



# EDWARDS ELEMENTARY

## Cyclone News

3622 Woodland St., Ames, IA 50014

Phone: 515-239-3760

<http://www.ames.k12.ia.us/Schools/Edwards/Edwards.html>

Edwards Elementary School provides a safe and caring community, where all students demonstrate the academic and social skills necessary to be productive citizens.

December 2, 2011

Mr. David Peterson, Principal

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

SAFE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We ask parents/guardians to be involved in their child's progress, especially encouraging their child to do their best on their schoolwork. Have you ever wondered, as I have as a parent, how much is too much involvement? Think about these situations:

- Your child's big science project is due tomorrow, but your child's after school schedule has been so busy she can't finish it herself. You don't want her to get a bad grade so is it o.k. to do most of the project yourself so it can be turned in on time?
- Your son's math homework is a big part of the grade, but he just doesn't understand some of the concepts. Is it o.k. to help him with some of the answers?
- Your daughter needs to write a story, but neatness in her writing is not so good. Should you write her story over again for her once she writes it so it can be neat?

We all want our children to do well in school.

Sometimes we want to do too much for them, and their self-esteem may suffer if we enable them. So how much is reasonable help? What do you do if they just don't seem to understand how to do the work?

Check out the rules for EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE HELP in the next column.

Sincerely,

David Peterson, Principal

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

Mon. 5	Hearing Retests
Wed. 7	EARLY OUT: Dismissal 2:05 PM
Wed. 14	EARLY OUT: Dismissal 2:05 PM
Fri. 16	"Winter Sing" 10:15-10:45 AM Gym
	Winter Parties
Dec. 19-30	WINTER BREAK

#### JANUARY

Mon. 2 School back in session

### EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE HELP

#### RULE 1

*Don't Do It For Them.* The assignments are given for a reason—they need to learn the concepts and they can't do that learning if you do their work.

#### RULE 2

*Guidance Is Great!* Help your children understand assignments by talking with them about the concepts. Say your child is having trouble with basic division. Dump out a stack of pennies or paper clips, count the total, and, together divide them into groups of five, six, or seven—making is something they can see and feel can help in understanding concepts. Say your child has writer's block, instead of suggesting things to write brainstorm ideas together. Help your child think through the process so they can do the work.

#### RULE 3

*Be Encouraging.* It can be frustrating learning new things or completing a larger project. I always tell my son to be positive, patient, and persistent. Remind them often, and support their feelings as they apply these to learning.

#### RULE 4

*Expand Their Brains.* You can support your child's learning by asking them to go beyond their original ideas. If your son has a poster idea, tell him it is a good idea but ask what other ideas might add to it. Talking through a number of different ideas or ways of doing the task can add to a child's creativity and deeper understanding of the concept being taught.

#### RULE 5

*Always allow children to follow their own path in the learning.* With your guidance you and their teacher will be pleased with the result—and the work will be their own!

#### RULE 6

*Know When To Call For Help.* If your child is consistently having trouble with specific concepts and you have helped, it may be time to let the teacher know. Chances are your child is not the only one confused. This rule allows your child to also gain the idea that it is smart to ask for help when you don't understand something. Children need the guidance of school and their family because they don't know all that they need for adult success

It is the policy of the Ames Community School District to maintain a nondiscriminatory environment in every aspect of the operation of the District. The District will provide equal educational and employment opportunities without regard to sex, race, national origin, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status in its educational programs and activities or its employment and personnel policies.

## Colder Weather and Clothing

With the beginning of colder temperatures, it is recommended that children come to school dressed for the cold weather. Be sure your child has a coat, gloves, and a hat/hood as students still will be going outside for recess in colder weather.

