

# Dallas E.S.D. #327 What's Happening

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## Contents

Principal's Corner	1
Kindergarten News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	3
Fourth & Fifth Grade News	3
Junior High News	3/4
Title I	4
Art	5
Music	5
After School Program	6
P.E.	6
Sports	6
Library	7
Breakfast & Lunch	8
Other Important Information	8
Community News	8

## Upcoming Events

**11/09 Special Board  
of Education Meeting  
7:00 p.m.**

**11/11 No School -  
Veterans Day**

**11/12 Veterans Day  
Breakfast 8:15 a.m.  
Program 8:45 a.m.**

**11/20 SIP Day -  
12:37 Dismissal**

**11/24 Regular Board  
of Education Meeting  
7:00 p.m.**

## Principal's Corner

Children learn to control their actions in private and in public through love, teaching, modeling, and experiences. They need to learn that how they act is their responsibility.

By nature, kids act impulsively. They act without thinking. They sometimes have no empathy for others. You can see a direct line from their feelings to their behavior. If children do not mature, they can become addicts or suffer with character flaws. They simply act on their feelings and do what they want without seeing the boundaries.

A child who has not learned boundaries think this way:

Cause: I am angry that you will not let me watch more T.V.

Effect: I whine and throw a fit and everything blows up.

Now a child with boundaries operates this way:

Cause: I am angry that you will not let me watch more T.V.

Thought: I could have a fit, but I could lose more T.V. watching.

Effect: I will make a good choice and start doing homework.

Hard as it sounds, as a parent you simply make it more painful to be impulsive than to restrain his behavior. Normal healthy children with minds and wills of their own can learn to take ownership of their behavior.

One last tip, children can learn that they can not always control how they react emotionally, but they can control how they respond behaviorally.

## What's Happening in Kindergarten

### Mrs. Finch

October was a busy month for Kindergarten! We have been working very hard learning our letters and the sounds they make. Mrs. Ayer has been coming in and teaching us how to make our letters in sign language. We already know letters A through G. We carved a pumpkin in our class. We estimated how many seeds were in the pumpkin first. Then when we cleaned it out we counted the seeds by tens. Our pumpkin had seeds in it. We also painted our own pumpkins with orange Jell-O. This was some tasty art! In math we are learning what greater than, less than and same number means. If parents missed conferences and you would like to reschedule please call Mrs. Finch to reschedule a time. 217-852-3201 ext 1014. We are going to be learning about Veteran's Day next week. We will continue learning our letters and their sounds.



## What's Happening in Second Grade

### Mrs. Hartrick

It has been very busy in Second Grade! Last week we had a wonderful time on our field trip to Kathy's Pumpkin Patch. When we arrived we took a wagon ride to see some of the farm. Although it was muddy and cold we enjoyed the ride! Kathy led us into a shed where she explained all the different kinds of pumpkins and gourds that are grown on her farm. We learned lots of interesting things about pumpkins. Our favorite part of the trip is getting to play in the play area. Jumping off hay bales, playing in corn, and pumping water to watch rubber ducks race were among our favorites. Kathy put out some blankets for us and we ate our lunches in the new barn that was built this year. Before we left everyone got a pumpkin to take home and decorate. Mrs. Hartrick was so proud of us for being polite and respectful during our trip. It was such a wonderful day!

We want to thank Mrs. Hulett, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Worley, Mrs. Althar, and Mrs. Hopper for coming and helping at the Fall party. Thank you so much to all the parents who sent food for the party. The students enjoyed all the snacks and had such a great time!

This week we completed the Stanford Achievement Test. We all worked very hard to do our best work!

"Last month in October we went to Kathy's Pumpkin Patch. We got to go on a hayride and play with the rubber duckies. We got to go down the pipe slide where there is a whole bunch of pipes!" Josie W.

"When we went on our field trip we almost got to go in the corn maze but it was muddy. Then it was sunny. When it was sunny we had lots of fun!" Jamey W.

"We write in school. We go to Gym, Music, and Art. I like Music the best because we get to sing!" Cheyenne T.

## What's Happening in Third Grade

**Mrs. Ryner**

Students have been working hard this week on Stanford tests. Thank you to all who sent snacks.

We are still researching about penguins. Some of the facts we have learned are: Emperor penguins only lay one egg each year. Emperor penguins can grow up to 4 feet tall. There are 18 different kinds of penguins. Penguins live in the wild only in the Southern Hemisphere. Penguins start swimming when they are about 5 months old. Penguins can leap up to 6 feet out of the water.

Students are also working on subtraction with regrouping. Please work with your child on this skill. Practice, practice, practice!! Also be sure to read for at least 20 minutes every night.

