

Mustang Messages



September 21, 2009



Dates to Remember

September

- 22nd First day of Autumn
- 23rd ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108
- 25th Spirit Day—Sports Day
Character Counts Students of Character
Recog. & Ice Cream Party
- 28th Principal's Coffee 8:30 AM in the Library
- 29th Volunteer Orientation 9:00AM in the Library
Literacy Tutor Training 3:15-3:45 in Rm. 104
- 30th VIP Luncheon for 3-6th Grades 11:40 in Library
Literacy Tutor Training 3:15-3:45 in Rm. 104
Volunteer Orientation 6:00 PM in the Library

October

- 1-2nd Vision Screening Gr. K, 1,2,3 & 5
- 2nd ASB Popcorn Sale
- 5th Innisbrook Kick-off Assembly 2:00 PM in Gym
- 5-19th Innisbrook Fundraiser
- 6th German American Heritage Day
- 7th VIP Luncheon for K-2nd Grades 11:40 in Library
- 8th Indian Trail Taco Time Night 5:00-7:00 PM
- 9th Curriculum Planning Day—NO SCHOOL
- 14th ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108
PTA Skate Night 6:30-8:30 PM at Pattison's
- 15th PTA Meeting 7:00 PM in the Library
- 16th Spirit Day – School Colors
- 19th Innisbrook Sale Ends / Monies Due Today
- 21st VIP Luncheon for 3-6th Grades 11:40 in Library
- 22nd Family Math Night 6:30-8:30 PM
- 23rd ASB Popcorn Sale
- 26th Principal's Coffee 8:30 AM in the Library
- 28th ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108
- 30th Spirit Day
Character Counts Students of Character
Recog. & Ice Cream Party
Halloween Class Parties
- 31st Halloween

Principal's Note

Dear Indian Trail Families,

Wow, it's hard to believe how quickly September is flying by in the classrooms at Indian Trail. Before we know it, the rainy season will set in and then quickly transform into winter. Enjoy the warm days while we have them. The first four weeks of school have been extremely positive and smooth, and I want to thank each of you for sending us such amazing children to work with every day. I am continually astounded by the level of involvement and support from Indian Trail families, including daily volunteers, help at the Sock Hop, and reading and working with kids in our classrooms. We love the help that each of you provides for our school, and realize that we couldn't do it without you.

As we enter the fall season, our staff has been very busy teaching and reinforcing school and classroom expectations so that we can use every minute of the school day to provide engaging learning opportunities in each content area. In 2nd through 6th grades our teachers have been analyzing Math SASL (Spokane Assessment of Student Learning) data to figure out each student's areas of strength and areas needing support. This year we will continue to use classroom assessment data in math, reading, science and writing to guide our instructional decisions on an on-going basis. At our three Open House sessions this year, I provided parents with information regarding our new report card and standards-based grading. One document parents received was called *Learning Across the Year*. This document is tailored to each specific grade level, and it outlines the major learning goals for each trimester in every content area taught in our school district. I hope this will serve as a useful reference for you to use to stay informed about what your child is learning this year. These yearlong summaries are aligned to the state learning standards our teachers use to plan their classroom lessons and assessments. If you weren't able to make it to Open House, or if you want another copy of the *Learning Across the Year* document for your child's grade level, please either stop by the office to pick one up, or call us at 354-3100 and we'll send one home with your child.

*REMEMBER TO RETURN
FORMS FROM THE FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL PACKETS**

I look forward to working with each of you this year, and I hope to see you and your family at one of our many family events. Mark your calendar. Math Night is fast approaching on October 22nd at 6:30 p.m. It should be a very engaging

night of math learning and family fun. Be ready to use your estimation skills at the many estimation stations in our gym, and have a blast playing math-related games in our classrooms. The goal of this event is to nurture our children's love of math.

You can always reach me by phone, email, or by stopping by the office. Thanks again for entrusting me as the leader of our incredible school. "Believe it and you'll see it!"

