



Chelsea Intermediate School News — November 2009

Note from the Main Office

Dear Parents,

October was a great month at Chelsea, and we are looking forward to a number of very exciting events to follow in November. Our Red Ribbon Week activities included Spirit Days and a “Team Up Against Drugs” theme. Students decorated jerseys for their lockers with a drug free message.

As we look forward to November it’s important to plan for Parent Teacher Conferences, which are scheduled for November 23rd and 24th. If you have not had the opportunity to schedule a conference with your child’s teacher, we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. Conferences are an important part of the communication system between home and school. However, as always, we encourage you to maintain open lines of communication with your child’s teacher throughout the year so we can effectively meet their needs on a daily basis.

American Education Week is November 16th- 20th. Parent Visitation Day is scheduled for Monday, November 16th. You are welcome to come visit your child’s classroom between 9:30 and 10:30 am and 1:30 and 3:00 pm. We look forward to a large turnout for this event as this is a great way to become more familiar with your child’s daily experience here at Chelsea!

On a separate note, many families have chosen to donate large containers of hand sanitizer to their child’s classroom. Unfortunately, we cannot accept this generous donation, as we are required to provide our own, pre-approved sanitizer product for use within the school. This is a safety measure intended to ensure that the products distributed for use within the school are approved for student use.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Simpkins, Principal Ms. Scolaro, Assistant Principal



Reminders

We understand that you will periodically need to talk with your child’s teacher. You are always welcome to do so, but we do ask that you arrange for a date and time in advance with your child’s teacher. This will ensure that they are available to talk with you when you arrive.

There are many activities at Chelsea that take place after school is dismissed. If you have signed your child up for an After School Special or Choir, we expect he or she to be attending that activity. Please send a note or call the office if they are **not attending**. If you have a Scout that attends a meeting here immediately after school, you may either send a separate note for every meeting, or send a note listing all meetings and then send a note if your child will not be attending that day. The office does not take Scout attendance—it is the responsibility of the leader. If you feel that your child may forget that he or she has a meeting, please opt for the separate note for every meeting. Thanks for your cooperation.

Technology Time

With Ms. Plestina

In **November** I will be checking if all students know their user names and passwords. I can tell quite a few third graders already have theirs memorized which is fantastic! I will also confirm if new students have their user names and passwords memorized.

The **third graders** have started their nametag project. I perform about three steps on the SMART Board at a time. Then the students return to their seats to follow the steps independently. At this time we have covered tool bars, page set up, and saving before leaving our computers. By November, the students will finish their nametags and the first project with me. Next the third graders will be introduced to *Type to Learn 4*. The program is similar to what they used at Grand Prairie. We will take time to learn the intricacies of the new typing tutorial.

Fourth graders have completed their nametag project. We will begin our exploration of Microsoft Word. Our purpose is to prepare students to type five paragraph essays. There are many formatting skills to learn. The biggest is how to make new paragraphs. As adults we take many functions for granted like word wrap. Students, on the other hand, need to work with multiple paragraphs to understand word wrap, TAB, grammar check, etc....

Fifth graders have been introduced to a spreadsheet program called Excel. To increase interest in a program that is quite different from Word and PowerPoint, the students will also have \$100,000 to spend (virtual, of course!) They will be playing the online simulation called The Stock Market Game. From trading stocks they will keep track of their gains/losses each week. They will use this data to create a table using borders and a graph to show their data. We will be very busy! So, if you have any tips on stocks, be sure to share them with your child.

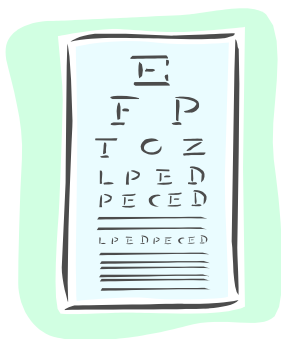
At conferences I will have *Click!* flyers available which have computer software from Scholastic. Just like book orders, *Click!* allows you to purchase from the order form. If you would like a flyer sooner, I will be happy to send a form home with you to peruse. Please have your child ask for one, call, or e-mail me.

dpettit@fsd157c.org

815 469 2309



Note from the Nurse



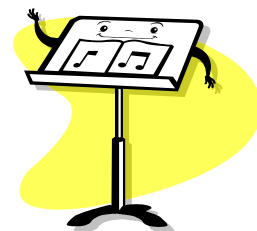
Vision and hearing screenings are conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Public Health by individuals who are certified by the IDPH. Vision screening will be done, as required by the state, for the following children: preschool, kindergarten, second, eighth, special instruction, teacher referrals, and students new to the district. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. A vision screening is not required if an optometrist/ophthalmologist has signed a form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous twelve months. Hearing screenings will be done, as required by the State, for the following children: preschool, kindergarten, first, second, third, special instruction, teacher referrals, and students new to the district.

During the months of November and December, certified vision and hearing technicians will screen the appropriate children in Chelsea School. If your child is screened and there are any difficulties you will be notified in writing, and encouraged to follow up with your health care provider. Our screening dates will be November 10, 11, and December 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Kreuzer at 469-2309.

