



Fellows School Newsletter



1400 McKinley Dr., Ames, IA 50010 Phone: 239-3765

www.ames.k12.ia.us

August - September 2011



WELCOME!!!

  We hope you had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to another great school year. The entire staff at Fellows is excited to begin 2011-2012. Please do not hesitate to call the office or stop in if you need assistance, have questions, concerns or compliments!

***Where to find information....* FELLOWS WEB CALENDAR AVAILABLE AT www.ames.k12.ia.us**

- On the district website, directly under the words “Ames Community School District” there is a line of link in blue. Click on “calendar”, when this opens select “Fellows” from the right side.
- **The Ames Community School District Elementary Handbooks** are available on the district web site, click on Fellows Elementary, the link is on the left side of our school home page.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY, SEPTEMBER 1

 ***Remember to bring your photo envelope back to school by 8/31/11***

Student Insurance Packets will be sent home at the beginning of the year.

- ⇒ ***Parents need to return to the building a response for student insurance.***
- If you are **NOT** signing up for student insurance fill out the “waiver for insurance” at the bottom of the information sheet and have your student return it to the school... OR
 - If you **DO** want to buy student insurance, complete the insurance information envelope and have your student return it to the school.

Home and School Connection

Cathy Braun, Fellows School and Family Counselor.

A Good Start! You can help make this school year a great one for your child by doing a few simple things to help him/her survive.

- **Follow a Routine:** Following a routine at home will help your child prepare for the schedules at school. For example, every day after school, he/she must wash his/her hands, eat a snack, and do his/her homework.
- **Promote Independence:** When your child asks for help with something you know he/she can do, say, "You can do it!" This will encourage the independence he/she'll need in the classroom.
- **Build Attention Span:** Have your child focus on one activity while sitting at a table or desk for 15-20 minutes each day. He/She can draw, practice handwriting, or write a story. Practicing this will get him/her used to doing classwork.
- **Recognize Effort:** Praise your child for trying even if he/she hasn't quite mastered the task!
- **Have Conversations:** Teach your child to talk about his/her experiences. Talk during family meals, while running errands, and at bedtime.

Community Bulletin Board

SOS The Ames Education Foundation raises money every year to Support Our Students (S.O.S). These gifts help families struggling financially to purchase school supplies for their children. An application form is sent out in the spring, and vouchers are mailed out in the summer for families to purchase school supplies. . If you are still in need of school supplies, please contact Cathy Braun, Fellows School and Family Counselor.

Shoes That Fit MediaCom will be starting their annual Shoes That Fit campaign in late September. There will be a flyer going home in your child's backpacks detailing this community program later in September. If you are in need of winter items or shoes for your elementary-aged child, fill out the bottom part of the flyer and send it back to school. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Braun, Fellows School and Family Counselor.

✂.....Clip and Save.....✂

SCHOOL HOURS

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8:10 – 8:30 | Breakfast Program served |
| 8:25 a.m. | First Bell, Students may enter the school for class |
| 8:35 a.m. | Classes begin |
| 3:20 pm * | School Dismissal |

PLEASE NOTE: **Early dismissal for ALL students at 2:05 pm on every Wednesday August 31 to the end of the year.

