



# Woodside Middle School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

October 2015 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### Woodside Middle School

#### OCTOBER 13

7th & 8th Grade Football Game at Saydel, 4:15 PM

#### OCTOBER 15

7th & 8th Grade Cross Country at Saydel, 4 PM

#### OCTOBER 16

- Box Tops Challenge Final Day
- 7th & 8th Grade Football Award Night, 4:30 PM
- Middle School Band Half Time Performance at Football Game

#### OCTOBER 21

5th Grade Hearing Screening

#### OCTOBER 26

- Red Ribbon Week Assembly

#### OCTOBER 31

- 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast, Delaware Township Fire Station, 7-11 AM
- Spook Run at High School, 10:30 AM

#### NOVEMBER 5

PTO Meeting. 6:30 PM

#### NOVEMBER 6

Fall Fundraiser Pickup, 2:30 - 5:30 PM

#### NOVEMBER 13

5th & 6th Grade Dance, 6 - 8 PM

#### NOVEMBER 14

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

## 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

The 2015-16 school year is off to a rapid start. It is hard to believe Parent-Teacher Conferences were just held in each building across the district. Already, seven weeks have passed since we opened our school doors. Staff, families, and students have collectively made the beginning of the year a rewarding experience and one which has created lasting memories. In my back to school letter sent out in August, I identified three primary goals for the 2015-16 school year. They were climate and culture, involvement, and communication. Each month I would like to take a moment of your time to expand on one of these goal areas for this year.



Principal Joshua Heyer

This month I would like to highlight Woodside efforts to increase communication. Woodside's goal is to encourage two-way communication between all members of the Woodside community. The result in two-way communication is a collaborative approach for your child's educational success. Several forms of communication are available in an effort to develop this partnership.

- 1. Grade level communication:** Each grade level team has developed ways to keep parents in the know.
  - 5th grade utilizes nightly folders, Friday Folders, and a monthly newsletter.
  - 6th grade also utilizes nightly folders as well as student self-reflection forms sent to parents.
  - 7th grade is sending quick preview emails on a bi-weekly basis to parents.
  - 8th grade maintains a website with all of their student information. The website is <https://sites.google.com/a/saydel.net/8th-grade/home>.
- 2. Individual communication:** Staff has worked to increase communication to parents and guardians' regarding what is occurring on a day-to-day basis in the classroom. Increased communication through email, phone calls, as well as letters in the mail is occurring to make sure that parents are aware. We invite you to reach out to any staff member through email or phone.
- 3. Digital sign:** Our school secretary, Shannon Riddlebarger, has been updating the digital sign at the front of our school to reflect upcoming events. This is a great opportunity for students and parents to see what is happening at Woodside while driving by our school.
- 4. District website:** The district website was completely overhauled last year. The website now has a wealth of information for individuals including recent district news and an events calendar. The district website address is <http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us>.
- 5. PowerSchool parent portal:** PowerSchool is a school management system that the Saydel District utilizes for various tasks, including student information, attendance, and grades. Parents can access the parent PowerSchool portal by clicking on the PowerSchool link on our district website or visit <https://ps-saydel.gwaea.org/public/>.
- 6. SchoolMessenger:** The district is beginning the process of rolling out text messaging capability using SchoolMessenger. To begin this process parents/guardians will need to opt in before the district can send any messages. To do this parents text the word Yes to 68453. By doing this, parents will be able to receive text messages when the district needs to send out important information.
- 7. Social media presence:** If you are connected to the social media scene, I would like to invite you to follow @woodsidesms on Twitter and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Woodside-Middle-School-825098994208376](http://www.facebook.com/Woodside-Middle-School-825098994208376).

Using multiple types of communication results in parents and guardians staying connected. The district hopes this allows individuals the ability to select which type of communication serves their needs. I hope each of you will determine which type of communication works for you and take advantage of these opportunities to stay connected. If I can be of any assistance, feel free to contact the Woodside office or email me at [heyerjoshua@saydel.net](mailto:heyerjoshua@saydel.net).

# Learning Progress at Woodside

By Shannon Zeutenhorst & Kim Moyle, Master Teachers

We are excited about the progress being made at Woodside Middle School. Scores on our two national tests, Iowa Assessment and MAP, continue to increase, and we are seeing student growth in the classrooms.

As we maintain our focus on preparing every student to be college or career ready when they graduate, we want you to be aware of some of the initiatives we are working on at Woodside.

We have updated curriculum materials in the majority of the classrooms to make sure they are clearly aligned with Common Core. This means that your students will be focused on the same learning goals as their peers across the nation. The new materials are also designed to be more focused on problem-solving and engaging students. We want the skills that your students are learning to be something they use beyond the classroom.

In addition to the new materials, teachers continue to work on school-wide strategies. This means that all of our teachers will be working on improving the same math, reading or social skill. Having frequent practice and a consistent message will help your students grow in these skill areas. Our first school-wide skill



Students engaged in Guided Reading.

is called Talk Moves. It's a way to help your student give and receive constructive feedback with others. This will help students take more ownership of their learning and be an active participant in our learning community. We will be starting Talk Moves in mid-October.

