

Panther Paw Press September 2010  
Pleasant Hill Elementary from Terrie Price, Principal  
Phone 242-8432 Fax 515-265-8344

### Walk-a-thon September 25th

Our Walk-a-thon packets will be coming home on August 31 with the students. The Walk-A-Thon is on September 25<sup>th</sup> and is a great way to support our students and school. The Walk-a-thon provides the PTO with funds to pay for field trips, buses, and many other special items for our students that are not in the school budget. More information will be coming home soon.

### Fun Night

What: Fun Night

When: Friday Sept. 10 6-8 pm

Where: Pleasant Hill School Playground

Please join us as we start our new school year with some fun. We will have games for all ages, crafts, prizes, and a treat.

Families will also have a chance to view and purchase raffle tickets for our class baskets.

### Volunteers for Fun Night

We will need a lot of volunteers for that night as well. If you are able to help set up (5-5:45), run a booth (5:50-7 or 7-8), or clean up (8-?) please email Mrs. Bowman or Mrs. Horstman no later than Wed., Sept. 8.

[stacy.bowman@dmps.k12.ia.us](mailto:stacy.bowman@dmps.k12.ia.us)

[amanda.horstman@dmps.k12.ia.us](mailto:amanda.horstman@dmps.k12.ia.us)

### Early Dismissals

We will be having early dismissals every Wednesday this year at 1:50 P.M. Please make sure that you have discussed your plan with your child and daycare providers. If you would like a copy of the school calendar please visit the district's website at [www.dmps.k12.ia.us](http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us). Our first early dismissal for the year will be this Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### School hours are 8:35-3:20

We would like children to arrive at the school by 8:25 A.M. so we are ready to go when the tardy bell rings at 8:35. If students are eating breakfast at school they need to arrive by 8:05 A.M. The district has revised the attendance policy and it is crucial that all parents review it and understand it. Please avoid taking vacations during the school year when possible. Try to schedule vacations during school breaks since vacations are unexcused. The new attendance policy is available in the office or on the district website.

### Proof of Address and Photo ID

During registration **all families**, even open enrolled families and SINA School of Choice families, needed to provide a copy of their ID and a bill such as your water bill that would provide proof of address. If you did not provide a bill for proof of address or if we used your checkbook please send a copy of your utility bill for our records. If you are unsure if you did provide the correct

documentation please call the office and check with Mrs. Walker at 242-8432 or send her an email [brenda.walker@dmps.k12.ia.us](mailto:brenda.walker@dmps.k12.ia.us)

### NED Show is coming

On September 9<sup>th</sup> we have a special performance coming called NED

The NED Show promotes academic achievement and character development by teaching three critical skills that will benefit kids for a lifetime:

**N**ever Give Up

**E**ncourage Others

**D**o Your Best



\*\*After the show for about a week NED yo-yos and other items will be for sale. We get this performance at no cost, but we must agree to have items for sale for week.

### Preschool Starts on September 9<sup>th</sup>

Preschool hours are 8:30-11:30 for the A.M. class and then 12:30-3:30 for the P.M. class. Preschool parents should not get in line in the circle drive until the 3:20 rush is over to avoid holding up the line. Just a reminder that preschool does not hold classes on Wednesdays.

No School on September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>  
School Pictures will be taken on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Reading Assessments

It is very important that students read every day and that we have parent involvement in order for each child to reach proficiency and to show growth and improvement. We take reading tests throughout the year, shown below are targets for students in grades 1-5. These tests are a snap shot of how students are doing and they help us determine instruction best to help students. Kindergarten students came into school being able to rote count on an average to 28. Five students were able to count to 105+ which is the kindergarten goal for the end of the year. Students in kindergarten are coming in being able to identify 13 of the 0-21 numbers. Students are coming in knowing 20 of the 26 uppercase and 15 of the lowercase numbers. Five kindergarten students are able to read and dictate sentences. Way to go, kindergarten students! All students in grades 1-5 will be taking a reading assessment in the next week to determine their small group reading level. Fluency is the ability to read quickly with expression. If a student is able to read fluently, their comprehension usually is good because they are spend less time decoding words and more time thinking about what they are reading.

