

# Mustang Messages



## October 5, 2009



### Dates to Remember

#### October

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

#### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Daylight Savings Time Ends—Set Clocks Back!
- 4<sup>th</sup> VIP Luncheon for K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades 11:40 in Library
- 6<sup>th</sup> ASB Popcorn Sale
- 10<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day Assembly 2:00 PM in the Gym
- 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day—NO SCHOOL
- 12<sup>th</sup> Individual Picture Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Spirit Day – Crazy Hair Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> VIP Luncheon for 3-6<sup>th</sup> Grades 11:40 in Library
- 19-25<sup>th</sup> Conference Week 1:00 PM Dismissal
- 19<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting 7:00 PM in the Library
- 23<sup>rd</sup> End of First Trimester
- 25<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Awards Assembly --  
Grades K-3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30AM / Grades 4-6 10:45 AM  
ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108  
Spirit Day – Cats & Dawgs Day
- 26-27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Holiday—NO SCHOOL
- 30<sup>th</sup> Principal's Coffee 8:30 AM in the Library  
Character Counts *Students of Character*  
Recognition & Ice Cream Party

### Principal's Note

Dear Indian Trail Families,

It is hard to believe that September has already come and gone. The weather has really cooled off, but our classrooms are sizzling with teaching and learning. Students and teachers are fully emerged in reading lessons focused around using fix-up strategies and comprehension strategies to monitor their own reading progress. Teachers are gearing up to administer DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) assessments for all students. These assessments are used by teachers to create reading groups, to target students' reading needs, and to report students' reading progress to parents at conference time. In writing, our primary students are working on writing small moments from their own life experiences, and our intermediate students are currently focused on writing personal narratives and will then work toward writing literary essays about various texts they select to read. All of this writing is done within the structure of Writers' Workshop, which includes modeling of strong writing by the teacher, guided writing with the students, and then having students write independently.

This is just a taste of what our Indian Trail kids are learning at this time. To find out more specifics about what your child is learning about at school, please refer to the *Learning Across the Year Summary* documents that were handed out at Open House during the standards-based grading and reporting presentations. These summaries are grade specific and provide a very detailed list of the major learning goals for each trimester of your child's current grade level. If you don't have one of these documents, please either call our office at 354-3100 and we can send a copy home with your child, contact your child's teacher directly, or drop by our office to pick one up. Our goal is to keep you informed about the learning that is occurring in our classrooms so you can have informed conversations with your child throughout the year. Please let us know what we can do differently if this is not happening for you and your child.

Enjoy the October weather as the leaves begin to change color and the daylight hours decrease. I hope to see you all at our Math Night coming up on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please look for more information about this event coming home in your child's backpack. It should be a very engaging and fun evening for all who attend. Also, thank you in advance for supporting our annual PTA Innisbrook

**VETERAN'S DAY—NO SCHOOL**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

fundraiser. The monies earned from this sale will be used by our PTA to support school activities throughout the year. The sale runs from October 5 to 19. Your child should have an information pack in his/her backpack from today's kick-off assembly. All monies are due by October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Take care and see you around our school soon.  
Sincerely,

Paul Gannon  
"Believe It and You'll See It!"

## VIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



The following students received the VIP award for demonstrating excellent character, and academic progress.

STUDENT	GRADE	TEACHER
Conor Weber	Kindergarten-AM	Mrs. Kusel
Toren Rosen	Kindergarten-PM	Mrs. Kusel
Micah Staley	First	Mrs. Zambryski
Olivia Wicks	First	Mrs. Ryan-Walls
Natalie Jacob	Second	Mrs. Ferguson
Katie Allbery	Second	Mrs. Overbay
Danielle Jones	2/3 Combo	Mrs. Spencer
Eliza Blakeslee	Third	Mrs. Melnick
Tessa Cox	Third	Mr. Hall
Bethany Watts	Fourth	Mrs. Kight
Devon Anderson	Fourth	Mrs. Golden
Dylan Allison	Fifth	Mr. Hatcher
Alek Jacob	Fifth	Mrs. Chittum
Maranda Sanders	Sixth	Mr. Bachman
Jared Kutsch	Sixth	Mrs. Moen

Congratulations to these students. You can see their faces and certificates on our special VIP bulletin board by the main office.

## Principals Challenge Math Problem – October – “Up An Escalator”



Faith and her father visit Northtown Mall. They use an escalator at the mall. If they run up 6 steps of the escalator, it takes them 50.0 seconds to reach the top of the escalator. If they run up 12 steps of the escalator, it takes them only 32 seconds to reach the top.