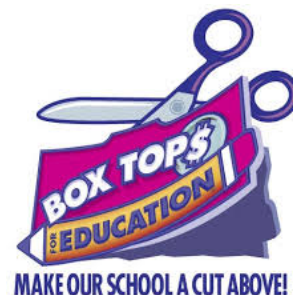
We're looking forward to an outstanding year of learning and growth at Woodside Middle School.

## Woodside Box Tops Challenge

Cut the Box Tops and earn prizes from Woodside PTO. For every 25 Box Tops turned into office, the student will receive an opportunity to win a prize.

### Prizes:

- 2 - \$10 iTunes card
- 2 - \$10 Target gift card
- 1 - \$20 Merle Hay gift card



Challenge winners will be selected October 16, 2015.

For more information, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.

# Students Learn Fitness & Dance/ Rhythmic Skills in PE

By Travis French, PE Teacher

Physical Education at Woodside Middle School is off to a great start so far this year!

We began the year by doing our initial Fitness Gram assessments.

These formative assessments are used to help determine which Health-Related Fitness Components will be a focus moving forward this year.

The students will participate in these assessments two more times this year to help evaluate the success they are experiencing.

After the Fitness Gram Unit, the PE students worked on their volley skills during a Volleyball Unit. During the month of September they moved on to a Dance and Rhythmic Skills Unit, in which the 7th and 8th grade students voted to learn a dance for Michael Jackson's "Beat It" and Silento's popular "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)".

Moving forward, the PE curriculum will take a turn toward long arm implements (lacrosse, hockey, etc.) and throwing and catching skills.



The Chicago skyline painted by 8th grader Katelyn Kelley.

By Ashley Freese, 8th Grade Language Arts/Reading Teacher

## 8th Grade Language Literacy News

How do authors and citizens create the myth of a great American city such as Chicago? That is the question 8th grade students at Woodside have been working to answer. The students have read numerous texts written by a variety of authors to determine what makes a great American city, focusing specifically on Chicago.

We have concentrated on determining the main idea and figuring out exactly what the author wants us to know. As we move into the second half of our unit, we will begin focusing on The Great Fire that took place in Chicago at the turn of the 20th century.

Students will look at multiple sources with conflicting information to determine what really happened the night of the fire. Students have expressed their learning through class discussions, written responses, and artistic representations of the literature.

You are invited!

National Bring an Adult to  
**LUNCH DAY**

Please join your child for a meal in the school cafeteria!

Date:  
on 10-14-15

Adult meal price:  
\$3.35

Please RSVP by 9am the latest  
on 10-14-15



# News & Events from Woodside PTO

By Amanda Stone, Woodside PTO Vice President

The Woodside PTO is excited for another year of growing and working with not only our teachers, but with other Woodside school groups.

Our concession stand is up and running! This is a small fundraiser for the PTO and a huge convenience for our families at games. We have heard many compliments about having a stand available at the middle school level. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please contact Amanda Stone at [stoneamanda@saydel.net](mailto:stoneamanda@saydel.net).

Our first Box Tops incentive is in motion. For every 25 Box Tops that a student brings in, they are given a ticket that will be entered into a drawing for great prizes. We will be drawing names on October 16.

We just kicked off our fall fundraiser; orders are due back on Monday, October 12. Delivery will be Friday, November 6 from 2:30-5:30 PM in the Woodside cafeteria. Small orders can go home with students on the bus, but we do ask that someone pick up any larger orders.

You may be wondering what we do with the money from our fundraisers. All funds are used for students, teachers and staff and anything that contributes to the overall benefit of Woodside Middle School.

Last season we purchased the 7th and 8th grade basketball uniforms and our Eagles looked great on the court. An almost completed project is the extraordinary artwork on the gym floor and walls that many years of students will be able to enjoy! We have also supported the 8th grade picnic, the 5th grade class parties and the Saydel Little League.



Connie Tague and Jessica Perry in the concession stand.

Please join us at our next PTO meeting on Thursday, November 5 at 6:30 PM in the Woodside Library.

The **2015-16 PTO Board** members are:

Julie Jennings - **President**

Amanda Stone - **Vice President**

Open Position - **Treasurer**

Connie Tague - **Secretary**

Sandy Barton - **Box Tops Coordinator**

Linda Ford - **Conference Meals Coordinator**

Amanda Kouski - **Fundraiser Coordinator**

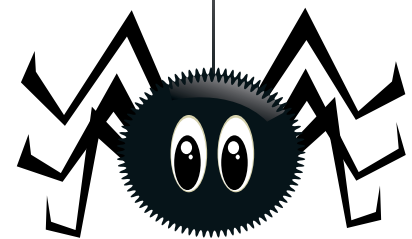
Open Position - **Concession Stand Coordinator**



## 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](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)



# WHY

*grrr  
grumble*



*growl*

## start the day with a growling stomach?

### Come to School Breakfast everyone is welcome!

Want an easy and inexpensive way to help your child become more successful in school *and* save you time in the morning? School breakfast helps kids improve their grades, pay better attention in class, increase school attendance, and improve classroom behavior.

