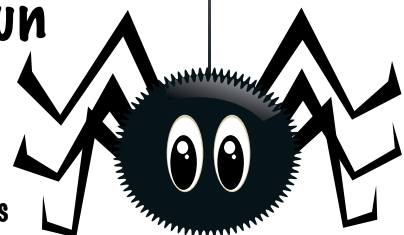
- Ginny Mitchell - **President**
- Amanda Stone - **Vice President**
- Nicki Dawkins - **Treasurer**
- BreAnne Solem - **Secretary**
- April Goode - **Box Tops Coordinator**
- Monique Nuzum - **Carnival Coordinator**
- Sara Figgins - **Conference Meals Coordinator**
- Angela Wood - **Fundraiser Coordinator**
- Stephanie Fitzgerald - **Volunteer Coordinator**
- Kelly Lenhart - **Wendy's Night Coordinator**
- Open Position - **Raffle Coordinator**

Join in the 2nd Annual Saydel Spook Run

Saturday, Oct. 31

10:30 am at Saydel High School

Sign up using Spook Run link on Saydel's Web site, www.saydel.k12.ia.us



“SOARING” In P.E. With Mrs. C

By Melissa Cogdill, PE Teacher

Cornell friends are literally “soaring” in P.E. They are demonstrating safety, open-mindedness, accountability, and respectfulness during fun movement activities in physical education! I am so proud of all students effort, participation, and enthusiasm in class. Keep up the fantastic work!

Cornell 2-4 graders are working on spatial awareness, football skills, and overall fitness concepts. At the beginning of the year each of these classes came up with their own “hopes and dreams” for this year in P.E.! They are also demonstrating cooperation skills while participating in a variety of activities including scooter football, crazy pin football, and “center-pede” activities!

I encourage you to ask your child about these activities and what they learned from participating in them! Cornell kindergarten and first grade friends have been working hard and having fun focusing on locomotor movement such as galloping, skipping, hopping and running. We enjoy working toward a “healthy heart” while having fun cooperating with our friends!

We are gearing up for a fun fitness scavenger hunt in the upcoming weeks and all grades will be working on soccer skills, kicking skills and really focusing on maintaining a safe, social and physical fun learning environment!

I am so proud of all Cornell friends, and I encourage families to get out enjoy the fall weather with one another!



Mrs. Griffin’s fourth grade students share their hopes and dreams for PE.





NEEDING CHILDCARE OCTOBER 9TH?

Eagle's Nest will be having a Day Camp

HOURS: 6:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

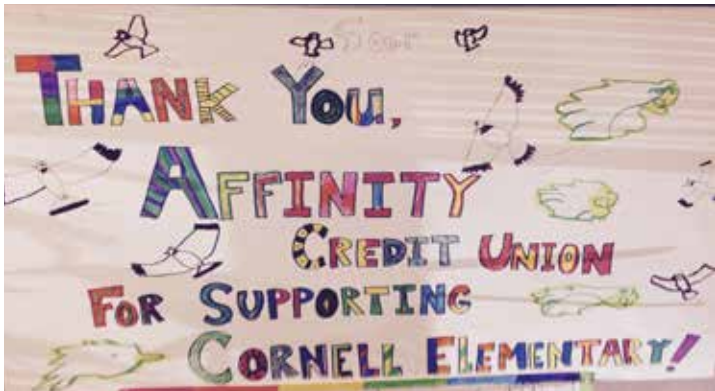
\$20.00 per child

Children may bring their Halloween costumes to change into for show and tell.

YOUR CHILD MUST BRING A SACK LUNCH!
(BREAKFAST OR LUNCH WILL NOT BE PROVIDED)

There will be crafts, karaoke, movies, gym, outdoor play and much more!

JOIN THE FUN!
STOP BY EAGLE'S NEST & GET SIGNED UP!



Thank you to the following businesses for supporting the Cornell Elementary School SOAR Program.

- Affinity Credit Union***
- Big Barn Harley Davidson***
- Carmen's Flowers***
- Des Moines Civic Center***
- Family Christian Store***
- Fridley Theatre***
- Heartland Chiropractic & Wellness Center***
- LaBounty Chiropractic***
- Otterbox***
- Plaza Lanes***
- Saydel Athletic Boosters***
- State Farm, Deb Stubbs***
- Strawberry Patch***
- The Learning Post***

The students at Cornell Elementary thanked the school's Business Partner, Affinity Credit Union for their SOAR sponsorship by making posters to hang in Affinity's lobby. The first grade poster is pictured here. Affinity Credit Union also hosted a school supply drive for Cornell in August. Thank you Affinity for your support!



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**

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.