

OCTOBER
2008

CENTRAL PARENT NEWSLETTER

Join your child for lunch!

Our Fall Breakfast is on Thursday, October 23rd at 7:30 am. We encourage all kids to invite a special visitor to join them for breakfast at the school. \$1.60 for Adults/\$1.10 for Kids.

Parents are encouraged to visit the school anytime to observe a class or join their child for lunch. If you know you are coming, call the office or send a note in the morning so we can include you in our lunch count. But, if you happen to find yourself available for lunch at the last minute, don't hesitate to drop in.

DRIVE-UP LANE WORKING SMOOTHLY

MANY OF YOU HAVE BEGUN TO USE OUR NEW DRIVE-UP LANE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL. SO FAR IT IS WORKING PRETTY SMOOTHLY AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO DRIVE SAFELY AND WAIT PATIENTLY AS WE LOAD KIDS EACH AFTERNOON.

OUR DRIVE-UP LANE SHOULD ONLY BE USED TO DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP KIDS WITHOUT PARKING.

WHEN YOU USE THE DRIVE-UP LANE, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE LANE, LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE AND GO INSIDE WITH YOUR CHILD. INSTEAD, PLEASE USE A PARKING STALL.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE ONE-WAY STATUS OF OUR DRIVING LANE TO ENSURE SAFETY AND DECREASE CONGESTION.

CENTRAL GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT - NEIL CHEN

Neil was born in New York and moved to Kearney during the middle of his kindergarten year. Although he had never been enrolled in school before and spoke very little English, Neil was a quick study. He picked up the language very fast and easily passed all of the kindergarten requirements. Neil is excellent when it comes to numbers! His parents own Kings Buffet. Mrs. Flavell, our ELL teacher, remembers going to eat at the restaurant when he was in 2nd or 3rd grade and Neil was running the cash register. He was figuring prices and giving out change accurately. When asked about Neil, she noted that "He is very bright and very logical. He loves concrete things such as numbers and thrives when he can experience things. Neil has been in summer school and is

always eager to go on the field trips to and enjoy new experiences."

Neil is a very kind and conscientious student and we recently asked that he come back to Central to mentor two new Chinese students in our kindergarten. He visits them twice a week to make sure that they are enjoying school and help them with their English language acquisition.

Neil is currently a sixth grade student at Horizon Middle School.

Please send your nominations for future Graduate Highlights to: teresa.schnoor@kearneypublic.org

COUNSELOR'S CORNER:

TERESA CORDES, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR

IN OUR GUIDANCE LESSONS, WE HAVE BEEN DOING ACTIVITIES THAT CENTER AROUND THE KEY OF INTEGRITY. WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT "TRUE INTEGRITY" WHICH FOCUSES ON DOING THE RIGHT THING EVEN WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING. WE DO IT BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING FOR US, WILL STRENGTHEN OUR CHARACTER, AND ALSO HELP OTHERS AROUND US.

ITBS (ACHIEVEMENT) TESTS WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK FOR THE 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADERS ON OCTOBER 22ND. THESE TESTS GIVE A "PICTURE" OF THE STUDENTS AND WHAT THEY KNOW. THE BEST THING YOU, AS A PARENT, CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD DO THEIR BEST ON THE ITBS TESTS IS TO PROVIDE POSITIVE SUPPORT BY SHOWING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S ABILITY TO DO THEIR BEST. CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW THAT TEST SCORES ARE IMPORTANT, BUT ARE NOT THE MEASURE OF YOUR LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THEM. ON TEST DAYS, TRY TO PROVIDE A CALM, STRESS-FREE ENVIRONMENT EACH MORNING AS YOUR CHILD GETS READY FOR SCHOOL. GET UP IN PLENTY OF TIME TO AVOID MORNING RUSH AND ANXIETY. EAT A GOOD HEALTHY BREAKFAST. LIMIT NIGHTTIME EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS THAT MAY INTERFERE WITH THEIR REGULAR BEDTIME ROUTINE. REINFORCE THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND TRYING YOUR BEST EVEN IF IT GETS DIFFICULT AT TIMES.

STAY TUNED NEXT MONTH TO HEAR ABOUT RED RIBBON WEEK AND THE GREAT ACTIVITIES WE HAVE PLANNED TO HELP US CELEBRATE SAYING "NO" AND KEEPING OUR BODIES HEALTHY!

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PAC MEETING NOTES

The Central Elementary PAC met on Thursday, October 9th at 7 PM in the school media center.

DON'T FORGET THOSE BOXTOPS! AT 10 CENTS A LABEL, THE CASH ADDS UP FAST. AT CENTRAL, WE'VE EARNED AN AVERAGE OF \$300 A YEAR. THAT HELPS US OFFER A VARIETY OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES TO YOUR KIDS.



-Carissa Sanny has agreed to serve as our Treasurer. Our current account balance should be around \$8000 after the receipt of this year's Deli International sales. Beginning this year, Central's activity account and the PAC account will split Deli International receipts 50/50.

-Central T-Shirts went home with students last Friday. Additional parent orders will be sent in this next week. -Thursday, November 6th is our annual Spaghetti Night and Raffle. The Spaghetti Shop will be providing the food again this year. Tickets are \$4.50 for Adults/\$3.00 for Kids. We are going to discontinue our Silent Auction this year and expand our Basket Raffle. This year's basket themes will include Huskers, Scrapbooking, Super Heroes/Princesses, Games, Cooking, Arts/Crafts, Gardening, Dining Out around Kearney, Shopping/Entertainment, Spa/Bath & Body, and Outdoor Fun. Notes will be sent home to let kids and parents know how they can help with this important project.