## What's Happening in Fourth & Fifth Grade

**Mrs. DeSotel**

Fourth graders have worked really hard on their Stanford Test. They began the test on Monday and finished the tests on Thursday.

In science, 4th graders have been studying about recycling. They have come up with a couple of plans to recycle. One of the plans is to collect outgrown clothes that are in good shape and take them to Stage 2 in Fort Madison. A note will be going home soon to explain it further. The other plan is to begin a recycling of paper, plastic, and cans at our school. Students will be working trying to get this going soon.

On Thursday, October 29th, fifth graders set up brine shrimp hatcheries. Then on Friday they observed brine shrimp hatching under the microscope. It was awesome! They looked like flies fluttering around. Students observed the brine shrimp again on November 3rd, and they looked longer and more like tadpoles. They were moving rapidly. Students will continue observing and journaling for two more weeks. It is very exciting. Please stop by and look for yourself.

## What's Happening in Junior High

**Miss Clayton**

It is hard to believe that it is already November! Sixth grade students are learning about The Cell Cycle and DNA. We have many activities planned. We will be acting out the different stages of The Cell Cycle and also building 3D models of DNA molecules. On Tuesday, November 10th sixth grade students will have their Chapter 3 tests.

Seventh grade students are currently learning about the human body. We are focusing on the skeletal system. We will be learning the names of the different bones that make up the skeletal system.

Eighth grade students are learning about motion. We have learned how to calculate speed and are currently learning about velocity.

## What's Happening in Junior High Cont.

### Mrs. Haskins

The seventh grade has put the final touches on their flag projects. Each student has researched an historical flag, a national event which took place during the life of the flag, and a world event which took place during the life of the flag. All the information that was gathered was represented on a display board which will be set up for viewing beginning on Monday, November 9 through Friday, November 13. Please come take a look at the display of flags created by the seventh grade students.

Sixth grade readers have stepped back in time to meet Billy, a boy who lived in the Ozarks during the time of the Great Depression. Billy has worked to earn the money to buy two red bone coon hound pups. We left Billy training his pups to follow a trail using a raccoon hide.

### Mrs. Walker

In Junior High Math we are focusing on fractions, integers, and solving equations. Keep in mind midterm will be here before we know it, so encourage your teenager to work hard.

Writing a personal narrative is the focus for eighth grade. A personal narrative tells a story about something that the writer has experienced. The personal narrative includes words that show the reader the passing of time. The goal of the writer is to "show, not tell" the reader using sensory details and descriptive writing.



## What's Happening in Title I

### Mrs. Leenerts

In centers we have been busy doing Halloween related phonics activities. We read the books Velcome, A Beasty Story, and Old Devil Wind. We also started using the Active Board as one center. The active board is very similar to a smart board. Each grade completed an interactive alphabet jigsaw puzzle. All students enjoyed interacting with each other and using the active board. We look forward to using the active board to help make studying phonics more adventurous.



## What's Happening in Art

### Miss Scheetz

In Pre-K we read a book There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly. I drew the old lady and Pre-K painted it. Students drew and created a cat, a spider, fly, cow, or a horse to go with the book. I will be hanging it out side of the art room next to the last art work they created after reading Smudge.

Kindergarten is learning about apples in their room so we read a book called Apples, Apples, Apples. They created an apple that was cut in half out of construction paper and labeled its parts.

First grade has been reading Big Words for Little People. We have been learning big words and creating their own sentence with the big word in it and drawing a picture to go with it.

Second grade is learning about Georgia O' Keefe. We read a book about her and each student is painting a flower on a canvas. These canvases will be auctioned at the art auction. Students also wrote facts down about her.

Third grade is finishing Pablo Picassos Guernica. We read a book about him, wrote facts about him and recreated a famous painting Guernica.

Fourth grade is still trying to finish a recreation of Paul Klee's work. We read a book about him and students will be writing facts about him also.

Junior high just finished their peace posters for the Lions club.

Fifth and Sixth grade girls are learning how to shade frogs and blend the colors to make them look realistic. They are also creating a painting on a canvas that will be auctioned at the art auction. Fifth and sixth grade boys are glazing sculptures, creating and drawing their own car and writing a paper explaining the model they created. Seventh and Eighth grade girls are drawing a self portrait and shading it with charcoal.

In afterschool kids have been helping me put things away as I move the stuff up from the afterschool program. What a job!!! Thanks for your help students!!!

## What's Happening in Music

### Miss Wiegers

Greetings from the music department....

