

Allisonville PTO Press



Mr. Wallace's class wins attendance award!

December 2012



Pomerence's

Place

We're Thankful...

Grade A School



As I write, we are getting ready for our Fall parties. Everyone is excited about all of the upcoming holidays. We have so many reasons to be thankful. On Oct. 3rd, Allisonville was awarded a 'Grade A' rating by the state Department of Education. This follows our Grade A and 2011 National Title 1 Distinguished School Award. The Distinguished School Award is based upon ISTEP results, as well as growth rate for student learning. We received bonus points for high growth in language arts. This is certainly reason for celebration, especially since our Action Plan focused on conferring and guided reading. This year's plan centers around reading and writing at home. With the staff, teachers and parents we have here at Allisonville, we're sure to continue our success.

We are so thankful for the wonderful media coverage Allisonville has received this school year. Fox Channel 59 covered our students as they cast their votes in our mock election, featuring several of our students discussing issues on Thursday, 11/2. On Monday 11/5, Randy Ollis visited our second grade, with several of these students featured focusing on the weather.

We continue to be thankful for the many parent volunteers who assisted on Pioneer Day November 16th. It was outstanding to see students take advantage of so many hands-on learning opportunities.

Last but not least, we are incredibly thankful for our new asphalt driveway, used every afternoon for pick up after school. We will actually now be able to plow our driveway for you when it snows this winter!

We have a fun-packed four weeks of school before winter break. I know I'll see all of you at our special luncheons December 18th & 19th.

News from the PTO Community Fundraising Committee

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our Cartridges for Kids collection drive. This is a year-long program that turns old cell phones, electronics and used printer cartridges into supplies for the teacher workroom and classrooms. Even though the collection drive has ended, we will continue to accept donations throughout the year. The collection box is located in the school's front lobby. Congratulations to the two winners of our CFK Collection Drive Drawing:

Lucy Courtney Mrs. Gilchrist's 2nd Grade

Jonathan Henry Mrs. Hodson's 5th Grade

Coming in December: Labels for Education Class Collection Contest - watch for the flyer to come home.

We won Target gift cards!



From the PTO



We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break!

As we head towards the end of the 2012 school year, we'd like to reflect on some of our recent events as well as take a peek at what lies ahead in 2013.

The Staff/Parent Basketball game in early November was as spirited & competitive as ever with plenty of cheering for our favorite players! Thanks to the **Dad's Club** for organizing such a fun, family event.

This year's Washington Township Schools Foundation Fall Bash raised over \$55,000 for our schools! Wow!! Thanks to everyone who donated items to the AV auction basket or was able to attend this annual fundraiser.

We hope you were able to order your holiday poinsettias this season. **Amy Johnson** and **Donna Schmah** did another great job chairing this event!

We're doing the Toys for Tots Holiday Luncheons again this year with the U.S. Marines. Last year we helped over a hundred families!

Save the dates for Everybody Counts on Jan. 15-18 and the Chinese Festival on the evening of Jan. 25th.

By the way, all of this information and more is available on our website at AVPTO.com

From the office



Thanks so much for putting up with us last month as we worked on getting all student immunization records up to date. State law dictates that all children enrolled in school have appropriate immunizations or risk suspension. Medical or religious exemptions need to be documented in writing and turned in to the school office.

Also please keep in mind that, although we love to celebrate birthdays here, we like to keep the treats manageable. Cookies, cupcakes, or juice boxes make perfect snacks because they are easy to serve and don't make too much of a mess. Check with your child's teacher about specifics, but most classrooms have birthday celebrations late in the day, between 2:45 and

dismissal. *Enjoy* winter break!

From Mrs. Reeves



Just a reminder that flu

season is here. Please keep your child home from school in case of vomiting, diarrhea, severe coughing, and especially for fever of 100.0 or above. A student needs to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Sending sick children to school will not only keep sick students feeling poorly, but runs the risk of getting other students and teachers sick as well. Please keep students home until they feel better.



Thanks so much



Brooke Brown in Miss Johnston's first grade shares her essay on visiting Conner Prairie!

A Student's View

I lrned a lot today. I whit in a old home.
I ironed a bat shepe. We got to kut shepe
hare. I liked it. We all got a pish on
the wagn! We all had fun.

and

Where did you grow up and go to school?

I was born in Buffalo, New York and then moved to Batesville, Indiana at a young age. Growing up, I attended grades K-8 at St. Louis School in Batesville, Indiana. For high school, I went to a fairly small school called Oldenburg Academy. I attended Indiana University for college, majoring in Elementary Education.

What is your job here at Allisonville?

I am a Reading Interventionist Teacher.

What is your favorite TV show?

"Home Improvement" the show aired in the 90's and I have probably seen every episode about two or three times, but I still love it.

