Spring Newsletter



 515 242-8449 office number Audrey Rieken- Principal

Melissa Houser-office Manager Peggy Ganem-Attendance

### Weeks Middle School

# State Science Fair News from Science teacher, Mrs. Cavalier

ATTENDANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

If your child is going to be absent, late to school, or leaving early, please contact:

Mrs. Peggy Ganem

 242-8449 We would appreciate it very much!!!

Important Dates

This year has flown by and we have seen many successes here at Weeks. We have just finished with the Iowa Assessment (used to be called ITBS) and we are looking forward to the results. Our students have had great gains on the district benchmarks and many times have outscored the other middle schools.

We have been able to add many new library books to the library for your student’s use. We will also be adding new technology to the classrooms for student use, such as iPads.

 Our students had input on creating our school logo to go along with our mission and vision. We have chosen:

**W**eeks

**M**eans

 **S**uccess

We are all working hard to have a successful end of the year making the best use of classroom time preparing your student for the next year. Our 8th graders will be the busiest preparing for high school, making schedules, career day, dance, and 8th grade celebration. We are sending our 8th graders off to high school with high school credit to help them on their way to graduation. We will be sad to see them off but know that they will succeed in the future.

There are opportunities for your student this summer. 21st Century will be having summer school in the morning in July for 3 weeks – July 5th – July 26th for our current 6th and 7th graders and our incoming 6th graders. This will be a great opportunity for your student to keep up on reading and math and enjoy being a part learning and having a step up for the fall.

Please stop by or call if you have any questions about Weeks Middle School.

Audrey Rieken

Principal

Spring Newsletter

Volume 5

**A message from our Principal, Audrey Rieken**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday, May 7 PTO @ 6:00 pm |  |
| Friday, May 11, 8th grad dance 6:00-8:30pm |  |
| Thursday, May 17-Spring Instrumental Concert 6:30pm |  |
| Thursday, May 24-Choral Concert 6:30pm |  |
| Monday, May 28- No School –Memorial Day |  |
| Thursday, May 31 Last Day of School |  |
|  |  |

 Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Come and bring the entire family to a fun night of learning, eating, and playing games!**

The goal for the evening is to provide you with information on what your student is learning in a fun way! There will be a fun/interactive

We are very proud of the six young ladies that participated in the Iowa State Science and Technology fair on March 31!**Makayla Senecaut** was the first student from Des Moines Public Schools to participate in the seminar presentations. She placed 11th in the biological division.

The other participants were: Caylee Kofron

 Tiffany Contreras

 Ronaje Johnson

 Akilah McPherson

 Victoria Wilson

 

**School Supplies**



**Parents please ensure your student is well prepared when coming to school with paper and pencils to finish the rest of the school year.**

|  |
| --- |
|  See full size image May 2012 See full size image |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  | 1 | 2. Early Dismissal @ 1:00 | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| 6. | 7.PTO meeting in Library @6:00pmSoccer at Weeks6:00pm | 8. | 9. Early Dismissal @1:00 | 10.Soccer at Weeks6:00 pm. | 11. 8th grade dance 6-8:30 pm.http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRzRFRMgXc0bADQGcAZJpF3usKnYWkuivvNdd0OGk8d2ibhHnZEpXzucNy6 | 12. |
| 13. | 14. Soccer at Weeks 5:00pm. | 15.  | 16. Early Dismissal @1:00 | 17. **Soccer at Weeks 4:00pm**Spring Instrumental Concert 6:30pmhttp://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQdi0aR6XV6p_zgLX4l5T2tG_ckgMlB6iL7FMgViUdlWgRjLZT2LCCBMho | 18.  | 19. |
| 20. | 21.Soccer at Weeks4:00pm. | 22. | 23. Early Dismissal @1:00pm | 24. Choral Concert 6:30http://t2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcR5PswXNTe_PkElmxA75t4ZwaJN13jUZw7hkPRKUMkHlYRW_xb6krrGRZ2z | 25. | 26. |
| 27. | 28. No School.See full size image | 29. | 30. | 31. Last day of school. |  |  |

## News from the 6th grade by Mr. Michael Pecina, School Improvement Leader

The 6th graders, along with all of Weeks Middle School just finished the Iowa Assessment test. Students were tested in Reading, Math and Science. The students and teachers worked very hard and we are expecting great scores. If a student was present for all of the tests they will receive a Hershey candy bar with its own Weeks wrapper. If a teacher observed a student showing great effort they received a ticket that will be placed in a box and they have a chance to win another prize.

We are half way through term 7 with only one full term left in the school year. We will end the year with a couple of student celebrations. On Friday May 4 we will have our last Character Counts Assembly. Students will be nominated by their teachers that show great character in “fairness.” On Friday May 18 students who earned all A’s or all A’s and B’s and did not have any level II referrals for term 7 will be honored with various types of ice cream. The students have made great strides academically, physically, socially and emotionally. It was a good growing year for the 6th grade students. They will make great 7th graders.

Sincerely, Michael Pecina, 6th Grade SIL

 By Kristy Fitzgerald

 **This is what was decided for the end of the year at our last 7th grade team meeting:**

The first is our last two 7th grade celebrations and what students have to avoid to be invited, and the second part is the upcoming units for each content area.

