

J.B.S. Press



September, 2012

Family Math Night/September 6



Can't wait to see all of you at Family Math Night on September 6th. We will have stations set up around the school where you and your child can play the various Everyday Math games, learn more about books that connect math to reading, make games, see computer demonstrations about the Everyday Math website, find out how math is being taught through the Everyday Math program and find out how your child's progress will be reported to you. Get your questions answered by teachers who are teaching your children. It's from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Report to the cafeteria when you arrive. Prizes and goodie bags will be given to lucky families.

a "Short" report



by Mrs. Short, Principal

We have had a wonderful start to the school year. Thanks to everyone who completed registration and paid book rental fees. If you haven't paid your book rental fees, be sure to pay by October 1st to avoid extra fees from the collection agency. Double check periodically on PowerSchool to make sure your information is updated and correct. If you are unsure if you registered correctly, call the school office at 462-4491. Our secretary, Pam Kellams, will walk you through the process.

Be sure you have read the handbook, especially the discipline and attendance sections. As a reminder, our doors open for early arrivals and breakfast at 7:20 and for all bused students at 7:30. Learning begins at 7:40. Grades 1, 2, and 3 begin their reading Rtl (small group intensive instruction for remediation and larger groups for reinforcing skills and acceleration) at 7:45. If your child is late to school, s/he is late to a very important part of the day.

Eighty-five students had someone from their family attend our August parent meetings. If you would like information that was discussed those evenings, please contact me.

Thanks

- to United Way for organizing the Backpack Attack which provided needed school supplies for our students.
- Hancock County Food Pantry for providing the Backsack program this year. This program provides weekend meals for students in need.
- to P.T.O. for sponsoring the July 31st Back to School Picnic and to all of you who attended the “Meet Your Teacher” event that afternoon.

Indiana requires all schools to limit the amount of student consumption of sugary and high fat food items. We ask for your help when you send in treats for our school parties, (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine’s Day), and/or birthday treats. Since our policy requires birthday treats to be of the “take home” variety, you will be able to supervise your child’s consumption of those items at home.

We appreciate all of you for making sure your children had their school supplies at the start of the new school year. We want to remind you; however, that the most important “school supply” you can give your child is parent involvement. That means supporting your child’s learning by looking over their papers and assisting them in practicing their skills at home. This means reading the teacher’s newsletters and checking your child’s assignment notebook or take-home folders daily. Every student should be practicing skills at home daily. Thank you for continuing to “supply” your child with what he/she needs!

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL INFO for CARS: You may park in the south or north parking lot if you want to walk your child from the parking lot to or from school. Please do not drop off your child in a handicapped space nor allow your child to walk across the parking lot or driveway unaccompanied. When dropping off or picking up students in our circle area, children should enter and exit on the curb side. Please be prompt in saying your “good-byes” so other cars can exit the area in a timely manner. Cars are advised not to pass on the circle.

Although teachers will make every attempt to respond to your concerns in a timely manner, they may need 48 hours to get back to you, since they spend all their child contact time teaching your children. If you have a more immediate need, please contact the front office or me, and we will get you the answer you need. Also, remember that sometimes technology doesn’t work perfectly, and a voice mail message or an e-mail may not reach the intended recipient. Again, if you haven’t heard in 48 hours, let the office know.

Attendance Policy Changed for 2012-13 by Mrs. Short

Our corporation’s policy on attendance for school-aged children considers more than 10 absences a year excessive. The previous policy had the absences starting over each semester. As in past years, excessive tardiness is considered being late 3 times per semester. Please don’t let your child develop the bad habit of being late. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success. Do your part to help your child(ren) succeed in school by helping them to get to school every day.

To encourage good attendance habits, we are offering two schoolwide incentive programs this year:

1. The classrooms with the best attendance percentages per month are given the distinction of bronze, silver or gold status for the month. Their class medal is placed outside their room and on the “Olympic Attendance” bulletin board outside the office. Bronze, silver and gold classes receive privileges related to their status: special seating at lunch, popcorn, and extra recess. In addition, the gold medal winner has their class song played at the monthly School Family meeting.
2. Students with perfect attendance each month will be treated to donuts, muffins or cereal bars one day after the monthly “School Family Meeting.”