Well, its beginning to look a lot like Christmas, at least here in the music department. Our winter concerts are fast approaching. This year our elementary program is called "Twas the Night Before Christmas". This is a wonderful retelling of the original Clement Clarke Moore poem, cleverly set to music.

Costumes for this year's program are very simple.

Students in grades 2nd, 3rd, and 4th need to wear their PJs...slippers, robes, blankets, pillows, whatever they want to bring.

Students in 1st grade need to wear brown or khaki colored clothing, because they are going to be our reindeers.

And Kindergarten and Pre-K students need to dress in festive Christmas attire.

The 5th grade students will not be participating in the afternoon concert this year. Due to our new school schedule, the 5th graders have class with the 6th grade students and they have been busy building their pipe instruments, which they will premier at the evening concert. Other performances at the evening concert will include the 4th, 5th, and junior high bands, the junior high choir, the pipe instruments, and the guitar class. I hope you plan on attending!!

The dates for this years concerts are December 3 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm.

## What's Happening in the After School Program

### Mr. Gayton

The after-school program has made a positive transition to the grade school. At first things were a little hectic, but after that, students and the staff have made a comfortable change. We no doubt have had some challenges but we are able to overcome some obstacles. For example the use of the gym facilities. We are able to use the gym at the grade school whenever there is no practice or there is a game.

Our next field trip will be to the Des Moines historical society in Burlington, IA.

Parents we would like to remind you that there will be no After-School Program on the first Friday of each month. This will provide the staff planning time for the ASP.

## What's Happening in P.E.

### Mrs. Hall

The P.E. Department continues to work on many skills. We have been playing Aerobic basketball in the junior high classes. Dribble Mania has become the favorite game of the lower grades. In this game students practice dribbling the ball using both the left and right hands. Players continue to dribble until they loose control of their ball. Other players in the game can bat at the other players' ball hoping to cause that player to loose control. We continue to work on skills of dribbling, passing, guarding and pivoting as well as learning the basic rules of play.

We are taking this week off as 2nd through 8th grade students are taking the Stanford test. Instead of skill based instruction students who do have class time are being given a choice day. This means that the class as a group can decide what activity they will participate in that day. The students love to have the opportunity to take control of their play.

## What's Happening in Sports

Go to [www.dcbulldogs.com](http://www.dcbulldogs.com) and select activities to see all sports schedules.

### 5th and 6th Grade Girl's Basketball

The season is rolling by with only three weeks left. We have had a very positive season. The girls are learning many basic skills and offensive and defensive plays. For those who have had the opportunity to watch the girls play, you can see the girls using the plays to win games. The fifth grade team has a 7 and 4 record and the sixth grade team has an 8 and 3 record. Both teams have been affected by the flu and have had team members absent for games.

One hundred and one T-shirts sporting the Lady Bulldogs logo and team roster were sold to parents and supporters of the program. Thanks to all of those who purchased a T-shirt and wear them to the games. It "pumps" the girls up and motivates them to do their best. There is still time to see the girls play with two home games and one away game yet to be played. Both teams play in a tournament on a Saturday in November at St. Paul's School in Macomb. Please go to the school website for dates of the remaining games and tournaments.

A big thank you is extended to the parents of the team members. Their support has been greatly appreciated.

## What's Happening in the Library

### Mrs. Ryan

This week we continue reviews of this year's *Monarch* and *Rebecca Caudill* award books. The two *Monarch* books share a common theme of poultry (a popular theme in children's books, if you happen to visit our library). The Holocaust provides two very different settings for our two *Rebecca Caudill* books.

Award-winning author Jerry Pinkney does it again, retelling a children's classic with his own dialogue and gorgeous illustrations in [The Little Red Hen](#). That poor old hen just can't get any help from her animal friends when she tries to bake bread. Other books illustrated and/or written by Pinkney are *The Ugly Duckling*, *John Henry*, and *Goin' Someplace Special*.

If you just had [The Perfect Nest](#), thinks Jack the cat, you could attract the perfect chicken, who would lay a perfect egg, which would make the perfect omelet for afore-mentioned cat. In this comical story by Catherine Friend, illustrated by John Manders, Jack's nest is so perfect that not one, but three egg layers stake their claims on it. Feathers fly with unexpected results.

