Fall Newsletter



515 242-8449 office number Audrey Rieken- Principal

Melissa Houser-office Manager Peggy Ganem-Attendance

### Weeks Middle School

ATTENDANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Mrs. Peggy Ganem

242-8449

A doctor’s note is required after a visit.

Important Dates

This year is flying by. We have just finished our first term for the year and beginning the second. We will work hard to have a successful year and equip each child with the essential learning skills necessary to advance. However, remember that an education is a team effort involving parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and our community. Time and time again research has indicated that when parents/guardians are involved, students are successful! They have higher grades, higher test results, better school attendance, better self-esteem and lower rate of inappropriate behaviors.

Please have your student take advantage of the various after school programs such as 21st Century which will begin Monday, October 1, sports, and fun, fabulous female group. Contact the front office for further details.

**Community Fair/Fun Family**

[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://shallowfordfallspta.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/family-fun-night.jpg&imgrefurl=http://shallowfordfallspta.com/events/fall-family-night/&usg=__lg2V-TNPUhwwkuJLv42evRCdD74=&h=343&w=610&sz=209&hl=en&start=2&zoom=1&tbnid=MbQoIvptM-7RFM:&tbnh=76&tbnw=136&ei=8PVhUKbtBfP7yAGp-IDYCw&prev=/search?q=fun+family+night&hl=en&gbv=2&tbm=isch&itbs=1)

Please plan to attend our second community fair/family fun night, November 29, 2012 6:00-7:30 pm. This evening will be fun as well as informational. There will be organizations from the community providing information regarding their services/ resources. Afterwards you can participate in our fun night which will entail a clue night. There will be prizes and lots of fun. Please contact Mrs. Thomason for further details.

[Lupe.thomason@dmpschools.org](mailto:Lupe.thomason@dmpschools.org)

242-8353

Fall Newsletter

Volume 7

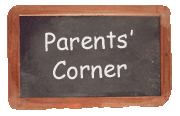
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday, Oct. 1 PTO @ 6:00 pm |  |
| Thursday, Oct.4, conferences, 3:15-7:15 |  |
| Monday, Oct. 8, Volleyball-Home Game |  |
| Wednesday, Oct. 10, Conferences 3:15-7:15 |  |
| Monday, Oct. 15, Volleyball-Home Game |  |
| Wednesday, Oct. 17-Police Explorer Program Begins |  |
| Tuesday, Oct. 30- Smile Squad Mobile Unit |  |

Dear Parents/Guardians,

# Parent Resource Center

**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 Parents, very soon you can come into our library and check out our parent corner. We have books specifically for parents on parenting, career development, self- help, and fiction and nonfiction books. You are welcome to check them out for two weeks. More details will soon arrive. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Thomason for further details.

**[](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_kOevnelZ2dQ/TUuWPXcGWKI/AAAAAAAAACg/OqUkMXhTPkU/s1600/dictee_parents_corner.gif)**

**Confrences**

**Don’t forget our fall conferences!!! October4, 3:15-7:15pm**

**October 10, 3:15-7:15pm. The eighth grade team will be in the library, 7th grade in cafeteria, 6th in the gym along with wheel (electives) teachers.**

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.mochadad.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Parent-Teacher-Conferences.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.mochadad.com/2009/10/parent-teacher-conferences/&usg=__Y0EjrCIPoVB_3-MijJ2ezWBlNzA=&h=180&w=250&sz=6&hl=en&start=1&zoom=1&tbnid=aD5p8yGj66DKzM:&tbnh=80&tbnw=111&ei=6dBZUIKNA4Lu2gXJr4HwAQ&prev=/search?q=parent+conferences&hl=en&rlz=1T4RNWN_enUS295US369&tbm=isch&itbs=1)

**Contact us for further questions. Hope to see you then!**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| October | | | | | | |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  | 8.  PTO meeting in Library @6:00pm | 2. | 3. Early Dismissal @ 1:00 | 4. conferences  3:15-7:15pm  Come and speak to your student  Teachers!! | 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8.  Volleyball 3:00pm | 9. | 10. Early Dismissal @1:00  Conferences  3:15-7:15 pm | 11. | 12. | 13. |
| 14. | 15.  Volleyball | 16. | 17. Early Dismissal @1:00 | 18. | 19. | 20. |
| 21. | 22.  Soccer at Weeks  4:00pm. | 23. | 24. Early Dismissal @1:00pm | 25. | 26. | 27. |
| 28. | 29. | 30.  Smile Squad Mobile | 31. |  |  |  |

## FREE ENGLISH CLASSESS!!!!!!

Saturday English Language Classes For Des Moines Schools Refugee and Immigrant Adults and Children

*Come Register*

*9:00-11:30 am*

*Saturday, September 22*

*At Callanan Middle School*

*Meredith Middle School*

*Weeks Middle School*

*Classes begin on Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 9:00-11:30 am*

We offer…..

* English Classes for
* Adults at different levels
* Enrichments Activities for ages 5-10
* Childcare and Activities for children ages 4 to 10
* Bus available at designated stops

For more information contact the ELL office at (515) 242-7691

Mr. Pecina

The students have been taking district mandated benchmark pre-tests in math, science, and social studies. Students will be taking literacy benchmarks in January and May. We can compare these tests to other middle school students in our district. Our teachers and students are working very hard to make our test scores the highest in the Des Moines middle schools. Students will also be scheduled into intervention and enrichment classes. These classes will rotate every 4.5 weeks. Some of the topics included in the enrichment classes are nature, keyboarding, and land features of Iowa.