Parent Teacher Conferences



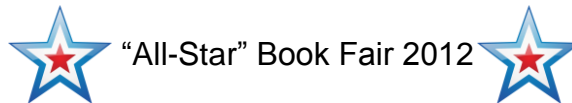
by Mrs. Short, principal

Our staff welcomes opportunities to connect with parents through scheduled conferences, phone calls, and e-mails. If you have any concerns about your child’s learning, please contact your child’s teacher or call the office to schedule a conference time. Formal conference times will be held after school hours on October 23 and November 1.

Report Cards



Student progress is reported through a “Standards-Based” report card. This type of report allows educators and parents to communicate how a child is progressing in mastering the skills at that grade level. A parent is able to see the actual skills a child at that grade level is expected to learn that year. The skills listed on the report card reflect the standards which all Indiana children are expected to know and be able to do. To see the state “learning standards”, visit the Academic Standards area on Learning Connection: <https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/>



by Mrs. Majors, Library Assistant

The J.B. Stephens library will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair “All-Star Book Fair: Every Reader is a Star!” from September 17 to September 21. The students will have the opportunity to purchase items on their scheduled library day. You are invited to join us for Family Night on September 21 from 5:00 to 7:00. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. Like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they’ll get.

Second year for Online Ordering!!! If you're all booked up during Book Fair week, (or just want to keep shopping), be sure to visit the Book Fair online at www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs. The online Book Fair is available for an extended time from September 10 to September 26. Online ordering offers:

- An expanded selection of books for the whole family—preschool to adults
- Sharing your Book Fair with family and friends by sending wish lists or eCards
- All orders shipped to school for FREE
- Each purchase benefits our school

Character First!



by Mrs. Harpold, School Social Worker

The Greenfield-Central School Corporation uses the Character First! program to share ideas about good character with students and families. During this school year, the traits of respect, responsibility, truthfulness, punctuality, generosity, self-control, obedience, dependability, compassion and orderliness will be discussed, role-modeled, and expected at school.

The beginning of the school year seems like the ideal time to study the character trait of Responsibility. The definition of responsibility that J.B.S. will be using is “knowing and doing what is expected of me.” It is a trait that can be learned at a young age and then continued to be developed throughout one’s life.

Parents can help their children develop the trait of responsibility by using the six E’s:

EXPLAIN IT: Talk about what responsibility means. Give some examples.

Examples that students will hear about at school include: keeping promises, taking care of one’s supplies and books, not making excuses, doing their personal best, making things right when mistakes have been made, and following rules.

EXAMINE IT: Look for examples of responsibility while watching TV or when you are with other people. Point it out and talk about it.

EXHIBIT IT: Your personal example is still the strongest way you teach.

ENCOURAGE IT: Help your child think about ways she can be responsible. She could pick up her room every day or feed the family pet. Be sure you notice and praise her. When she does her homework on her own, say something.

EXPECT IT: Set rules and consequences. Now that she knows what you expect, make sure she follows through. Make sure there are consequences if she doesn’t.

EVALUATE IT: How is she doing? After a few weeks, talk again.

Attention Parents of Preschool-Aged Children



by Mrs. Pagac and Mrs. Robinson, Preschool Speech Language Pathologists

Hancock Madison Shelby Educational Services offers *free* speech and language therapy to eligible children ages 3 to 5. If you are concerned about your child's speech, please call the preschool speech department located at J.B. Stephens Elementary at 462-4491, ext. 211 (Pagac) or 112 (Robinson).

Café News



by Mrs. Hudson, Manager

To help keep our children with severe peanut allergies safe here at school, our cafeteria will not be offering nuts, peanut butter sandwiches or peanut butter cookies as food choices for our students.

Our second and third grade students have the opportunity to buy extra items, one per day. **If you do not want your child to purchase extras**, please let your child and the cafeteria staff know, and we can put a block on your child's account. We offer salads or cold sandwiches daily to anyone who does not want the main dish item offered that day. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

We serve breakfast daily, starting at 7:20 a.m.!