Fellows School Calendar Schedule 2011-2012

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 1 | School Fees are due - <u>Mail fees</u> to school by August 1 |
| 18 First Day Class | Grades 1-5: 8:35-3:20 & Kindergarten: Glimpses as scheduled <i>PTO - Family Ice Cream Social 5:30-7:00 (free event for families)</i> |
| 19 | Grades 1-5: 8:35-3:20 and Kindergarten: Glimpses as scheduled |
| 22-26 K-5 Class 8:35 1:45 | Mini Conference Week - Sign up for Mini conference time, sheets are posted in front entrance area Aug 11, 18 & 19 |
| September | |
| 1 ☺ | SCHOOL PICTURES ☺ |
| 5 | NO SCHOOL - Labor Day |
| 8 | "Parent Back to School Night" 5:30 Grades: K, 1, 2, I.S. Dept. 6:15 Grades. 3, 4, 5 Remember to sign up for FALL & SPRING CONFERENCES tonight, at office area. |
| 13 | <i>School Election Day ~ remember to vote</i> |
| 13 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| October | |
| 3 | NO SCHOOL - District Wide Workshop Day |
| 7-21 | PTO "Great American" fund raising event |
| 11 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| November | |
| 7 | NO SCHOOL - Conference Workshop Day |
| 10 | NO SCHOOL - Elementary Conferences |
| 11 | NO SCHOOL - Elementary Conferences |
| 15 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| 24-25 | NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | |
| 19- 30 | NO SCHOOL - Winter Break |
| January | |
| 2 | Classes Resume |
| 10 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| 16 | NO SCHOOL - District Wide Workshop Day |
| 26 | PTO Game Night 6:30 |
| 30 | District Wide Invention Convention @ Fellows 4:30-6:00 |
| February | |
| 7 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| 16 | PTO Science Night 5:30-8:00 |
| March | |
| 5 | NO SCHOOL - Workshop Day |
| 8-9 | NO SCHOOL - Conference Week |
| 12-16 | NO SCHOOL - Spring Break |
| April | |
| 10 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| 19 | Fellows' Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m. in Fellows' Gym |
| 24 | Fellows Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m. at Ames Middle School |
| May | |
| 3 | Fellows Band Concert 7:00 p.m. at Ames Middle School |
| 4 | 2010-11 Student Registration Forms |
| 8 | PTO meeting 7:00 pm |
| 24 | PTO: Fellows Fair 5:00-8:00 |
| 25 | Last day of School (unless snow days need to be made up) |

School Hours: 8:35-3:20 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:35-2:05 Wednesday

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Mrs. Carol Page

Welcome Back! It is my sincere hope that your family had a restful, relaxing, rejuvenating summer. I was busy preparing for my daughter's wedding, so I'm not sure how restful it was, but it was fun! I have big hopes and dreams for Fellows students this year. It is always my hope that each student feels a part of a bigger community. I hope each student recognizes his/her rights and responsibilities and finds learning a joy. Finally, I hope all students feel loved and appreciated for the unique individuals they are.

I have reflected on the last 11 years at Fellows and am amazed at how quickly time flies. I think of the families who have moved on to the Middle School, and how many little lives we have shaped. It is my plan to keep shaping them into compassionate, productive citizens and I appreciate your partnership! I thoroughly enjoy the staff, students, and families here and look forward to a wonderful 2011-2012 school year!

Arrival/Dismissal/Driveway Update:

Thank you for your efforts in following our guidelines to keep our students safe!



The following is a review of the expectations when using our driveway.

- Allow students to **exit the vehicle** on the right **curbside** of the driveway—**AWAY from other traffic**. We have experienced near misses when students exit the left-hand side of the vehicle.
- The red painted curb denotes a fire lane – please **do not leave your car unattended in the fire lane**.
- Use the left lane for passing, being very **cognizant of other vehicles around you**.
- As space in the right lane allows, pull your car forward to avoid congestion on 20th street—students being picked up will only be allowed to exit the school front doors therefore, eliminating the need for cars to wait in the south end of the drive. Student “pick up area” will commence **AFTER** the middle crosswalk area.
- Use one of our 10-minute parking spaces located in our parking lot when you need to make a quick trip into the building or drop off an item for a student.
- Students arriving at school before 8:25 will be taught to stand in a designated line for their classroom. Teachers will escort students into the building at 8:25. Playing on the playground directly before and after school will not be an option due to the lack of supervision. We invite students and families to use the playground at other times of the day.
- Students being picked up from school will exit the front doors of the building. They will stand in the sidewalk area until their ride arrives. A supervisor will ensure that the students are not playing on the playground equipment directly after school. It is imperative that students be picked up on time.
- Students walking home will be expected to do so immediately after school. If students and families want to return to the Fellows playground after 3:45, we encourage them to do so.