How many seconds would it take Faith and her father to reach the top if they did not run up any steps of the escalator at all?

### Directions to Submit an Answer:

- 1) To submit an answer to the Principal's Challenge Math Problem, write your child's name, your name, and his/her teacher's name on the top of a piece of paper.
- 2) Responses must include a written explanation using words, numbers, and/or pictures so that Mr. Gannon can look through your answer and make sense of it.
- 3) Drop off your responses in the Indian Trail Office by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 4) Have fun solving this problem with your child! Parental help is encouraged.
- 5) Winning responses will receive a small prize from Mr. Gannon.

### Answer and Winners from the September Principal's Math Challenge Problem

**Correct Answer:** The caterpillar takes 32 days to climb the 100 foot tree to eat the leaves at the top. It takes him 31 days to travel 93 feet (up 8 feet each day, and back 5 feet each night). So, on the **32<sup>nd</sup> day** he travels the final 7 feet to get to the top and then doesn't slide back down once he is at the top eating.

Below are the families that submitted correct solutions for the "Caterpillar's Travels" problem in September.

- Tessa and Kevin Cox – Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Emma and Mark Vandine – Chittum – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Brenna and Lenny Bayless – Bachman – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Megan and Doug Dean – Bachman – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Sabrina Gleese and Becky Phillips – Bachman – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Abigail and Luke McDonald – Bachman – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

These families received a small prize for their correct solutions. Congratulations and I look forward to scoring all the answers to this month's problem.

Thanks ~ Mr. Gannon



## **RESPONSIBILITY with CHARACTER COUNTS**



We are continuing to concentrate on the Character Counts pillar of **RESPONSIBILITY** in October. Here are some tips about teaching **RESPONSIBILITY** from an article in a National Association of Elementary School Principals' newsletter.

Children who go through their school years without any family responsibilities are not lucky - they are spoiled. It's a harsh statement, but far too many children are skating through their young years without a work ethic. Teaching children to be responsible should start as soon as a toddler is able to understand phrases like, "Put your blocks back in the box." It's never too late, though!

\* *Daily and Weekly Routines:* Children need to understand that everyone has certain dull, routine chores that have to be completed every day and every week. Assign them chores as family responsibilities that must be accepted and completed.

\* *Personal Hygiene Checklist:* There are certain personal hygiene routines that all of us need to follow every day, such as washing hands and face, showering or bathing, brushing and flossing teeth, and combing our hair. Instead of reminding your child to do these things, list each item on a convenient checklist and make it your child's responsibility to complete and check off each item daily - without being reminded.

\* *Life Skills:* While small children can be assigned "safe" jobs, like emptying the trash, you can help older children learn essential life skills through chores like cooking, helping with the laundry, washing dishes, setting and clearing the table, and caring for a pet.

\* *Homework:* Parents need to be involved in their children's day-to-day education, and checking what homework has been assigned and completed is a great way to do it. But remember, completing homework must be your child's responsibility.

\* *Punctuality:* Children need to understand that being on time is important. By being punctual yourself, and not tolerating their attempts to dawdle or delay, you'll teach your children a responsibility trait that will be valued for the rest of their lives by other people.

\* *Following Through:* A key to teaching children to be independent is to make them responsible for completing their work. This means that they also must suffer the consequences if they fail. To help make "following through" second nature, emphasize it in everyday situations such as completing homework and family chores before playtime. And make sure they understand that half-done is the same as not done.

\* *Model Responsibility:* Let your children see you do things that need to be done, pitch in without being asked, and take the blame when you've made an error. Children learn what they live with.

I hope these ideas will be of help to you. We are all responsible for our words and actions.

Mrs. Sue Betts, Counselor

Indian Trail has our own Taco Time Night! It is Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Taco Time will donate a portion of the proceeds on this night to our school. We will have four students helping out, along with Mrs. Kight and Mr. Gannon. Please come out and support our school. We will be there from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. It will be lots of fun and yummy too. We would love to see you there!

## **Coats 4 Kids**



Indian Trail is once again participating in the Coats 4 Kids Program. Please bring your gently used coats in from now through October 16<sup>th</sup> so they may be passed on to kids who need them. Thanks!!

ASB

## **THE INDIAN TRAIL SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST**

We would like to put student artwork on this year's ASB shirt. Artwork entry forms have already been made available to the students. The teachers will select designs to use on the shirt and the winning artist or artists will get free T-shirts. Entry forms are due by October 16<sup>th</sup>. Please turn them in to Mr. Bachman.

Thanks!