



Poyner Elementary Newsletter October 2009

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FALL LITERACY NIGHT

The Poyner Elementary School staff invites our families to a Literacy Night on October 13. Come and enjoy a night of food, activities, and fun.

Bring the entire family! (Students must come with a parent or guardian.)

A meal will be provided from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. We will have four 15-minute blocks of time, and students and their families will rotate between activities beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will need to put a cap on the number of students in each activity, so you will want to sign in before 5:45 p.m. or wait for the next activity. Students attending will receive a free book.

This will be a great time to learn what your child is doing in school, to learn more about reading with your child, and to visit with Poyner staff and the families of other students. We hope to see you there!

POYNER PARENT COMMITTEE/SITE

COUNCIL—We would like to encourage all parents to attend our next meeting on October 6 at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Webb will demonstrate the Promethean ActivBoard. We need your support to continue activities for our students. There are no yearly dues; we just ask your input at the meetings and assistance with events. PLEASE plan to attend. (We usually meet the first Tuesday of the month.)

5th GRADE PARENTS—There will be a meeting after the PTO meeting on October 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the media center. We will be discussing the end of the year activity. All 5th grade parents are encouraged to attend.

AFTER SCHOOL—If you or another designated individual are picking up your child from the bus, please make sure that you stop at the office first. Since staff who have bus supervision may not know you or who is allowed to pick up your child, we need you to sign the student out at the office. Please remember this is for the safety of your child.

If your child goes to the YMCA program or Boys and Girls Club, make sure that you communicate this information to the teacher. Parents need to have this in writing for the teacher. If not, the student will follow the designated routine after school. We need to know what the parents' plans are. We cannot take the students' word, as too many times the students are doing what they want and not what the parent/guardian has planned.

SCHOOL PICTURES—The date for school pictures will be October 7. Students will be bringing home an information sheet with the details.

CALENDAR

October 2	Responsibility Assembly— Students Wear GREEN
October 7	School Pictures
October 13	Literacy Night
October 19-23	Character Counts Week
October 23	Red Ribbon Parade
October 26-30	Red Ribbon Week
October 30	Fall Parade—2:30 p.m.

KIDS' CORNER

Bring this slip and your favorite book to Mrs. Zeigler by October 11.

Your Name: _____

Your Grade: _____

ATTENDANCE—At times it is necessary for your child to be gone from school for an appointment, but we would really encourage you to try to make these appointments after school hours. Every time a classroom is interrupted, we interrupt the learning of our students. It is also helpful if you let us know when your child is absent from school. Thank you for your assistance!

RED RIBBON WEEK - Red Ribbon Week is a national celebration that promotes and encourages students to choose to be drug free. We will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week with a kickoff parade on October 23 (details to be forthcoming.). We will encourage everyone to participate in activities according to the following schedule:

Monday, October 26

Students will receive Red Ribbon Bracelets.

Tuesday, October 27

TURN YOUR BACK ON DRUGS!

Students can wear their clothes backwards to show their commitment to being drug free.

Wednesday, October 28

SHADE OUT DRUGS!

Students will be allowed to wear sunglasses to school.

Thursday, October 29

SOCK IT TO DRUGS!

Students can wear mix-matched or silly socks to support being drug free.

Friday, October 30

FALL PARADE

Students may bring a costume to wear during our Fall Parade which will begin at 2:30 p.m. and go from classroom to classroom. Students are not to wear makeup or costumes to school. If your child doesn't have a costume, we encourage them to wear Character Counts colors.

CHARACTER COUNTS—On October 20, we are asking all students to wear the following colors, as we will be taking a picture of each grade-level for a character counts activity:

Kindergarten—Wear Orange	1st—Wear Purple
2nd—Wear Blue	3rd—Wear Red
4th—Wear Green	5th—Wear Yellow

The Six Pillars of Character

This year our students will be learning about the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. In October, we will be focusing on the character of Responsibility.

Behaviors that show RESPONSIBILITY:

- *Be reliable.
- *Set a good example for others.
- *Do your best and keep trying.

What can you do at home?

1. Give your child a chore to do. Teach them how to do it and give them a deadline to complete it. Then expect your child to be responsible in doing the task.
2. With your child, establish a regular method for him/her to use in completing homework and having what is needed for school.
3. Set family goals: have each member of the family complete the following sentence and post it where it will serve as a reminder: I will show that I am responsible by:

What can you as parents do?

- *Use the T.E.A.M. strategy: Teach, Enforce, Advocate, Model.
- *Let school and home enhance each other by emphasizing a pillar, like responsibility, in your home.
- *Work as a family to build character in the emphasized area, like responsibility.
- *During each month, write "family rules" around the identified characteristic—responsibility.
- *"Catch" one another doing the right thing.

from the Institute of Character Development

NEWS FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE—Any medication that your child is required to take during school hours must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. When dropping off the medicine, a parent needs to sign a parental permission form that allows school personnel to administer the medication. Refills may be brought in by the student. Under NO circumstances are students allowed to carry unused medicine home. It must be brought home by a parent.

VISIT OUR SCHOOLS—We encourage parents to visit our schools. Have you ever thought of having lunch with your child? Call the school before 9:00 a.m., if you would like to order a lunch, or you are welcome to bring a cold lunch if you prefer. Just stop in the office to get a visitor's badge, and then you can join your child in the lunchroom. We also invite grandparents to join us. If a grandparent comes to school to visit a child, **we must have a written notice from the parent** (unless the grandparents have guardianship).

E-MAIL NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION—We now have a way to notify parents and staff of weather-related early dismissals, late starts, cancellations, and other emergency information by email. If you wish to receive a notice by email, go to our web site www.waterloo.k12.ia.us to subscribe to this free service. Scroll down to the article on Email Notification and click on the link. You'll be asked to enter the email address for the notice to be sent to and to select either "all buildings" or specific buildings of interest. You may subscribe more than once so that notices will go to your home email and/or work email and/or cell phone/pager email addresses.

If any of the requested information for subscription changes, you would need to "Unsubscribe" and then "Subscribe" with the new information. This service means that, especially when at work, you won't have to rely on radio or TV announcements--the notice will come right to your desk or to your cell phone/pager (with email enabled). Of course, announcements will continue through local radio and TV and on our web site, and from school.

PHOTO I.D.—In order to make sure that the appropriate people are checking students out of the building or visiting our students, we are asking that everyone show a photo ID when coming to visit or pickup students.

Hy-Vee Cash for Kids

Donations for Education

Tyson Project

CASH FOR STUDENTS—Once again, Hy-Vee will be donating money to our school. Please send your cash register receipts to school. We total them up, send them in, and receive cash back. Help us be one of the top schools!!

We also collect **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**. Each box top is worth 10 cents, so clip your General Mills BOX TOPS for EDUCATION and send them to school!

Tyson Project A+ earns our school 24 cents per label. Please take a minute to clip the "Support Your School" label from the packages and send to school.

SURVEY—Thank you to those who responded to our survey at the beginning of the year. The biggest concern that parents have is our "Hug and Go" Lane. We are looking at options; however, some of you can help us to eliminate some of the concerns by: parking only in designates parking areas, picking up students in the left lane only, and staying in your car and moving forward. Thank you for your assistance.

MORNING SUPERVISION—Students should not be arriving before 8:30 a.m. The school does not provide supervision before that time. If you need supervision before 8:30 a.m., there is a before-school program offered by the YMCA.

HAVE YOU MOVED? - If you have moved or switched your telephone number, please call the school and update your information. In case of an emergency, we need to have accurate information.

