



Can you believe your little one has finished their first month of Pre-K? We understand how hard it has been to

let go, but we hope we have made the transition a little easier. Preschool is a wonderful year in which your child will grow, mature, and gain a wealth of knowledge... and in doing so, have a great time. In fact, at times they truly won't even realize they are learning, and

that's the wonderful part. This month our theme was "All About Me and My School." Next month we will begin the theme "The World Around Us." At home this month, begin working with your child on writing his or her name while holding the pencil correctly.

## Speech Spotlight

The children enrolled in speech therapy are currently participating in speech and language testing to determine their current levels of functioning. We are delighted to see some of our students from last year return, and we are ready to begin work with our new students.

Listed below are some suggestions for stimulating your child's speech and language skills at home:

- \*Talk to your child. Your child learns words by hearing you talk.
- \*Read books to your child. Talk about "who" is in the book and "what" they are doing.
- \*Be a good example. They need to hear you speak clearly and in complete sentences.
- \*Sing and listen to CDs. Children gain many new word meanings through singing songs.
- \*Give spoken directions. Start with one direction

When your child is able to understand one direction, add another. (Example: "Go to the table, and get a tissue.")

The speech therapists at NWES want parents to know that talking and listening times should be fun. -----Christie Aguillard, and Leah Rettig

tips, and self-esteem. The counselors also do individual and small group counseling and will be using some new interactive software with the children. If you have a concern about your child or would like to sign them up for individual or small group counseling, please contact the counselors at 654-2786.

## Counselor's Corner

The school counselors at Northwestern Elementary this year are Dana Vicellio and Wytika Beard. They will see your children twice a month for guidance lessons. This year the students will again be learning about the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. New technology and software purchased with a grant will be used with the students. Power Point presentations will be presented on the following topics: friendship, feelings, anger control, success in school, bullying, manners, forgiveness, test-taking

## Bravo Braves (Recognition for super behavior!)

Bailee A.  
Anna C.  
Maurdaeja F.  
Madelin W.  
Macey A.  
Andrew A.  
Marshall M.  
Kylie P.  
Caitlyn P.  
Tahj J.  
Tori O.  
Caecilia N.  
Bailey S.  
Passion S.  
Nicholas F.  
Kamryn K.  
Thomas D.  
Emani J.  
Germain S.

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## Extra, extra: read all about it!

In addition to regular class activities students are enjoying computer lab, physical education, Spanish, library and music classes. The students are learning new computer skills, games, and exercises in computer lab and PE. The students are learning how to say words and greetings in Spanish class. In library and music classes we are enjoying many stories and songs. Remember, reading everyday to your child

will help to increase attention span and language skills.

Parents can order birthday posters for \$10.00. Students can bring these posters home as a keepsake to remind them of their wonderful years at NWE. Forms are available at the office.

The Scholastic bookfair and Literacy nights will be held earlier this year. These events are scheduled for the week of September 29-October 3, 2008. If you would like to volunteer your help would

be greatly appreciated! Interested persons can contact the school librarian by sending an email to [gay.bankston@zacharyschools.org](mailto:gay.bankston@zacharyschools.org) or by calling 654-2786.

Please help support our school by recycling! We are collecting old cell phones and ink cartridges to be recycled for profit for our school. We also participate in the "Box Tops for Education" and "Community Coffee for Cash" programs. Please save these labels for us. Thank you for your support!



Our school days have been wonderful so far!! I know the beginning of school can be just as exciting for parents as it is for the children. You just can't wait for them to get off the bus and ask them that all important question, "What did you do today?" So

often you are let down by the response, "Nothing." Well, first grade teachers can tell you that these first few weeks of school your first grader's days have been filled with "nothing" but wonderful activities and chances to learn. You should be very proud of your child. We have read lots of stories, written in our journals, and learned how to write a sentence correctly. We have practiced sorting and making lots of different patterns and graphs. The children enjoyed exploring

the five senses. We also learned about the importance of respecting the learning of others and of ourselves. All of our first graders take responsibility for being the "best learner they can be". We are looking forward to many more days filled with fun and learning. We consider it a privilege to teach your children and we thank you for sharing them with us.



Volume 1, Issue 1

# BRAVE BEAT

September 2008

## Important Dates

**September 1** – Labor Day Holiday

**September 4** – Boy Scouts meeting with parents-6:30 p.m.

**September 5** – Free Dress

**September 11** –Papers go home

**September 12** – Liberty Card sales end

**September 25** –Papers go home

**September 29** – Book Fair

**September 30** – Family Literacy Night, Pre-K and K

**October 2** – Family Literacy Night, 1<sup>st</sup> grade



## FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you for making the beginning of this school year so terrific. Even though we have over 950 students, you have demonstrated a

wonderful spirit of understanding and cooperation. Our teachers have routines and procedures in place and students are learning everyday.

We have a new reading basal this year. It is Harcourt Storytown for kindergarten and first grade students. There are resources for parents on the Harcourt website. Follow the link and click on Parent Resources. <http://www.harcourtschool.com/storytown/> Thank you to everyone who attended Open House. We also thank all who attended our PTO meeting. Your input is always highly valued.

We want to emphasize the importance of attendance for our students. It is imperative that your child/children are here everyday so that they have an opportunity to learn all they can. If your child is ill, please send a doctor or parent note to school when he/she returns. We distribute attendance awards to our students with perfect attendance (no absences, tardies, or early checkouts) each month.

As an early reminder please note that the first grade Iowa test will be administered April 1-3 and 6-7, 2009.

The theme for our district and school this year is, "One Student at a Time." We will treat each child as if he/she were our own. We will focus on "the three Rs" – relationships, relevance and rigor. We want our students to believe in themselves, believe in others and love learning. Together, we know that it is possible and we are committed to it.



We welcome you to Northwestern Elementary. Kindergarten is off to a great start. This year we have a total of

19 classes of kindergarten children. We have been busy learning school rules and our daily classroom procedures. We are making many new friends and having a wonderful time.

If you have not already done so, please be reminded to pay the \$45.00

kindergarten fee as well as the \$6.00 field trip T-shirt fee. Thank you for your help and cooperation in this matter.

We know this is going to be a fantastic year for your child. They will grow, learn, and mature so much during this wonderful time of their lives.