Music News

All grades have been singing Halloween for the month of October. In honor of all veterans, all grades will be singing patriotic songs for Veteran's Day and songs for the Thanksgiving Holiday coming later in the month. Happy Thanksgiving!



PLASE

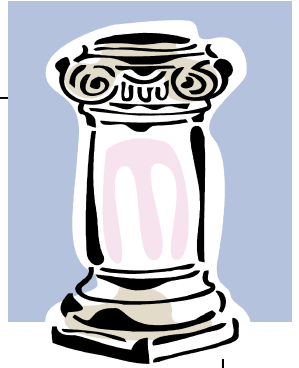
The next general meeting for PLASE will be held on Tuesday November 10, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Pioneer Grove Education Center, 601 Willow Street. It is a Special Needs Planning Educational Seminar. For more information you may call (815)806-4600.

Character Counts

CITIZENSHIP

“Citizenship...is not a spectator sport” - Anon.

The Character Counts pillar for the month of November is Citizenship. “Citizenship” is doing your share to make your community a better place for everyone. Good citizens are good neighbors and school mates. They cooperate with others while obeying laws and rules of the community. They respect authority as well as protect the environment.



What Parents Can Do To Promote Citizenship:

Teaching a child to be a contributing member of the community can start with the family. Being a good citizen means that each child does his or her share and has a voice in certain family decisions.

Establish certain house rules and impose consequences when they are not obeyed. Insist that children treat you as all adults with respect.

Though laws are important, be sure to teach that there is a difference between what one has a right to do and what is right to do. Teach that every right has a responsibility attached and that a person of good character often does more than the law requires and less than it allows.

Be conscientious about setting a good example for your children. Conserve energy and obey laws (including wearing seat belts or using car seats). *

*Information provided by Character Counts! In Chaves County and Roswell Web Services

November Chelsea Dates to Remember

11/01	Daylight Savings Time ends
11/03	Band Booster hot lunch
11/05	3rd Grade Choir Concert @ 6:30 PM
11/12	Guinness Stack Up
11/13	End of Trimester
11/14	Speed Stack Tournament
11/16-20	American Education Week
11/16	Parents Visitation Day 9:30-10:30AM or 1:30-3PM
11/16	Board of Education Meeting 7 PM
11/17	Bosco Breadstick Day
11/18	Fall Band Showcase @ 4 PM Hickory Creek
11/23	NO SCHOOL-Parent Teacher Conferences
11/24	NO SCHOOL-Parent Teacher Conferences
11/25	NO SCHOOL
11/26	NO SCHOOL-Happy Thanksgiving
11/27	NO SCHOOL



Physical Education News

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Students will continue to be Caught Being Good at Chelsea. Watch out for those CBG slips coming home for your approval and a place on the refrigerator. Names will be drawn monthly for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. If your child's name is drawn, several things happen:

- Student picture in the main hallway CBG case
- Encore teachers supply incentive awards for each student
- Group photos of all CBG students
- October Caught Being Good students will be rewarded by receiving water colors and doing a project with Mrs. Newman!



SAVE THOSE BOX TOPS!

Chelsea is ranked 45 out of 5,735 schools in Illinois with most box tops per school. We are trying something new this year. Students are able to turn in box tops and then collect "Box Top Bucks". For every 10 box tops, the students will receive one box top buck. At the end of each month, the PE department will open a PE Box Top Store and the students will be able to trade in their "bucks" for fun PE items.

Since the beginning of the school year we have collected over 32,000 box tops!!! You are doing an excellent job!

Upcoming Events:



November 6th – Citizenship Clean-up – students will be good citizens by cleaning up Chelsea grounds.

November 12th—Guinness Stack UP—Attention Parents—Save the date and come and Stack up with your kids!

November 14th—4th annual Chelsea Speed Stack Tourney

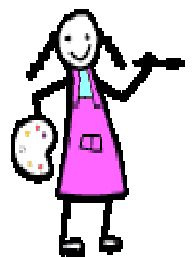
November 23rd and 24th -- Come by to meet your child's PE teacher. While you are there you can order some of the cool new speed stack products.

PE Curriculum

During the Month of October students played lead up games in Football, baseball and golf. Some of the lead up games included Carolina Football and Blastball. The end of the month was capped off with a spooky mini golf course that the students really enjoyed. In November we will be speed stacking and learning about nutrition and fitness through games and play.

Art News

Fifth grade art students just finished monochromatic names on optical backgrounds. They really play tricks on your eyes. In November, we will be talking about symmetry and other cultures while designing masks. Students will get a lot of practice mixing color and creating texture with brushstrokes. Although our paint is washable, be sure to wear old clothing on painting days.



Fourth grade had a great time printing fall leaves. They are truly beautiful. In November, students will learn about the Americana art of quilting. Each student will make a paper quilt block using geometric shapes and symmetry. We will use a variety of water color techniques to make textured papers to include in our designs. All of the blocks will come together for a collaborative design filled with the repetition of shape and color.

Third grade had a great time making symmetrical pumpkins just in time for Halloween. Now they are learning about printmaking while using paper towels and watercolors. These beautiful designs are like tie-dye and are so much fun to open. Ask your kids about paper tie-dye, then stock up on paper towels. They may want to try this at home!