



October 2011

Kittrell Cougar

Kittrell Elementary School
1304 Oregon Street
Waterloo, IA 50702
(319)433-2910
Website: kittrell.waterloo.k12.ia.us
Ms. Audrey Wallican-Green, Principal
Ms. Janice Crain, Secretary

October Dates

- 9am-Pumpkin Farm Kind 7
- Reading Night! 13
- Bookfair 13
- Fundraiser Ends 14
- (Before School) Bookfair 17
- (Before School) Bookfair 18
- (Before School) Bookfair 19
- PreK-12 Conferences/
Book fair 20
- PreK-12 Conferences/
Book fair 21
- Pizza Trunk or Treat 28

Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who attended our PTO meeting on Tuesday! We had a lot of new faces and hope to have more as the year progresses. PTO represents parents and all are welcome to participate.

We are quickly approaching the end of the 1st quarter which means the end of a reporting period. Ask your child (ren) about their progress, our new math program, small group reading, the fruit and vegetable program and lots of other fun activities that take place here at Kittrell.

We are still seeking room parents for many of our classrooms, if you are interested please contact Amy Schell our PTO president or contact the office.

Six of our eight pre-kindergarten classes have moved to our newly renovated annex. It is a beautiful building in which our 4 year olds are continuing to learn. If your child will be 4 by September 15, 2012 they may be eligible for prek during the 12-13 school year. The application process begins in late February. More information to follow.

Ms Audrey Wallican-Green, Kittrell Principal

Notes From The Principal

1. They set goals.

Goals keep kids focused on the future. That is why they are the foundation of responsible behavior—and success in school. Help your child set goals.

2. They plan their time.

Help your child organize his/her time.

3. They study every day.

Help your student learn to set aside time every day for homework or studying.

4. They take notes in class.

Teach your child to take notes when the teacher is talking. Spend time reviewing them before a test.

5. They have the tools they need.

Encourage your student to make sure he/she has the tools they need to succeed in the classroom. Pencils, paper, erasers and other tools they need.



Fraction Games

Does your child realize that fractions are everywhere? Next time you see a sale price, tell time (quarter after 9), follow a recipe (ycup), or read a road sign (-J- mile ahead), tell . her, "There's another fraction!" Playing card games is a great way to help your youngster practice comparing and adding fractions. Have her make fraction cards (see instructions in *box at right*), and then use them to play these games together.

Fraction War.

Shuffle and deal the cards into a stack for each person. Players turn over their top cards at the same time, and whoever has the highest card takes the cards in that round. If there is a tie, each person turns over another card. Keep playing until one person has captured all the cards.

Fraction Race.

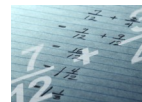
Deal each player five cards. On the count of three,

each person races to put her fractions in order from smallest to largest.

Have your child check the results by comparing the fraction pictures on her cards.

Fraction One.

The object of this game is to get as close to 1 as possible without going over. Deal everyone a card. On each turn, a player must decide if she's going to draw another card—depending on whether adding another fraction is likely to put her over 1. When all players are happy with their hands, they turn over their cards. The person who comes closest to 1 (or equals 1) wins that round.



Be a Reading Buddy Volunteer and Help our Children Read!

Volunteers are needed in many of our schools to help our students improve their reading skills. If your student's grandparents or friends of the family want to volunteer please contact Julie Ehlers, Prime Time Volunteer Coordinator, at 433-2026 or ehlersj@waterloo.k12.ia.us for more information. We are also recruiting volunteers from the Bosnian and Latino communities so that the children that are learning English and reading at the same time can get special attention from someone that speaks their native language.

Students benefit from early intervention before difficulties become too hard to overcome. Through the combination of daily specialized tutoring, classroom instruction, practice with a volunteer and at home, children develop effective reading and writing strategies in order to continue to learn without additional tutoring. With the help of our generous community members we can work

together to help improve our students reading and writing skills which will ultimately improve their ability to learn throughout their school years.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help our children be successful in school. The Waterloo School District's annual report shows that 66% of our students are proficient in reading. Volunteers can make a difference with the students having difficulty in reading by just volunteering for one hour a week. Please consider volunteering for this very rewarding experience.



Study smarts

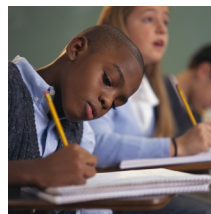
From a history test at the end of each month to a spelling quiz every Friday, studying is a skill youngsters will need throughout their years of school. Help your child study with these tips.

Start a habit. Encourage your youngster to treat studying as a daily assignment, not just something he does the evening before a test. For example, he might study 15 minutes every night for a spelling test on Friday. After he finishes his regular homework, he can spend a little time reviewing his notes and handouts.

Tackle textbooks. When your child has a chapter to study, have him "preview" it to increase his understanding. He should glance over headings, graphics, and photos and go to the glossary to look up boldfaced words. Tip: If he finds a section hard to grasp,

he could read a picture book on the topic. For a science unit on matter, for instance, he could try *What Is the World Made Of?* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld.

Mix it up. If your youngster reviews information in several ways, he'll be more likely to remember it. He might use colored pencils to copy each spelling word or math fact onto a separate index card. Then, he can shuffle the cards and study them in a different order each time. For extra reinforcement, suggest that he spell each word or recite each fact aloud.♥



Bullying

Bullying is another name for harassment. It can take many forms, such as pushing, kicking, hitting and threatening. It can include name-calling, humiliation, sarcasm and spreading rumors in person or over the internet.

Bullying can have serious, long-term emotional effects. It is not simply "kids being kids." Bullying affects all aspects of children's lives, including their ability to learn.



Tardies

Please remember to have your child at school on time. Students have to be in their room by 9:50. Otherwise they will receive a tardy. The minutes from tardies can add up an unexcused absence.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT

It is the policy of the Waterloo Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to these policies, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator:

Dr. Bev Smith, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and Equity

1516 Washington Street, Waterloo, IA 50702

Phone: 319-433-1800

Email: smithb@waterloo.k12.ia.us