Plans for the holidays?

For Thanksgiving, I will be spending the holiday at my parent's house with my two older sisters and their families. Along with the traditional Thanksgiving customs, one that is more unordinary is the Cincinnati Thanksgiving Day 10K, which I have partaken in for the last five years. The tradition began about six or seven years ago, when my two high school best friends and I made it a competition between the three of us. After that first year, three of my family members began participating in the event as well. Now, in our mid-twenties the friendly competition between friends and my oldest sister, Kim, still continues. The race is a fun way to begin the holiday and makes you feel good, as well as worthy of eating all the delicious food Thanksgiving has to offer. Besides the race, I will probably just relax and spend time with family and friends, since I do not see them often because of long distance.

Talk a little about your family.

My family consists of my two older sisters, Kim and Renee, as well as my parents, Karen and Jerry. My dad is retired, while my mom is still happily teaching Special Education. Kim and Renee are older than me by ten and eight years, respectively. This was a little strange growing up because there was always such an age difference. Despite this, I have a pretty close relationship with both of them now. Kim lives in Milwaukee, WI with her husband Chad and their three kids, Ella, Alex, and Rhiannon. My other sister Renee and her husband Chris, as well as their two dogs Mikey and Albert, live in Chicago, IL.

Other than your current one, what is your dream career?

If I could have another career, I would live in the mountains of Colorado and work as a guide. I would want to guide people in rock climbing and hiking in the summer, while in the winter I would be a ski instructor. Early in my life, I fell in love with the mountains. Ever since then, I have had the desire to relocate there at some point and have the opportunity to embrace the mountains and all they have to offer.

My parents are pretty active people so instead of vacationing at an ocean or beach, we would always go to Colorado and hike, camp, and/or ski for vacation. This early exposure, as well as annual trips with my dad during my late teens to climb all 54 of the 14,000 foot peaks in Colorado, I have a strong desire to move there and live an extremely active lifestyle. In doing so, I would still be a teacher of sorts, however instead of school curriculum, my career would center around safely teaching others to climb, hike, and ski the mountains. That would be a dream!

From Mr. Kretschmann

Mr. K!



PARENT COUNCIL NEEDS MORE PARENT INVOLVEMENT! Parent Council is a group of parents representing each school in the district, serving as a unified voice in support of excellent education for all children in MSDWT. In addition to educating parents on a wide variety of issues, all monthly meetings feature a representative of the administration (usually the superintendent) who provides a district update and participates in a Q&A with parents. Meetings also include a monthly update from the MSDWT School Board. Parents are welcome to attend!

The next meeting will be January 16, 2013 from 7-9pm at the CEC. Parent Council is also seeking input for next year meetings. If there is a topic you would like Parent Council to address, please submit your idea to parentcouncilemail@yahoo.com. It is important for parents to get connected, stay informed and take action when needed. For more information, please go to www.msdwtparentcouncil.org.

On November 7th, Parent Council welcomed Dr. Vic Smith, President of the Indiana Coalition for Public Education (ICPE). ICPE is a bi-partisan non-profit with a mission to focus public tax dollars on the K-12 education of public school students. Dr. Smith presented his outlook to the Parent Council. According to Dr. Smith, there are 4 issues on which parents should focus and fight to change.

1. Vouchers: The voucher systems gives public taxpayer money to religious and private institutions. Of 301 voucher schools, 295 are religious-affiliated institutions.
2. Grading System: The IDOE's A-F Grading system is significantly flawed. Not only does it unfairly punish schools with greater diversity, it weakens schools by creating a too-heavy focus on math and reading. Other subjects like Social Studies, Arts, Foreign Languages, Music and P.E are more likely to be cut.
3. Private Takeovers: If schools receive an F grade, they could be taken over by the IDOE, which can contract with a private, for-profit company to manage the school, all using public taxpayer money.
4. Consistency: The enforcement of laws and rules by the IDOE needs to be consistent. The IDOE, has chosen not to fund certain budget items which it is legally required to fund.

Parents are strongly urged to educate themselves on these issues and more. To learn more, please go to ICPE website: www.icpe2011.org.

If you would like more information on Parent Council, please visit MSDWT Parent Council's website at www.msdwtparentcouncil.org. You can also find us on Facebook under the group: "MSD Washington Township Parent Council."



December events

7th PTO Executive Board mtg, 11am

13th Fifth Grade Musical 6pm

18th & 19th Holiday Luncheons

21st No school, Winter Recess begins

Jan 7th School Reconvenes

Jan 11th Dad's Club Movie Night



Allisonville Elementary's students and parents will have a delightful opportunity to dine by candlelight at our annual Holiday Luncheon in our school cafeteria. Mark your calendar for this wonderful lunch! If you have the opportunity, please purchase a toy to donate for our Toys for Tots drive leading up to the Holiday Luncheon.