-Plans to remember the service of Mr. Nyffeler and retired teachers were discussed again. There is interest in creating an outdoor classroom that would include benches, a gazebo, and flower garden. Options for including the Boy Scouts or other service groups to help with design and labor were discussed. Teresa Schnoor will visit with Building and Grounds about possible locations.

-We would like to encourage parents to consider becoming active in our parent committee. A number of strategies were discussed including providing babysitting services during meetings and increasing visibility at events including Kindergarten Round-Up. Johna Munch is looking into the creation of a flyer.

-We enjoyed positive feedback about our plan to alternate our meeting times between noon and 7 PM. We've added a PAC meeting in May.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 13th at NOON in the media center.

4TH GRADE PRIDE BEGINS ACTIVITIES

OUR FOURTH GRADE PRIDE STUDENT SERVICE ORGANIZATION HAS BEGUN ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES AROUND THE SCHOOL. MEMBERS HAVE BEEN TAKING TURNS SAYING THE PLEDGE OVER THE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE GROUP WILL HELP UNLOAD DELI INTERNATIONAL ORDERS NEXT WEEK.

PRIDE STUDENTS ARE ALSO WORKING WITH DARE OFFICE MCLAUGHLIN TO PRESENT A BULLYING PRESENTATION TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS.

Appreciation & Accolades

-**Marilee Kulhanek** (5th grade) was named Wal-Mart's Outstanding Teacher of the Year. She was nominated for the award by a previous student. She received \$1,000 to spend for her classroom. She plans to spend the money on a number of special activities to supplement the curriculum.

-**Cheryl Popple** (Life Skills) was the runner-up for the Wal-Mart teacher of the year award. She received \$250 to spend on the students in her classroom.

-**Val Scott** (1st Grade) is a Blue Ribbon Teacher! Her previous school was recently one of six Nebraska schools recognized as a US Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

-Thank-you **PAC** for providing staff a delicious meal from Luke & Jakes during conferences.

-92% of parents attended our Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences! Thank-you parents for joining us for these important meetings.

-Thank-you **parents** for attending **Amigo's** Night and Amigo's for your supporting of our school. Thank-you **Culver's, Baskin-Robbins, and Applebees** for your recent support.

-Thank-you **parents** for your ongoing feedback and ideas as we implement new practices around our school. Your feedback has made ideas like our Drive-up pick-up plan work much better.



PARENT NEWSLETTER

Payment Information from the Bearcat Diner

The Bearcat Diner would like to keep you informed of your Family Account balance. Please call the Diner Office 698-8158, 698-8159, or 698-8160 and provide us with your e-mail address.

Remember: For your convenience we have a drop box for payments located downtown behind City Hall.

Announcing **e-Funds For Schools** that allows parents additional payment options. E-funds is a way to make payments to your

child's school lunch account, via the Internet, using a credit card or transferring money from your checking account. Use the following URL hyperlink address for Bearcat Diner Web payments: <http://eps.mvpbanking.com/cgi-bin/efs/login.pl?access=55019>

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please call the Bearcat Diner Office with any changes to your Mailing Address or Home Phone Number or E-mail. It is necessary that our database is as current as possible, so that you can receive any information that is needed from our office.

RAISING A READER

DISCUSS WHAT YOU
READ TOGETHER. ASK
QUESTIONS AND LISTEN
ATTENTIVELY TO OUR
CHILD'S ANSWERS.
HAVE FUN ENGAGING
IN CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT BOOKS!



RED RIBBON WEEK IS NOVEMBER 10TH-14TH

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Red Ribbon week. The event has grown into the country's largest anti-drug endeavor. Encouraging youngsters to turn away from drugs is the main emphasis, but giving them the tools to make other healthy choices is now a component. Central Elementary is embracing the opportunity to be part of the fight against drugs.

During the week of November 10th-14th, each prevention day is based on a theme for student, parent, and community involvement.

- Monday, Nov. 10th "Walk Away" from Drugs (School Walk-*Wear sweats/tennis shoes*)
- Tuesday, Nov. 11th Join the "Fight" Against Drugs (Flag Presentation/ Speaker from Hero Flight-*Wear Camouflage or Patriotic Clothes to School*)
- Wed, Nov. 12th I "Can" Be Drug Free (Food Drive at School-*Wear Red to School*)
- Thurs, Nov. 13th "Lei" Off Drugs (Wear Lei to Selected Business for Discounts – *Wear Hawaiian Clothing to School*)
- Friday, Nov. 14th Drugs Don't Make "Cents" (*Wear a hat to school for 25 cents-money donated to "Friends" Program*)

Additional information will be sent home as Red Ribbon week approaches.

NOTES FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE: TIPS FOR INFLUENZA SEASON

1. The recommended age range of children for annual influenza immunization has been expanded to include all children 6 months through 18 years of age, which means vaccinating:

- * All children at higher risk for influenza complications (those with chronic medical conditions or immunosuppression)

- * All healthy children 6 through 59 months of age

This population bears the greatest disease burden and is at significantly higher risk of needing influenza-related medical care compared with healthy adults. In addition, reducing influenza transmission among school-aged children will, in turn, reduce transmission of influenza to household contacts and community members.

2. Household members and out-of-home care providers of all children at high risk and adolescents and of all healthy children younger than 5 years also should receive influenza vaccine each year. Immunization of the close contacts of children at high risk is intended to reduce the risk of exposure to influenza for these young children, who are at serious risk of influenza infection, hospitalization, and complications.

3. All children 6 months through 18 years of age, especially those at high risk of complications from influenza, should be identified, and their parents should be informed, when possible, that annual influenza immunization is due.

4. On the basis of global surveillance of circulating influenza strains, all 3 strains in the 2008–2009 influenza vaccines are different from last year's strains. Reference: [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)