Sincerely,
Paul Gannon
paulg@spokaneschools.org
354-3100

OUR CHARACTER COUNTS PROGRAM

Our school will once again emphasize the Six Pillars of Character through the CHARACTER COUNTS program of the international Josephson Institute of Ethics. Core ethical values are taught through character education activities to promote good moral character. Each topic is equally important, but they build on one another. Every year we rotate the pillars so they are stressed in different months, after always starting with Responsibility and Respect. Also included are Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Fairness, and Caring. All school staff continue to try and "walk the talk".

Each month our school will concentrate on one of these pillars. September and October are our months for RESPONSIBILITY. It emphasizes doing what you are supposed to do, when you should do it, persevere, always do your best, use self-control, be self-disciplined, think before you act to consider the consequences, and be accountable for your choices.

Here are some ideas to use with your children:

- * Give your child appropriate tasks for their age where they can learn and show responsibility.
- * Chores might be setting the table, rinsing and loading dishes, taking care of tasks in their bedroom, or helping around the house and yard.
- * Being responsible for school obligations should include remembering to take homework and notices home, completing schoolwork to the best of their ability, and returning it on time.
- * Taking care of school books, turning in lunch money first thing in the morning, promptness, and especially appropriate classroom, lunchroom, hall, and bus behaviors help children learn to be responsible for their own words and actions.
- * Before going to bed each night, it seems to help children be more responsible if they choose and lay out their clothes for the next day, have all their notebooks, completed homework and papers in their backpacks, and then place the backpack near the door they exit in the morning so they don't forget it!

Responsibilities are for all of us, no matter what age. I hope this reinforces all the good choices that are already happening in your homes.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sue Betts, Counselor

ATTENDANCE HOTLINE

Please remember to call our attendance hotline at 354-3134 to report your child's absence. If we do not hear from a parent, we will call your home to confirm your child's absence.



IMPORTANT COLD AND FLU INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Cold and Flu season has started early this school year. The Spokane Regional Health District has already reported many cases of the H1N1 (Swine Flu) in the Spokane area. Although student and staff health conditions are treated confidentially, you may be assured that our district will continue to monitor the cases of flu being reported in our schools. Spokane Public Schools have made protective masks available in our health rooms for student and staff use. **If your student comes into the health room and has a temperature of 100 degrees or over and is exhibiting signs of fever, headache, sore throat, and cough, they will be given a mask to wear while they are waiting to be picked up.** This is for their protection as well as for other students and staff coming in and out of the office. As always, students should not return to school until their temperature has returned to normal and stayed at normal for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. We appreciate your concerns and cooperation.

LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING

Literacy tutor training will take place on September 29th & 30th, from 3:15-3:45 PM in Room 104, which are the same dates as the Volunteer Orientation trainings. Mrs. Ferguson will train all those interested in becoming literacy tutors.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Welcome Indian Trail volunteers! Another exciting year has begun and it is time for volunteer orientation again. This is for new and returning volunteers alike. Please come to get all of your questions answered and to familiarize yourself with our school and district policies. New volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend. I look forward to another successful year at Indian Trail with our volunteer program! There are two dates and times this year to accommodate everybody's needs. Please join me for treats and a quick orientation in the school library on:

Tuesday, September 29th @ 9:00 am
OR

Wednesday, September 30th @ 6:00 pm

I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Sincerely,

Kristi Flannery
Volunteer Coordinator
328-6196 or flanneryfive@msn.com

**-----ATTENTION-----
WE NEED YOUR
E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES)!!!**

In an effort to conserve paper, make use of technology, and offer a nicer-looking, more efficient newsletter, we would like to send home Indian Trail's Mustang Messages newsletter to you electronically via your e-mail address(es). Our goal is to be paper-free by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, but we would like to start the process now.

With that in mind, please fill out the form below and return it to school so that we can get our e-mail list compiled and begin sending you the newsletter electronically right now!!!

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER
INFORMATION FORM**

Your Name:

The e-mail address(es) you would like us to send the newsletter to:

Your student(s) name & Teacher

**AN UPDATE FROM
SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

As anticipated, influenza season has arrived in our community. We have parent reported cases of influenza at most every school in the area. As of 9-17-09, the number of absences is not considered high but we are seeing about twice as many absences due to influenza-like symptoms as compared to last year.

