

Panther Paw Press July-August 2011

Terrie Price, Principal

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School Motto: What's Best for Kids? Whatever It Takes!

Another school year is just around the corner! I sure hope you are having a great summer and taking some time to have fun with family and friends. Please take some time each day to do some fun reading to prevent the summer slide. We are looking forward to another great school year. I am very proud of our students, staff, and families for their hard work and dedication to our student learning and school pride.

Teaching and Learning for the Upcoming Year

Our staff attended professional development this summer in CGI Math. (Cognitively Guided Instruction) CGI is based on research that shows that children come to school with rich informal systems of mathematical knowledge and problem-solving strategies that can serve as a basis for learning mathematics with understanding. A major goal of CGI is to help teachers build on this informal mathematical knowledge so that they understand the new ideas they are learning. Because this method of teaching is innovative, CGI offers classroom teachers help in understanding how children's mathematical ideas develop. The focus is on children's thinking, not on specific teaching procedures or curriculum materials. For more details:

http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/news/coverstories/cqi_math_encourages_ingenuity.php

As part of our learning and teaching we will continue to use and expand brain-based student engagement strategies. (TTYP -turn to your partner, write your answer, draw your answer, and collaborate to explain many ways....) We will be working to expand writing even more across all content areas.

We also had some staff attend CKH Training, Capturing Kids' Hearts staff development, focuses on teacher-student relationships, student engagement, attentiveness, achievement, collaboration, and discipline, so we are excited to continue our learning in the area of CKH also.

School Hours-First Day of School of K-5 is August 25th Preschool's first day of school is September 8th

School hours are 8:35 A.M.-3:20 P.M. for grades K-5, Preschool hours are 8:30-11:30 A.M. Class and 12:30-3:30 P.M. Class. **We want all students to arrive to school by 8:25 A.M.** Being on time is very important for all students because when students arrive late it takes time to restate morning expectations and news and takes away from teaching and learning. Students need to be in their classrooms ready to learn when the 8:35 tardy bell rings. If students are walking in the door at 8:35 they are counted tardy. I appreciate your hard work to get all students to school in time. Please plan ahead for traffic and weather delays. We do have an early dismissal every Wednesday at 1:50 P.M. We do not have an early dismissal the first day of school though.

Breakfast is served at 8:05 A.M.

PTO School Student Directory

Please turn in your Pleasant Hill Phone Directory Information Sheet by August 31, so we can get the student directory out as early as possible this year. The PTO prints the directory for each family free of charge. This directory is used by parents to send out birthday invitations, to contact class mates for sleepovers, etc. Just as a reminder birthday invitations cannot be handed out at school unless the whole class is invited to avoid hurt feelings.

Websites to check out: www.pleasanthillpto.org www.dmps.k12.ia.us or www.dmschools.org

Principal Price's Email List:

If you would like to receive email information and news from Mrs. Price, please make sure she has all email addresses that you would like in her contact list. If you would like other family members or community members to receive school email and communication just send Mrs. Price an email at terrie.price@dmps.k12.ia.us

If you do not receive email weekly please call the school or send Mrs. Price an email to check to see if your address has been lost in the "clouds."

Book Exchange on August 4th and Family Reading Event from 4:30-7:00P.M. See flyer in the front entry.

Information:

Preschool Information: Janet Riggle at 242-7588

Welcome Center: 242-8102

Online Lunch Payments: www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com

Office Manager: Brenda Walker brenda.walker@dmps.k12.ia.us

Nurse: Joyce Hansel joyce.hansel@dmps.k12.ia.us Nurse hours: 9:10-1:00

Walk-a-thon Planning Meetings for the rest of the summer

August 2nd Walk-a-thon Planning Meeting 6:30 P.M. at Okoboji Bar and Grill in Pleasant Hill

August 16th Walk-a-thon Planning Meeting 6:30 P.M. at Okoboji Bar and Grill in Pleasant Hill

September 9th Family Night (more details to come)

September 24th Pleasant Hill Walk-a-thon -Walk Together, Rock Together!!!!

All school registration is scheduled for July 26 & 27 from 1:00pm-6:30pm. If you cannot come on the scheduled two days please call the school at 242-8432 and schedule an appointment. (Please call the school as soon as possible if your child will not be attending next year, so we can send records.)

All grade levels - parents will need a photo ID, verification of address (lease agreement, utility bill) not a cell phone bill, and a copy of the student's birth certificate. (If you are open enrolled or SINA students from other schools, you will still need to show proof of address although you are not in our area.)

3rd grade - physicals are recommended for this grade level.

Kindergarten - parents will need to bring student's record of immunizations, physical exam, vision exam, proof of lead screening, and a dental screening signed by your dentist or your dental hygienist.

Fees are \$10 for Kindergarten and \$20 for 1st thru 5th grades.

Free & Reduced Lunchroom Applications can be filled out at this time. Qualifying lunch applications determine if your textbooks are exempt or reduced

Meet the Teacher / Open House Tuesday, August 23rd

Grade Level	Presentation in Gym	Classroom Exploration
K	5:30-6:00	6:00-6:30
1	6:00-6:30	5:30-6:00
2	6:30-7:00	7:00-7:30
3	7:00-7:30	6:30-7:00
4	7:30-8:00	8:00-8:30
5	8:00-8:30	7:30-8:00

Presentation in the gym = K-2 grade level teachers will present a PowerPoint presentation to the parents only (children will be supervised in library) on what to expect for their student at their grade level. Grades 3-5 students will be with parents in the gym for the presentation.

Classroom Exploration = students will be able to meet their teacher, see where their classroom is located, bring their supplies to their classroom and find their seats.

August 25th First Day of School for 2011-2012 8:25 A.M. (No early dismissal) **Please check the website if it is hot. www.dmschools.org

Our Preschool has some openings yet, so call Janet Riggle at 242-7588 in the DMPS Preschool Dept.

Meet the PreK Staff and Principal September 1st

PreK A.M. Class	September 1 st at the Pleasant Hill Public Library 6:00-7:00 P.M. **Please bring your child	Parents will fill out all needed paperwork, meet the staff, and be presented information on Preschool and school items
PreK P.M. Class	September 1 st at the Pleasant Hill Public Library 7:00-8:00 P.M. **Please bring your child	Parents will fill out all needed paperwork, meet the staff, and be presented information on Preschool and school items