P.T.O. News



by Officers

Our first meeting of the year was well attended. Thanks to Kim Mumford for providing chili and to the officers for providing drinks and desserts. You won't want to miss the September meeting. Greenfield-Central's Director of Transportation will be here to share what it is like on our school buses. Yes, Bill Redmon will give you a mock bus ride with fifty five-nine year olds talking while you are driving. Imagine those children sit in seats with high backs and you can't see them. Call a friend and come! As always, we offer childcare for school-aged children.

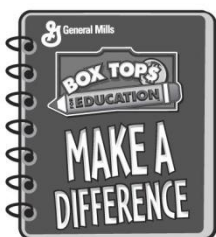
We are excited about our first fundraiser of the year. It is McDonald's!! Watch for the flyer and order form Tuesday, September 4.

2-1-1

by Mrs. Harpold, School Social Worker

In this time of financial instability for many families, there is an increased need for information about health and human services. Individuals and families who have never before asked for assistance are finding the need to do so. 2-1-1 is an easy three digit phone number that people can call to receive information about and referrals to human service programs. Indiana's 2-1-1 Centers respond to all kinds of human service needs. The most frequent calls are about food, housing, and financial help with rent or utilities. Callers may also learn where to donate goods, find counseling or support groups, seek employment assistance, legal aid or parenting classes. Trained and caring Information and Referral Specialists answer the 2-1-1 calls, talk about the caller's needs, and offer referrals to human service programs within the county. Calls are answered 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. If you are experiencing financial or family stress, call for help sooner rather than later. Asking for help early---before eviction occurs or utilities are disconnected---means that more options are available....assistance may be able to be provided before greater debt is incurred.

Collections at School



Box Tops offers three easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities such as buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books.

Clip — Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Box Tops coupons are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. Be sure to write your student's first and last name on each Box Top

submitted.

Shop — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (btfe.com/marketplace). Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found!

Buy books — Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM. Our school will receive 6% of your new book purchases and 3% of all other online purchases.

One of the easiest ways you can help is to sign up to support our school at **btfe.com**. You will learn about new and easy ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs. We appreciate your support!

What else do we collect? Our school collects pop-tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. We collect Marsh Points. Sign up in the store or at www.marsh.net. Our school number is 28577. We also collect Tyson and Campbell's labels.

We recycle paper! We offer an Abitibi Paper Retriever in our parking lot for our families to recycle their paper. Please note that cardboard is NOT acceptable.



Mark Your Calendars



September 4	McDonald's Fundraiser BEGINS	
September 4	Quest Parent Meeting (3 rd Grade)	
September 6	Family Math Night	6:00-7:30 p.m.
September 8	Market Day Pick-up – Café	10:30-11:30 a.m.
September 17-21	Book Fair	
September 18	P.T.O. Meeting	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
	Program: How to Drive a Bus	
	Child Care Provided	
September 20	School Picture Day – ALL Students Photographed for Yearbook	
September 21	Book Fair OPEN	5:00-7:00 p.m.
September 24	First Grade Parent Meeting w/ Mr. Vogel	
October 1	Book Rental Fees DUE	
October 5	Parade of Flowers – Grades 2-3	1:00 p.m.
October 5	Grading Period ENDS	
October 8-12	Fall Break/NO SCHOOL(Make up Days if needed)	
October 15-19	Fall Break/NO SCHOOL	
October 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences	2:45-6:15 p.m.
November 1	Parent/Teacher Conferences	2:45-6:15 p.m.
November 15	Family Literacy Night	6:00-7:30 p.m.

J.B.S. Family News

Our staff has several core beliefs that guide the way we treat each other and our families. We will be working with your children to help them understand and abide by these beliefs:

- We believe the motivation to behave comes from being in relationship with everyone in the school. Our school is a community.
- We know the brain operates best when it feels safe, so the job of the J.B.S. staff is to keep students safe. The students' job is to help us keep it that way.
- We believe that by showing respect for all our school and home family, a child's self-esteem will be enhanced.
- We believe that by students contributing to their school in meaningful ways, they build self worth.
- We believe that, with guidance, children can own and solve their problems.
- We know we make mistakes and know your children will, too, yet we believe that mistakes are opportunities to learn.
- We believe in kindness to all; we strive to be helpful, not hurtful.
- We would rather give to others than get attention ourselves.

We ask you to support us in our efforts to guide your children to follow these basic beliefs.