

SAWYER LIGHTNING NEWS

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From the Desk of Dr. Podhaski

Conference Attendance

Thanks to everyone for attending last week's Parent Teacher Conferences. It is an important time for parents/guardians to receive information about their child's school progress. We had 96.5% attendance rate which means only 15 students were not represented at conferences. If you were not able to attend last week's conferences, please contact your child's teacher.

PTO Thanks

A BIG thanks to the Sawyer parents for supporting teachers during conference week with meals each night. Special thanks to Victoria Szopinski for organizing, and all of those who contributed!

Acronyms

Have you talked to a teacher at Sawyer lately and heard the jumble of letters that describe district programs, initiatives, assessments and other 'educationese'? Here are a few of the most common acronyms.

ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
AEA	Area Education Agency (Heartland) or Ames Education Association
ALP/Success	Alternative Learning Program (at-risk)
AP	Advanced Placement
APR	Annual Progress Report
ASCD	Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
AYP	Annual Years Progress
CAP	Comprehensive Assessment Plan
CSIP	Comprehensive School Improvement Plan
EDM	Every Day Math (Elementary Math Program)
ELL/ESL	English Language Learners/English as a Second Language
ELP	Extended Learning Program
IEP	Individual Education Program
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
PLC	Professional Learning Communities
PTA/PTO	Parent Teacher Association/Parent Teacher Organization
QILT	Quality Instructional Leadership Team
SES	Socio-Economic Status
SFC	School and Family Counselor
SWH	Science Writing Heuristic
BTL	Breakthrough to Literacy

Tentative Kindergarten registration dates for the 2012-2013 school year:

Wednesday, February 8 and Thursday, February 9
9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Registration will be held at Northwood Preschool Center, 3012 Duff Ave. Please watch the Sawyer newsletter for confirmation or changes of these dates and times.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. Nov. 23 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm
Nov. 24-25 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 13 PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
Dec. 17 - Jan. 1 Winter Vacation NO SCHOOL

SCHOOL HOURS:

8:10 am Breakfast Program Begins
8:25 am First Bell, Students may enter
8:35 am Classes begin
3:20 pm School Dismissal (M, T, Th, F)
• 2:05 Dismissal every Wed.

If you change your address, phone, or emergency contacts, or if you are planning to move from the Sawyer area, please call the school secretaries, Elizabeth or Jennifer, at 239-3790.



Provide Warm Clothing/Extra Change of Clothing

With the cold weather now upon us, please be sure to send your children to school with pants, long sleeved shirts, winter coats, gloves, winter hats, and warm shoes and snow boots.

Also, please send an extra full set of clothing to keep at school with your child in case of food accidents, bathroom accidents, or when clothing gets soaked from playing outside.

Dates for 4-Day Schedule

Mon. Nov. 21	Day 3	Mon, Nov. 28	Day 2
Tue. Nov. 22	Day 4	Tues. Nov. 29	Day 3
Wed. Nov. 23	Day 1	Wed, Nov. 30	Day 4
Thur. Nov. 24	NO SCHOOL	Thurs, Dec. 1	Day 1
Fri. Nov. 25	NO SCHOOL	Fri, Dec. 2	Day 2



Sawyer Elementary will be dismissing students at 1:30pm on Wednesday, Nov.23, the day before the start of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

No School on Nov. 24 & 25

Happy Thanksgiving!

Family Day at Perfect Games Saturday, November 19th from 11 AM – 6 PM. Spend the afternoon with your family and friends while earning money for Sawyer by turning in your receipt. Your receipts will earn Sawyer PTO minimum of 20% (50% for laser tag). Just leave your receipt with a volunteer seated near the entrance.

Thank you to all the families who provided nourishment to the teachers and staff last week during parent teacher conferences. It's a great way to show our appreciation to the teachers and staff for all that they do for our children throughout the year.

CY's Locker Room has been a fanatastic fundraiser for the PTO. Thank you to the more than 30 parents, friends, teachers and staff who have volunteered their time during the last two ISU home games to earn more than \$3200 for the PTO. The final game of the season will be Friday, November 18 and we are looking forward to seeing that total grow!

Committee Chairs are needed for the spring PTO events and activities. These include Sock Hop (March 2), Spring Conference meals (March 5-8), Spring clean-up (March 24), Carnival sub-committees – games, decorations, volunteers, classroom baskets, auction items, tickets and publicity (April 13) and Teacher Appreciation week (May 7-11). Contact Jenni Cushman at 520-9040 to get involved with these activities.

Looking for gift ideas? Purchase a gift card through Scrip and earn money for Sawyer. A percentage of all gift cards sold through our Scrip program goes back to the school. Use the attached form or order online at www.shopwithscrip.com using the code **EA239F496296** to place your order. Contact Jen Voaklander at 296-2117 or tsjenv@msn.com with questions or orders. Additional order forms are available at Sawyer near the PTO bulletin board by the office.

Science Night information will be coming home soon. Help your child begin to think about a project to share. Student participation in the science fair is fun and rewarding. Science night will be held January 24 from 6:30-8 PM.

November/December Chorus Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 23
Friday, Dec. 2
Wednesday, Dec. 7
Wednesday, Dec. 14



There will be no Foreign Language classes next week, Nov. 21 – Nov. 23.



Counselor's Corner

Bethesda will give turkeys only to patrons of the pantry during the 2011 calendar year. There is no pre-registration for the turkeys this year. Patrons are to show up at 1:30 on 11/18. Turkeys will be handed out from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm.

The "free" Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner will be held at the First Christian Church on 6th and Clark between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. It is open to the public and if you need transportation you can call the church office. For information call 232-5766.

The 2011 Christmas Closet is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 10 AM to 2:00 PM at the United Methodist Wesleyan Foundation Annex, 130 S Sheldon Ave. It is an opportunity for children ages 4-17 to choose gifts for members of their household. Please call 515-450-8881 to register by November 19. You can also register on the New Birth Baptist Church website.

Yonas Michael
School and Family Counseor