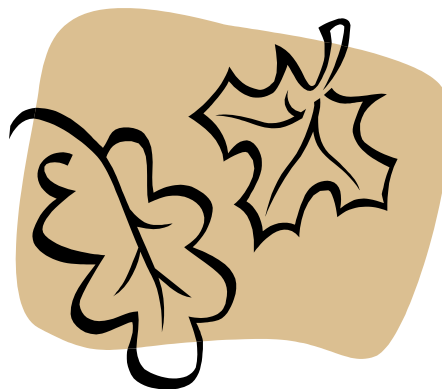
What if your looks made the difference in whether you lived or died? [Someone Named Eva](#), by Joan M. Wolf, is a fictional account of the real-life events of Lidice, Czechoslovakia on June 10, 1942. Believing that residents of Lidice helped kill an important Nazi official, the Germans murdered all of the men in the village and took the women and children prisoners. This is the story of Milada, a blond, blue-eyed 11-year-old who finds herself in a group with other blond, blue-eyed children from Lidice separated from the rest of the children. "Retrained" to be a proper German, Milada becomes Eva, and struggles to remember who she really is in her new life.

Though young Paolo's mother tells him his father was a violinist, Paolo never sees him play. Then one day his mother shows him a violin hidden on top of a cupboard. Sworn to secrecy, Paolo becomes obsessed with the instrument. The power of music leads him to sneak behind his parents' backs, seeking out lessons from a violinist he finds on the streets of Venice, Italy. To everyone's surprise, a shared past in the Nazi concentration camps leads to the career of a great musician. [The Mozart Question](#) by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman, is not a long story, yet manages to convey a lot of feeling.

You can learn more about these books, their authors and find related activities and links on their websites:

*Monarch* award (grades K-3) - found on the Illinois State Library and Media Association website at [www.islma.org/monarch.htm](http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm).

*Rebecca Caudill* Young Readers Book Award (grades 4-8) - [www.rcyrba.org](http://www.rcyrba.org).



## What's Happening in Breakfast & Lunch

### Breakfast Menu - each day includes juice & milk:

11/09 French toast sticks, syrup  
 11/10 Cereal, muffin  
 11/11 No School  
 11/12 Sausage gravy, biscuit, tri tators  
 11/13 Cereal, coffee cake  
 11/16 Breakfast burrito, salsa  
 11/17 Cereal, cinnamon roll  
 11/18 Breakfast pizza  
 11/19 Cereal, peanut butter toast  
 11/20 Waffles, syrup

### Lunch Menu - each day includes milk:

11/09 Chili, cheese, crackers, pickles, peanut butter sandwich, cobbler  
 11/10 Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, jello-fruit, pumpkin pie, bread & butter  
 11/11 No School  
 11/12 Tenderloin on bun, potato rounds, banana 1/2, cookie  
 11/13 Burrito, salsa, corn, peaches, cookie  
 11/16 Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, pineapple, cookie, bread & butter  
 11/17 Chicken alfredo, green beans, applesauce, rolls  
 11/18 Grilled cheese, mixed vegetables, peaches, yogurt cup  
 11/19 Ham patty on bun, scalloped potatoes, fruit cocktail, cake  
 11/20 Taco boat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, refried beans, cobbler  
**Jr. High Choice available on: 11/17**

## Other Important Information

**Parents: Do not park in the fire lane when dropping off your students. Please pull into a parking space. Buses continue to arrive at various times in the morning and need to pull up to unload students.**

**The early dismissal SIP days are considered a full day of school. If your child does not attend on those days, they are counted absent for the whole day. Also, a student is only allowed to miss 10 days of school before they are considered truant unless they have a doctor's excuse or a pre-arranged absence.**

## Community News

The benefit for Ricky Northup (father of Nathan and Neely) who passed away after his battle with a rare form of cancer has been changed. This will now be held at Hagy's Bar & Grill on Saturday, December 12th beginning at 4:00 p.m. Soups, sandwiches, raffles, etc., auction at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to donate to the college fund for the children or the benefit, please call: Pam (Pence) Johnson 319-759-7810 or Cheri (Harrison) Stevens 319-759-9078



Santa Claus will be at the Senior Citizens Center on Saturday, December 5th from 10am until 12pm.

## GRCC/Castle Closing

The following items briefly state main points of consideration regarding the closing of the GRCC and the Castle in Dallas City. Additional information relative to each reference is provided in the text that follows.

- o Safety Concerns - Risk Management Consultant, Architect, and Building Committee recommend closure
- o 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant - After School Program continuing to operate at the elementary school
- o Roof Repairs - Extensive roof repair/replacement are necessary
- o District Bonding Capacity - Questions regarding where to target the use of funds and borrowing power; at the GRCC and Castle or at the Elementary School
- o Building Preservation - Questions regarding what to do with the facilities if they are not utilized or owned by the school district
- o November 9, 2009-7:00 p.m.-Dallas City Elementary School - Special board meeting scheduled to provide information and obtain input from the public

At its regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2009, the Dallas Elementary School District board of education took action to close the Great River Community Center (GRCC). The 21 Century Grant Community Learning Center After-School Program operating at the GRCC was moved to the elementary school, effective immediately. The school's contingency plan that was developed for such a possibility was implemented, and while restructured to some extent the after-school program continues to function very well. Other clients of the GRCC have been informed of the decision, and are asked to relocate as soon as possible, but no later than December 1, 2009.