### **SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### **Upcoming dates**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>– PTO Meeting (Childcare provided)**

- \* Officers Meeting at 6:30pm
- \* Business Meeting at 7pm

#### **COFFEE CONNECTIONS**

**January 6, 2012**

Coffee Connections is a social gathering that the PTO hosts one morning a month from 8:30am – 9:30am. We have a different class serve as hosts each month, but all parents are invited to attend each time. We serve coffee and tea as well as baked goods and fruit (provided by families from the hosting grade level). It is a laid back event and we encourage everyone to stop by when they can! It is a great opportunity to chat with other parents, PTO officers & teachers. Even if you can't stay, skip Starbucks for the morning and grab a cup of coffee on us! The next Coffee Connections event will be hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade families and is scheduled for **Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 9:30am in the Media Center.** We hope to see you there!  
*Megan Jurgens & Amanda Flemming* PTO Co-Presidents

#### **Objects Brought to School By Students**

A reminder that personal objects such as toys, cards, I Pods, Cell Phones, etc. are not allowed to be used during the school day. They can be a disruption to the learning environment and there is no security for these items being lost or stolen at school. If items are brought to school they are NOT to be out of a student's backpack, locker, pockets during the school day. Before school or after school these items may be used (i.e., cell phones to contact parents about a ride). Please do not encourage your child to loan, give, or trade personal items at school.

Please remind your child that at NO TIME should items that could be considered a weapon be brought to school (i.e. knives, garden tools, toy look a-likes). If a child finds they are in the possession of an item that should not be here at school or they observe someone else with a dangerous item it is the student's responsibility to inform the adults at school.

#### **VOCAL MUSIC:**

#### **Recorders in Fourth Grade**

The fourth grade children will be learning to play soprano recorders in the month of January. They are excited to begin this new adventure. I need to complete the process of ordering recorders. Many have returned your slip indicating your preference...

#### **NUMBER CHOICES:**

1. I would like to borrow a recorder from Edwards.
  2. Please order my child a recorder from West Music for \$5.00. (Attached you will find a cash/check payable to Cheryl Stalder. I will place one order.)
  3. We already have a recorder at our home.
- I need to know by **DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>** what number preference is best for you. Please give your "number choice" and payment if required to your classroom teacher. They will forward this information to Mrs. Stalder. For any questions you may contact me at [cheryl.stalder@ames.k12.ia.us](mailto:cheryl.stalder@ames.k12.ia.us) or 239-3760.*

#### **AMES HIGH SOMETHING CLUB**

#### **Upcycling Program**

The Ames High DoSomething Club is starting a new awesome upcycling program in all elementary schools in Ames! Upcycling is exactly the same as recycling, EXCEPT that instead of just collecting cans and bottles, we collect various kinds of waste people would normally view as "straight-to-the-landfill" items. Our idea surfaced when we came across TerraCycle.net online. It is a great program that upcycles the items we ship to them (free of charge!) AND donates \$.02 to a charity of our choice for everything single item of waste we send in! So we are both benefiting the environment AND helping someone in the world. I would recommend visiting terracycle.net so you can become familiar with this program. Our plan is to collect two items to begin with: Elmer's glue (bottle or glue stick) and writing utensils (mechanical pencils, highlighter, markers, etc.). We will place a tall bin in the hallways; we believe this bin will be able to hold both items sufficiently without overflowing for a whole semester. If not, we can come in to empty the bin anytime

#### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

With the snow and cold coming, we once again want to remind the parents who use the drop-off lane to remain with your car. This is not a parking spot. Please pull ahead and park along the road if you need to go in to pick up your child. Thanks for your cooperation.

1. If parking on the street, please do not block residents' driveways—this is in violation of the traffic laws.
2. If parking on the street, please avoid using residents' driveways as a means to turn around.