Breakfast is available to *all* students at Woodside Middle School. Make sure your child is participating so that they can grow to their fullest potential.

For more information, please contact Jessy Sadler, Director of Food Services at 515-264-0866 or email at [sadlerjessy@saydel.net](mailto:sadlerjessy@saydel.net).

On any given day, 51% of kids go to school without breakfast

Child Nutrition Foundation/National Dairy Council®



# 6th Grade Students Are Busy Learning!

## *Exciting hands-on & group activities enhance learning*

By Linda Reid, 6th Grade Teacher

Sixth grade is off to a wonderful start with several exciting things happening in our classrooms. The students are having lots of opportunities to work in groups and assist each other in the exploration of learning. We are focusing on the following topics in class:

**Science** – The main theme in science has been erosion. The students are using hands-on activities to learn about what is causing and controlling erosion. They are currently working on a basketball court challenge based on the concept of erosion.

**Language Literacy** – The students were diving into the Elements of Fiction and Non-Fiction. They did activities in plot, character development, setting, conflict, key events, theme/central idea, and author/narrator. They also learned how to annotate an article, looking for the main idea, key details, and writing a summary. We are now learning about the Great Depression and reading the novel Bud, Not Buddy.

**Geography** – The students are exploring what it is to think like a geographer. They are going to be exploring the 11 regions of the world and learn about the landscape, culture, and locations of these regions. We have also focused on text features, a key detail when reading informational text.

**Math** – The students have been learning about ratios. They are working diligently on ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems. They have used tape diagrams and ratio tables to assist in how to solve these problems.



# Overview of Woodside's Behaviors Program & Middle School Football Wrap Up

By Justin Russell, 5-8 Strategist II Instruction/Behavior

I've been asked to give a quick tour of the Behaviors program, and on a separate note, the Woodside Eagles Football program so far this year.

It's been a very interesting year, with each day becoming a learning experience. While I reflect on what to share and express the many ideas that are being discussed, I'd like for you to think about and imagine Woodside in an entirely new way. The staff here is striving to create not only a place of learning and safety for all students, but to create career leading/highly successful methods to reaching today's youth. It has been a joy and an enriching couple of months, and I cannot wait to see what else will come.

The first thing I'd like to share with you about the new Behaviors program is the obvious -- it's NEW! The second is what I really appreciate and highly encourage others to participate in is the discussions based upon the many different philosophies of how to teach and create understanding in young people today. As we know, there is no magic way to teach/instruct today's youth. What works at one school district, one classroom, even for one teacher does not work everywhere.

As a Woodside staff, we have continued to facilitate these conversations across various curricular, skill/experience, and levels of thought; we have been able to develop a new way of thinking and style of program. This leads me to my last things I'd like to share/reflect upon with you; this program seeks to understand every part of a behavior that is negative and then develop, implement, and assess.....and sometimes if needed, start over to find what best fits the student's needs, provides the necessary level of understanding and practice, and allows teachers to teach and students to learn.

This has been a major undertaking that involved many trial and error attempts. It incorporated not only psychology, research, patience, but also feedback from every staff member in Woodside. The understanding that there is nothing perfect, and anything created cannot be satisfactory. This understanding has grown into a unsaid mantra that we are here to create the best program possible for every student who walks through Woodside Middle School's doors.

The thing I'd like to share/reflect with you on the Woodside Eagles football season is that we have

come to the end of what seems like a quick season. I wish I could find the words to express how proud I am of this group of student-athletes. I can't write enough to describe their hunger to learn, their perseverance during hardships, their mentality of being unbeatable, and their attitude and acceptance of the level of work that is asked of them.

I have coached for almost 11 years, and I can only think of a small number of those where I had a group of young men who worked as hard as this group does. The 8th graders right now are 4 -1.... which I believe this is the best we've had in almost 10 years. They have shown unbelievable courage and dedication to something that beat them down a year ago as they were 0-6 as 7th graders.

Speaking of which, if you see one of our current 7th grader players, tell them great job. Even though they are 2-3 so far this year, I am excited for what next year holds for them. If I were to sum up this football season, only one comes to mind -- TRADITION.

We appreciate your support as a community, and as a coaching staff, we can't wait to watch the amount of success that these kids will have.



Woodside Eagles 8th Grade Team is pictured here after their win against Collins-Maxwell.

## Woodside Staff Highlight: *Shannon Riddlebarger*

**Name:** Shannon Riddlebarger

**Position at Woodside:** Secretary

**Family:** Jeff, Ryan, Cole & Brandon

**Previous work/college experience:** Graduated from AIB, worked at CDS Global for 20 years

**One thing you have enjoyed about working at Woodside:**

"I have enjoyed working with each student on a daily basis and getting to know and support them."

**One thing you did not realize about Saydel before starting this position:** "The vast amount of challenges each day in a middle school setting."

**One thing you want others in the community to know about Woodside:** "The teachers & staff are truly dedicated to all kids at Woodside and work countless hours."



thank  
you!

Thank you to all parents who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences.

*Your involvement in Saydel School Conferences reinforces a team approach that supports your students' ongoing success.*

### 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.