Please note the underlined changes in this year's luncheons:

Dec. 18: Grade 3: 10:30 a.m. -11:25 a.m., Grade 1: 11:30 a.m.-12:25 p.m.

Dec. 19: Grade 2: 10:30 a.m.-11:25 a.m., Grade 4: 11:25 a.m.-12:25 p.m.,
Grade 5: 12:30 p.m.-1:25 p.m.

If you are interested in *helping* with the luncheon this year please contact Lara Boulton 523-7027, teamboulton@sbcglobal.net or Jennifer Stonebraker, jenhoff@sbcglobal.net.

Volunteers are needed December 17th to decorate 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Set-up on December 18th - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Sell tickets December 18th ~ 10:25 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (2 shifts)

Sell tickets December 19th ~ 10:25 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (3 shifts)

Box-up Toys and Clean-up December 19th - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Words from Mrs. Weiger...

Fluent Readers Get It!

Fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, and with good expression. In a nutshell, it means reading smoothly. Fluency was one of the five critical skills identified the No Child Left Behind Act, which set federal standards for elementary and middle school education. Why is it so important? Because by building fluency your child improves comprehension skills as he becomes able to automatically read and understand texts.

Here are some steps to achieving fluency:

- Recognizing that words can have multiple meanings. For instance, based on the context of what he reads, he should be able to tell if right means correct or a direction.
- Understanding spelling patterns. Fluent readers immediately recognize common letter groups, such as "ight," and know that right can become might by changing the first letter. This understanding helps your child to move beyond letter-by-letter decoding so he can read words at a glance.
- Building a strong vocabulary. Help your child improve his store of words by exposing him to language in many ways: share news stories, exchange e-mail messages, and talk with him every day.
- Practicing. This means reading often. Choosing books that interest your child and are on his reading level will motivate him to read on his own.

Daily Reading Fun

This holiday, give the gift of reading! Let your child be in charge of selecting a book for each family member. We will be having our Holiday Scholastic Book Fair coming soon! Help her choose titles by checking bestseller lists together, encourage her to ask relatives about their favorite titles, and look up recommendations on our booklists at www.scholastic.com/read

Calling all Volunteers...

Volunteers are needed for the Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair will be open for business December 17 - 20, 2012. We will need volunteers EVERY DAY... especially during the Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 18th and 19th. Please stop by the media center to sign up or go to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com>

Click on Find a Sign Up

Enter email: pweiger@msdwt.k12.in.us

Click on Allisonville Library Volunteer

MACKENZIE

RIVER

PIZZA GRILL

SCHOOL NIGHT VOUCHER

BRING IN THE
BACON FOR
EDUCATION & ENJOY
A TASTY MEAL TOO!

*Please take voucher with
you and present to your
server!*

SUPPORT ALLISONVILLE ELEM.

Join us at: 4939 E. 82nd St. Indianapolis, IN 46250 317.288.0609

MacKenzie River Pizza and Allisonville Elementary invite you to lunch or dinner on **Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012**. Order your favorite items from our fresh, tasty menu and Allisonville will receive a donation of 20% of your meal dollars

Applies to dine in or carry out.

*Offer valid only on designated event date. *Excludes Alcohol*

Enter your student's name to win **PRIZES** throughout the school year.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Grade:.



YEAR OF 蛇 SNAKE

TECHNOLOGICAL CON

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Happy New Year!

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Allisonville's Annual Dance, Silent Auction and Fundraiser!

2013 Celebrates the Year of the SNAKE!

Friday, January 25th

As always we count on our wonderful parent volunteers to make this celebration a success so please let us know if you would like to help!

Tracey Patterson 538-5098 or traceyp4671@yahoo.com

Jodi Isenberg 627-2740 or m-jisenberg@sbcglobal.net



Be a Part of Everybody Counts

A unique and valuable learning experience

For everyone involved!

We all know that Allisonville provides valuable learning experiences for our children. One outstanding example is the Everybody counts program, returning in January. Volunteers help students experience first hand what it feels like to be deaf, visually impaired, have mobility challenges, or learn in different ways. Mostly, we learn that people with disabilities are people who want to play, learn and have fun, just like everyone does.

Many volunteers are needed to deliver this program to all the students at

Allisonville. So, *please* be a part of this unique learning opportunity. Sign-up sheets with details on days and times will go home soon. Please try to make time in your schedule to help with at least one session during the week of January 15-18.

No special skills or experience is required to be a volunteer and you will be surprised at what you can learn while helping the students!

For more information, contact Shannon Farrell at srfarrell@comcast.net, 446-5507 or Jean Arnold at jarnold7@mac.com or 849-7801.