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS / DELAYS / EARLY DISMISSALS

Severe weather or other emergencies may make it necessary to close schools, delay the start of the school day or dismiss classes early. We realize these decisions are inconvenient, but we ask for your cooperation and understanding to do what is best for our students and staff. It is our practice to hold school unless we determine that there is a health or safety risk. Some parents may choose not to send their child(ren) to school in weather they feel is too severe. The District will consider this an excused absence. Parents may also pick up their child(ren) early or request early dismissal of students who drive to school when weather is a concern. Announcements regarding school closings, delayed start times, early dismissals and changes in school bus service will be made on the television and radio stations and websites listed below. It is our goal to notify the media by 6 a.m. on the day of a school closing. Please refrain from calling the schools. It is important to keep our phone lines open for notifications and emergencies.

WOI-TV Channel 5 [www.woi-tv.com](http://www.woi-tv.com)

WHO-TV Channel 13 [www.whotv.com](http://www.whotv.com)

KCCI-TV Channel 8 [www.kcci.com](http://www.kcci.com)

KASI

1430 AM/KCCQ 105.1 FM

WHO 1040 AM

School Cable Channel 7/Facebook

We have added a school closing announcement link on our District website at [www.ames.k12.ia.us](http://www.ames.k12.ia.us). This year, in addition to the other methods of communication, the District will also be posting closing/delay/dismissal information on its Facebook page. Look for it by visiting Facebook and searching for "ACSD Schools." Also, you may receive school closing information using the Iowa School Alerts program. You will receive school alerts immediately via email notification. To sign up for this free service go to <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov> to create an account. On the District enrollment form, elementary parents provide instructions for where their child is to go in case of an emergency early dismissal. **Please make sure that this information is current and that the child(ren) and anyone providing childcare after school are aware of this plan.** We recommend that middle school and high school parents also discuss an emergency early dismissal plan with their child(ren). As a general rule, after school activities are canceled with closings or early dismissals. However, Ames High varsity teams may meet with approval of the Athletic Director. Severe weather can affect school bus service. Hazardous road conditions may make it impossible to pick up or drop off students at their regular bus stops. Parents will be notified by the school or by the transportation department when these conditions exist. Again, please make sure schools have current parent emergency contact information. Contact the Superintendent's Office at 268-6660 if you have questions or suggestions concerning these procedures.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

Good Neighbor is currently accepting applications for **Toys for Tots through Friday, Dec. 9th** at 3206 S. Duff Ave., between 9am - 11:45am, Monday - Friday. Applicants must show a photo I.D. and proof of residency such as a lease or utility bill. A second location that is accepting applications through Dec. 9th is The Boys and Girls Club, located at 210 S. 5th, Ames. Residents with a photo I.D. and proof of residency may stop in and register between the hours of 4pm - 8pm Monday through Friday.

**Good Neighbor** is currently accepting applications for **Toys for Tots through Friday, Dec. 9th** at 3206 S. Duff Ave. between 9am - 11:45am Monday - Friday. Applicants must show a photo I.D. and proof of residency such as lease or utility bill.

## HEALTH RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Iowa offers *hawk-i* health care coverage for uninsured children of working families. There are numerous services available through the *hawk-i* program including a recently added dental only coverage for children who have health insurance but may not have dental coverage. If your child is in need of health insurance visit the website [http://hawk-i.org/en\\_US/index.html](http://hawk-i.org/en_US/index.html) or call *hawk-i* Customer Service at **1-800-257-8563**. If you need further assistance please contact your child's school counselor or school nurse.

### Free Medical Clinic

First United Methodist Church  
516 Kellogg St. Ames, IA 50010

Hours: Registration starts at 4pm appointments start at 5pm  
Thursday evenings

People Served: Anyone with a medical need

Services: Non-emergency medical care

Operated on a first-come first-served bases.

**No appointments are taken**

*Fee Structure: Free medical care*

(Immunizations are **not** offered at the Free Clinic  
Please contact HOMEWARD at 515-239-6730)

### Story County Dental Clinic

Provides affordable dental care for **low-income uninsured and Medicaid patients of all ages.**

Call 515-598-5298 for an appointment

Monday - Thursday 8:00am – 6:00 pm

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