In the classroom…..the first few weeks of school have gone by quickly and I wanted to introduce myself. I am Mrs. Lingren the part time school counselor at Weeks Middle school. I am here to assist in the areas of academic achievement; personal/social development and career development, ensuring today’s students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow. I am also available to discuss resources available within and outside of school, and get information on how such programs can benefit your student. I will primarily be working with students individually and providing various group opportunities throughout the year. Our first group will be on Grief and Loss in October and will run through the first week of November. Please contact me at [leah.lingren@dmschools.org](mailto:leah.lingren@dmschools.org) if you would like to have your student participate. I am excited to get to know you better throughout the school year. I encourage you to call me any time with questions or concerns.

In Ms. Hayes and Mr. Brightman’s Writing classes the kiddos are hard at work mastering the Weeks Paragraph. The Weeks Paragraph has a topic sentence, 3 detail sentences supporting the topic, and a concluding sentence that presents the topic sentence in a new way. In the next few weeks, the kiddos will put this skill to use as they create their own super hero. They will need to tell the origin story of their hero, and an adventure or two. To cap this project, the kiddos will become their hero to protect the hallowed halls of Weeks! Who needs the Avengers when we have our own band of heroes!

By Kristy Fitzgerald

The 7th grade math classes are learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers.  In literacy students are reading fiction and practicing making inferences, using explicit clues, identifying elements of a story, and studying form and structure in a poem or drama.  Informative essays using comparison and contrast are being written in writing classes and literacy classes.  Science classrooms are learning about the kingdom of living things.  They are also studying micro-organisms, fungi, and plants.  In global studies the students are getting to learn all about Sub-Sahara Africa.

**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

[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.sd6.bc.ca/staff/gss.ron.ainslie/images/clipart/original_CARTOON_FAMILY_53174347_std.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.sd6.bc.ca/staff/gss.ron.ainslie/index.php?page=318&usg=__wcvgcrD8G-MIt2-ngo_h8NeNuUk=&h=384&w=512&sz=40&hl=en&start=18&zoom=1&tbnid=MwteuL6cj7ddmM:&tbnh=98&tbnw=131&ei=8DAPT42qIuWusALyoa2LBA&prev=/search?q=cartoon+images+of+parents&hl=en&gbv=2&tbm=isch&itbs=1)

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

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://christthekingonline.org/Portals/17/SchoolNurse.jpg&imgrefurl=http://christthekingonline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1211&usg=__EVJbmRQVzSZXRvCsAMZ1gPA1mBw=&h=321&w=624&sz=28&hl=en&start=2&zoom=1&tbnid=6KigLo6xe9y86M:&tbnh=70&tbnw=136&ei=LqSFT9nRNIGi8ASl9by_CA&prev=/search?q=school+nurse&hl=en&sa=X&rlz=1T4RNWN_enUS295US369&tbm=isch&prmd=ivns&itbs=1)

**Smile Squad Program, Sept.24-Sept.25**

The smile squad program is a dental education and treatment program of the Des Moines Health Center. The smile squad gives dental screening to your children during school hours. This encourages and promotes positive oral hygiene habits for your child. A dental screening summary will be sent home with your child along with information about additional Smile Squad services and the Des Moines Health Center.

**Celebrations:**

[See full size image](http://www.watton.org/clipart/celebration/balloon102.gif)**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.

Come support our sports

Dear parents come support our various home games.

Your student will appreciate it! Every home game a tee shirt will be randomly awarded

to a spectator present. Our PTO has graciously donated a tee shirt for each home game

so come support your student and possibly win a tee shirt!!!

*Library News from Mrs. Rice……*

The shelves are full in our library with new books from our federal grants. More books are on their way this year. Students and teachers alike are excited about the new titles. If your student has a favorite series or book, and does not see it on the shelves, please stop by and we will see about adding it to our collection.

The 2012-2013 Iowa Teen Award Books are out in the library and students are encouraged to read and vote for their favorite book. In March, all of the ballots from teens clear across Iowa will elect their favorite book and its author.

Weeks’ students will be participating in the 2012-2013 Battle of the Books competition this year, thanks to the dedication and hard work of two of our literacy teachers, Mrs. Drewis and Mrs. Kile. More information is to follow.

The library is open to students from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm everyday but Wednesday. On Wednesdays, teachers often meet in the library, so that day check out will end at 1:00 pm.

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!*

[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.bradfitzpatrick.com/stock_illustration/images-new/household/cartoon-books-clipart.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.bradfitzpatrick.com/stock_illustration/cartoon-household-clipart/cartoon-books-clipart.htm&usg=__F9Y4oIlOWsHffDM-YjOoIfurcj0=&h=180&w=240&sz=10&hl=en&start=2&zoom=1&tbnid=8NA5qgrMfJa-IM:&tbnh=83&tbnw=110&ei=ui8PT4iFFano2gXgnL27Ag&prev=/search?q=cartoon+images+of+books&hl=en&gbv=2&tbm=isch&itbs=1)