* *Maintain Positive Building Climate and Culture*
	+ - Student Celebrations
		- May 1st-May Day Party-No Level 2’s or above and no more than 2 tardies from April 5th to April 30th
		- May 31st –Last day of School Carnival-No Level 3’s or above or will be suspended on the last day of school and miss all end of the year activities from May 1st to May 30th.
* *Improve Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Alignment*
	+ - Content Curriculum Collaboration
		- Math-Geometry-Area and Circumference of a Circle, Volume, and Surface Area
		- Literacy-Theme-Mythology, Fables, Tall Tales, Legends, Readers Theater, Earth Day (April 22nd), Latino Heritage, Any small Goodness, Of Mice and Men
* Science-Environmental Science-Ecosystems, Biomes, Animals, Pollution, Recycling, Natural Resources
* Global Studies-Human Rights-Child Labor Laws-Colonization-Fiords-Australia-South East Asia
* Art- Visual Balance-Radial Balance-Proportionality
* Writing-Dream Vacation Newsletter with specifications for design
* Chorus-Lyrical Memory Work-Original Composition-Soulfege
* Piano-Different Beat Scale Patterns

***News from the Classroom***

**News from the 8th grade by….Mr. Chris Reeves, School Improvement Leader**

8th Grade News

8th Grade Career Day will be held on Wednesday, May 9th.  Students will have the opportunity to learn about different careers and visit admissions personnel from several colleges and universities.

8th Grade Dance will be held on Friday May 11th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm in the Weeks Gymnasium.  Students must have no out of school suspensions between April 16th and May 11th 2012 and also have no outstanding detentions in order to attend.  Cost for entry to the dance is $5.00.

8th Grade Science students will soon begin building solar cars in their Science classes.  Students will use their knowledge from the Energy, Light, and Astronomy units to help them build cars that run solely on solar energy.  Students will then race their cars to culminate the activity.

Thanks,

Chris Reeves.

**Parent Volunteers always needed**!!!

Please contact Mrs. Thomason, our Parent Family Liaison, if you are interested in volunteering. We have activities and events where the help of a parent is greatly appreciated!!

Lupe.thomason@dmpschools.org

 

**News from our School nurse, Kathleen Paul, R.N.**



**Dental screenings**

Recommended for 9th grade.

Required for school sponsored athletics-valid for 13 months.

All physicals that are up-to-date after the start of 9th grade will be forwarded to respective high school

Hard copies of physicals will be transferred with the health record

Please contact Mrs. Paul (nurse) if you **do not have insurance** and need the name of a provider @ free or reduced costs

**Celebrations:**

**Family Fun Night: February 7th, 6:00 – 7:30pm.** Come for food and fun for the whole family! Visit classrooms and experience fun and educational activities that will entertain and amaze your entire family.

8th Grade students were invited to a Winter Dance on December 20th to celebrate good behavior. The dance took place after school in the cafeteria from 2:30 until 4:00. Students who did not receive behavior referrals that are level II or higher between November 8th and December 20 were eligible to attend.

  ***Parent Tips for staying Involved in Your Child’s Middle School Years***

*The middle school years can be exciting, yet confusing time for students, as well as for families. Children are seeking increased independence, and you may find that you child is no longer inviting you to school activities. Parents may be searching for a “place to fit” reminiscent of the intimate and familiar environment of an elementary school. Parent involvement will certainly look different in the middle school years, but parents are needed at this critical juncture more than ever.*

***Below are some suggestions****:*

* *Encourage homework and reading. Help your children choose a good time and place to do their assignments and special projects. Provide the necessary materials and provide support.*
* *Provide support and structure, while instilling responsibility; i.e.* posting daily schedule and calendar on the refrigerator or other area will keep you BOTH organized
* *Communicate expectation, discuss ideas and feelings about school, homework, and interests*
* *Ensure your child attends school regularly and gets sufficient rest*
* *Review your child’s school records each year. It is your right, and you should know what information is in the file.*
* *Know what classes your child is taking and what is being learned*
* *Help your child identify their goals and explore dreams, connecting them with academic requirements and high school education and training*
* *Monitor student progress; using all resources such as progress reports, report cards, on-line grade updates, personal communication with teachers by email, phone calls, conferences*
* *Be aware of indicators of indicators that may signal potential or serious academic problems. Some typical changes that may be cause for concern are: falling grades and negative changes in attitude and behavior. These warning signs should be discussed with the teacher and/or counselor*
* *Communicate frequently with your child’s teachers and/or counselor for enrichment or remediation academic services*
* *Get or stay involved with the PTA/PTO or other parent organization*
* *Get to know your child’s teachers, counselor, principle, and office staff*
* *Serve on school committees or**volunteer in school events*
* *Frequently visit school’s website, read newsletters, and all other forms of communication form the school*

*Library News from Mrs. Rice……*

Did you know April 9-14, 2012 is Library Week?

Come visit Mrs. Rice and check out our newest additions to the library! We have added several new graphic novels and have multiple copies of the latest series!

Library Hours are: 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Di you know you can read books online from home?

[*http://destiny.dmps.k12.ia.us/*](http://destiny.dmps.k12.ia.us/)

* *click on District Offices*
* *Libraries & Information Services*
* *Resource Lists*
* *Choose an e-book*
* *If the book is in, select Read Online*
* *Enjoy!*



This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it’s a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you’ve received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to f communication that you’ve created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.