#### Fluency Norms\* Grades 1-5

GRADE 1	Winter	Spring
At/Above Grade Level	21-70 WPM and above	48-101 WPM and above
Needs Additional Intervention	11-20 WPM	26-47 WPM
Needs Substantial Intervention	5-10 WPM	13-25 WPM

GRADE 2	Fall	Winter	Spring
At/Above Grade Level	49-98 WPM and above	72-122 WPM and above	89-140 WPM and above
Needs Additional Intervention	23-48 WPM	46-71 WPM	64-88 WPM
Needs Substantial Intervention	12-22 WPM	20-45 WPM	37-63 WPM

GRADE 3	Fall	Winter	Spring
At/Above Grade Level	73-128 WPM and above	90-144 WPM and above	107-160 WPM and above
Needs Additional Intervention	48-72 WPM	58-89 WPM	78-106 WPM
Needs Substantial Intervention	26-47 WPM	37-57 WPM	45-77 WPM

GRADE 4	Fall	Winter	Spring
At/Above Grade Level	95-143 WPM and above	111-164 WPM and above	124-180 WPM and above
Needs Additional Intervention	70-94 WPM	86-110 WPM	99-123 WPM
Needs Substantial Intervention	44-69 WPM	60-85 WPM	72-98 WPM

### Pleasant Hill PTO Website

Please check out our Pleasant Hill PTO website at [www.pleasanthillpto.org](http://www.pleasanthillpto.org) Parent Volunteer, Kim Sengstock works hard to keep the website updated.

### Boxtops for Education

**How can you help?** Box Tops for Education offers several ways for you to earn cash for our school throughout the year. Ask everyone you know to save box tops for our school! Every month we have a classroom challenge!



### CLIP BOX TOPS

- ✓ Find Box Tops coupons on hundreds of your favorite products from General Mills, Betty Crocker®, Pillsbury®, Ziplock®, Kleenex®, Juicy Juice®, Cottonelle®, Hamburger Helper® and many many more. Each Box Top coupons is worth 10¢ for our school. This adds up quickly. (Watch for specially marked boxes that offer BONUS Box Tops.)
- ✓ Turn in your Box Tops coupons to the school. Our school will collect the Box Tops and send them to Box Tops for Education.
- ✓ Twice each year, Box Tops will send a check to our school for each Box Tops coupons redeemed, up to \$20,000 each year.

### Campus Portal

The Infinite Campus Portal provides access for guardians and students to view information as it is being entered by teachers, counselors, and staff. Guardians will have access to their student's attendance, fees, schedule, and family demographic information all from one login. The district and school buildings may also post notifications to guardians through the portal. Once a guardian supplies the school with an email address a Campus Portal account is automatically made. To access the portal, open your web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.) and use the URL: <http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us/CampusPortal/>. This link will provide information on how to use the portal, how to request an account, computer requirements and other helpful information. If a guardian needs further assistance with their Campus Portal account, they may contact the help desk through email at [portal@dmps.k12.ia.us](mailto:portal@dmps.k12.ia.us). Include your name, and a description of the problem or your request. **Please do not call the school directly for account access.**

### Meal Account Funds

Please make sure to send meal account funds if your child is eating lunch and/or breakfast. If a child is on free lunches they are not able to get free milk if they bring cold lunch. If families are not able to provide funds for meal accounts it is very important that students bring their lunch from home instead of running a meal account negative balance. If you feel that you might qualify for free or reduced price lunches please stop by the office to pick up an application.

**Read, read, read, and read some more**

"Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?"

Did you know one of the most prominent indicators of a successful reader is the amount of time spent actually reading?!

Student A reads 20 minutes 5 nights every week.

Student B reads only 4 minutes a night or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times per week.

Student A reads 100 minutes per week.

Student B reads 20 minutes per week.

Step 2: Multiply minutes per week x 4 weeks per month.

Student A reads 400 minutes per month.

Student B reads 80 minutes per month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes per month x 9 months in the school year.

Student A reads 3600 minutes in a school year.

Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year.

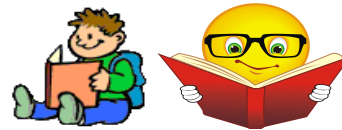
Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits:

Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days.

Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.

Which student do you think will be the more successful reader?



Take care and I'm glad your family is part of our Pleasant Hill team. High expectations for all!!!

Mrs. Terrie Price, Principal