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. Dr. Tim Taylor, Superintendent, is the reporting officer for affirmative action, desegregation, and discrimination. Any questions should be directed to: Dr. Tim E. Taylor - Educational Services Center- 415 Stanton Ave.- Ames, IA 50014– (515) 268-6610

Fellows PTO: YOUR SCHOOL –YOUR PTO

Welcome to another fantastic year at Fellows Elementary. Our school continues to be a top rated elementary school and highly desired place to send our kids. We need your help to keep it that way! Our principal, teachers, and staff work so hard to provide the best education and environment for our children. The PTO supports their hard work.

What do we do?

- ✓ Provide mini-grants to teachers to enhance classroom learning (ELMOs, supplies, etc)
- ✓ Fund PE equipment, Art and Music programs
- ✓ Maintain playground equipment
- ✓ Fund all field trips for Fellows students throughout the school year
- ✓ Organize and sponsor free events such as the **Ice Cream Social, Family Fun Night, Science Night**
- ✓ Appreciate our teachers and staff throughout the year

How do we do this? We ask every family at Fellows to support the PTO with a suggested minimum donation of \$10 / family. With over 400 Fellows families this would be a huge contribution to our school.

We need your commitment.

Other ways we raise money:

- ✓ Fellows Scrip Program
- ✓ Gift wrap/Gifts/ Sales (Fall)
- ✓ Box Tops –Over \$1,000 collected last year!
- ✓ Fellows Fair (Spring) –over \$13,000 raised last year!

Please join us:

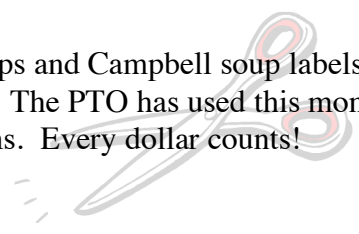
| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thurs August 18 | 5:30-7:00 PTO Ice Cream Social <i>Fun! Free!</i> Join us for this traditional 1 st day of school gathering! |
| Tues September 13 | PTO Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm in the Media Center. Agenda will include Fall activities. |

SCRIP: The PTO purchases gift cards at a discount and sells them for face value with the difference going to the PTO. Fill out your order form and send it in with your child. Scrip certificates will be sold on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month in the front school lobby 8:15-8:45a.m.

Fellows School Spirit Wear: Look for information and order forms to come home this fall. A fun way to support the school!

Great American Fundraising: We are excited about our fundraising company, Great American Fundraising. They have a variety of great gifts and products to offer as well as quality wrapping paper. We will also offer Tasty Batters (cookie dough) sales through Great American. The fundraiser will run October 7-12, with delivery in November. We will display some sample items and wrapping paper in the lobby for you to see prior to the sale. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year and provides funds that help pay for field trips, classroom materials and family events at school. Please consider giving your support.

Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels Clip General Mills box tops and Campbell soup labels. Deposit your box tops/labels in the collection boxes located in the school lobby. The PTO has used this money to purchase play equipment for the playground and books for the classrooms. Every dollar counts!



Fellows Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Information and Membership Form 2011-2012

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Phone(s): _____ email(s): _____

Student Name(s)/Grade: _____

I/We would like to get involved in the following ways (check as many as you wish):

- Fellows School Spirit wear
- Fellows Fair (May)
- Box Tops Program
- Campbell's Labels
- Yearbook (January)
- SCRIP
- Ice Cream Social 2011
- Treat Week (Fall Conferences)
- Treat Week (Spring Conferences)
- Teacher Appreciation Week (May)
- Family Fun Night
- Science Night (February)
- Mileage Club
- Bulletin Board – Lobby seasonal

➔RETURN this form to the school office with a check made out to “**Fellows PTO**”

(Suggested minimum = \$10 per family per year)

THANK YOU, YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

| 2011-12 PTO OFFICERS | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President: Courtney Witte - 233-7196 | Treasurer: Michelle Lenkaitis - 450-5456 Secretary: Heidi Chopskie - 268-9792 |
| | |