At this time, it is not significant which particular influenza virus is circulating in our area. We need to take the same preventative measures during all influenza seasons. It's true that the H1N1 virus appears to be more contagious than the "seasonal" influenza but that is because it is a new strain of virus and our bodies have not yet had the chance to build immunity against the H1N1 virus.

The reason we need repeated "seasonal" flu vaccinations every year is because the influenza virus is known to frequently change as it moves around the world. The next season's flu vaccine production needs to anticipate these changes and be formulated slightly different every year. Most of us benefit from boosting our immune system by vaccinating for influenza yearly.

Seasonal influenza vaccinations are available in our community now and H1N1 will be available for persons in the identified "vaccine priority groups" by mid-October. Vaccine priority groups include pregnant women, children age 6 months to 24 years, adults 25-64 who have chronic medical conditions, health care and emergency workers, and those who live in households where there is an infant less than 6 months of age. Please call your health care provider for more details.

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep your child home when ill, has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, reporting specific symptoms when your child is absent, encouraging good hand washing practices and covering their coughs and sneezes.

Kathe Reed-McKay
Health Services Director, SPS

Great News from the Library, Parents!



You can now access your son or daughter's library catalog from home! Destiny is a Web-based, school community-wide library browser which means it can be used from any Internet connected computer at

school or at home. Go to the school district's web site www.spokaneschools.org, then click on:

Students
Research
Follett Destiny
Indian Trail Elementary

At the Catalog and Library Search page you will be able to search for books by Title, Author, Keyword, Subject or Series. You can also search for award-winning books.

When you go to the library webpage you can click on the "Destiny Quest" link.

In Destiny Quest, students can easily see:

- * the most popular books in their library
- * new books recently added
- * "Resource Lists" provided by their librarian or teacher
- * the library shelves without leaving their chair!

With your school library catalog now being on-line you can help your child select books that are at the appropriate reading level and be involved with their reading. Please contact "Pixie" Mastel, teacher-librarian, for more information @ pixiem@spokaneschools.org or 354-3102.

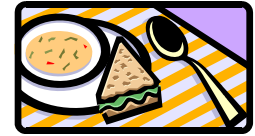
PETS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS



The busiest and most hectic times of the day at school are those times when students are arriving and departing. Pedestrian and vehicle traffic are greatest, and the risk of injury, particularly to our pedestrian students, is highest during these times. Student and adult crossing guards are provided to assist with traffic control and to aid students in crossing the busy intersections.

Many parents walk with their children to and from school, a practice which we condone and wish to foster. However, some parents also take this opportunity to exercise their dog. A loving pet can enrich the family and home environment, but they may also add to the confusion during an already hectic period of time. The confusion may cause stress for the animals and make them overly excited and unpredictable. **For the safety of our students and your pet, please leave your pet at home when you come to school.** Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation.

LUNCH NEWS



Parents are always welcome to come eat hot lunch with their children. Please be sure to call the office by 9:30 am to let us know when you are coming because our food is not prepared on-site and we have to order extra meals ahead of time. Please try to have the exact amount to pay for your lunch because we do not have change available. Thank you!

PERSONAL ITEMS AT SCHOOL



The School District cannot be responsible for loss or damage to personal property brought to school by students. **Please make certain that your child does not bring personal items to school. This includes trading cards, CD players, sports equipment, etc.**

PTA NEWS

Indian Trail's fall PTA Fundraiser will be with Innisbrook again this year! They are a wonderful company to work with. The dates for this fundraiser will be October 5-October 19. There will be an assembly on October 5th to kick off our sale. Your child will bring home his/her packet that day. Last year was a very successful one for us and we hope to continue along that same path. This fundraiser allows the PTA to provide many educational items for our kids. Your support is greatly appreciated. Look for more information to come as the sale gets closer. If you have any questions please give us a call.

Thank you,
Ivy Hatcher & Kate Anderson
979-5972/489-3700
PTA 2nd Vice Presidents