On October 5, 2009, the school district's risk management consultant, a service provided by our insurance carrier, conducted a survey of all district facilities, including the GRCC and the Castle. His findings in part indicate a serious liability risk due to the condition of the facilities, and a degree of danger (from falling rocks, brick, etc.) associated with being anywhere near the Castle. Our school district architect indicated similar findings, including danger from falling material in the main building chimney due to the deterioration and loss of mortar in the upper areas of the structure. Observations made by the school board building committee during a recent walk through of the GRCC facilities are similar to those of the risk management consultant and our district architect.

Action to close the center is due to safety hazards created mainly by a deterioration of the masonry edifice of the facility. Recent observations regarding the structural integrity in areas of the Castle, and also portions of the main building, were considered in the decision. Chimney systems in both buildings appear to present the most significant safety threat, with a potential for collapsing. Concerns for the safety of students, staff, parents and other patrons of the facilities led to making this difficult decision.

The future use of the GRCC is an item that the board has investigated and discussed for the past few years. A decision regarding use of the facility has at least in part been dependent upon obtaining the after-school program grant that would begin in school year 2009-2010, our current school year. The previous grant period ended at the end of June 2009. News of approval of the current after-school grant did not come until June 2009, and the GRCC was once again made ready for the after-school program.

However, on August 17, 2009, first day of our Teacher Institute, heavy rains caused water to flow through previously undetected and substantial leaks in the roof above the stage and bleacher areas at the GRCC. While the leaks were repaired and maintained to the extent possible; further investigation into the condition of the gymnasium roof, and other portions of the facility, lead to additional information regarding structural problems that exist at the GRCC and the Castle.

While the castle and old high school have been, and continue to be important landmarks of the Dallas City school community, it is becoming increasingly difficult to justify expenditures for these aged and deteriorating facilities. One estimate to replace only the roof in the area above the gym floor, bleachers, stage and lobby/concession stand is in the range of

approximately \$225,000. Additional estimates for repair and/or replacement of all deteriorating portions of the roof system, the vast majority of it, exceeds \$1,000,000.

At the end of fiscal year 2009 the district's available bonding capacity is approximately \$560,000; or about one-half of the entire bonding capacity of the district. Given this situation, roof repair of the GRCC and Castle facilities could only be completed on a partial basis, and for many years this would essentially eliminate the district's ability to borrow funds for any other purposes.

The General Assembly in Springfield continues to search for revenue sources to revive funding of the School Construction Grant Program (SCGP) that currently exists in Illinois, but has not been funded since 2003. Dallas Elementary School has an application filed with the SCGP for funding year 2005. When a funding source for this construction program is in place, Dallas Elementary should have a grant index of 75%; meaning the SCGP would fund 75% of the eligible expense for new school construction in the district and Dallas Elementary would be responsible for the remaining 25%.

This background information is also considered as part of the rationale for the decision to close the GRCC and fund only necessary expenses in an effort to position the district in a manner to take advantage of the SCGP when funding for the program becomes available. Such a strategy should enable the district to expand the elementary school and house all school programs and related activities, e.g. those currently housed in the GRCC, at one site.

Other means of addressing the situation at the GRCC and Castle have also been explored. We have communicated with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPC). The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency operates over 60 historic sites and memorials, and also administers the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The library is the state's chief historical and genealogical research facility that is home to the state's world-renowned Abraham Lincoln collection. They administer all state and federal historic preservation and incentive programs in Illinois, including the National Register of Historic Places. IHPC staff is interested in visiting the Castle and assisting the school district in our efforts to find a steward for this important Dallas City landmark. Officers at the agency believe the Castle is a good candidate for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They indicate that such listing would provide financial incentives for rehabilitation.

The decision to close the GRCC and Castle was not easy or taken lightly. It was a very difficult one that followed many months of investigation, consideration, and discussion. But, as mentioned previously, recent developments and information regarding safety risks around and in the facilities have led the notice of closure, at this time. Future utilization of the facilities is however, a discussion that is not closed.

No final decisions have been made regarding long term future utilization of the GRCC and the Castle. Therefore, as part of the decision making process, on **Monday, November 9, 2009 - 7:00 p.m., at Dallas City Elementary School**, the board of education has scheduled a special board meeting for the purpose of presenting information, and providing an opportunity for questions and comments from members of the school community.