



CASCADE ELEMENTARY

Cascade Elementary School Newsletter

May 2022

Message from the Principal

Hello Cascade Elementary families,

While the weather will not cooperate, Spring is here and the 2021–22 school year is winding down. We still have a lot to do and accomplish before summer comes, but we have some wonderful things happening that I would like to share.

Cascade Elementary has one of the strongest parent/teacher groups that I have ever experienced. As we plan for the 6th Annual Color Run, which will be held on May 18th, our CES PTO has committed to purchase \$20,000 worth of playground equipment that will be installed on a hard surface playground. A few weeks ago, we had ten dying Ash trees removed from our grounds, which has vastly opened up the north facing side of our school as well as our playground areas. The hard surface playground has, due to space, prevented us from installing further equipment that would engage students during recess. With the removal of these trees we now have that opportunity. This equipment should be installed and ready for the 2022–23 school year. Check out our Instagram page for a drawing of the equipment.

Speaking of the Color Run, we will have our prize assembly in the morning and the color run will begin at 1:15 PM at New City Park. Guests are welcome to come and watch the run from the bleachers behind home plate. Please encourage your children to raise money for this event. This is the only time of the year that we look to generate funds for a Cascade Elementary. Every student will get one ticket for the drawing of prizes. For every additional \$25 that a student brings in, they will get an additional ticket in the drawing.

On April 27th Cascade Junior/Senior High School held its annual service day. Cascade Elementary had an amazing group of freshman students who painted the lower stucco all around the building and provided a much-needed fresh look to the building. These high school students also dug out a couple of areas that hold wood chips, which will help keep the areas around the building looking clean and neat for years to come. Service day is amazing community event where our students give back to our wonderful Cascade community.

Thank you for your continued support of Cascade Elementary. It has been an amazing school year and we continue to be excited about what we've accomplished and what we look forward to in the future by providing the best learning environment and learning opportunities that we can for every child.

Sincerely,

Dan Wendler
Elementary Principal

Main Office 563-852-3335

Dan Wendler—Principal, ext. 2002

Tammy Connolly—Secretary, ext. 2001

Ashley Botsford—Counselor, ext. 2005

Cyndi Trumm—School Nurse, ext. 1007

Website: http://www.wdbqschools.org/cascadeelementaryschool_home.aspx



Classroom Spotlight

PE with Mrs. Hummel

In PE, we have taken a break from traditional sports oriented activities to explore manipulative and movement activities.

First, we took on speed stacking, also called cup stacking. This manipulative activity can improve cognitive development, intelligence, problem solving and critical thinking skills. The use of bilateral coordination (using both hands) helps the brain develop on the right side as well as the left. Our favorite games from this unit were Wreck It Ralph, Angry Birds and Indy 500. We also used timers to compare our times to the current world records.

Next, we tried something that was new for everyone, even Mrs. Hummel. We had a 4 day dance unit and learned to dance La Raspa, Patty Cake Polka, Cotton Eye Joe and some basic square dance steps. Benefits of dance include muscular strength, improved balance and flexibility and it is a great social activity.

The final unit of the year will be track and field, hopefully Mother Nature gets this memo!!! We will look into track and field events like tennis ball throw (shot put), long jump, hurdles and relays.



Dates to Remember:

May

- 2—1st Grade Field Trip
- 4—Rain Date for 1st Grade Field Trip, PreK Field Trip, 3rd Grade Field Trip, 5th Grade visit CHS
- 6—Kndg. Field Trip
- 9—Cougar Pride Assembly, School Board Meeting 6 PM
- 10—5th Grade Field Trip
- 11—Rain Date for PreK Field Trip
- 18—Color Run
- 20—2nd Grade Field Trip, 4th/5th Track Meet
- 23—4th Grade Field Trip
- 24—Color Run (Rain Date)
- 25—Prek Graduation
- 26—Last Day of School, 2 Hr. Early Dismissal, End Trimester

Fechas para recordar:

mayo

- 2—Excursión de primer grado
- 4—Fecha de lluvia por la excursión del primer grado, excursión del PK, excursión del tercer grado, los alumnos de quinto grado visitan la escuela secundaria
- 6—Excursión del kindergarten
- 9— Asamblea del Orgullo Escolar, Reunión de la junta escolar a las 6pm
- 10—Excursión del quinto grado
- 11—Fecha de lluvia por la excursión de PK
- 18—Color Run (“Correr de los colores” – en el parque)
- 20—Excursion del segundo grado, 4th/5th Track Meet
- 23—Excursión del cuarto grado
- 24—Color Run (fecha de lluvia)
- 25—Graduación de PK
- 26—Ultimo día de la escuela, Salir 2 horas temprano; final día del trimestre

Classroom Spotlight

Music with Ms. Gourley

The students have been very busy in music working on their vocabulary words and music symbols for each grade level. They have used the keyboards to help learn about some of the concepts such as steady beat and register. They also have been learning about some very famous composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Amadeus Wolfgang Mozart, George Frederic Handel, Leroy Anderson and John Williams. The first grades have been studying Peter and the Wolf where each character is represented by an instrument in the story. Kindergarten and first grades have been recognizing instruments by sound only. They have played some fun games that use different instruments. The gong was a big favorite. The students have been using staff cards and chips to study solfege (do re mi fa sol la ti do). The second grades have been studying The Carnival of the Animals where the composer writes music for an instrument that would sound like the animal it represents. The older students have been working on syncopation. They have clapped, stomped, patted and snapped it. They have used tambourines and drums on the rhythms. We are working on playing it on the xylophones. They will be learning some notes and songs on the recorders as well.



Classroom Spotlight

Art with Mrs. Montag

In art, we have been tinkering around with sculpture and form and making items that are 3D. Fourth grade had a great day using their imaginations and sculpting paper into creative 3D objects. They used so much creativity to create a variety of items.

We have also been using visual schedules this year in art to help students remember our plans and expectations for each day. Since art is a once per week activity sometimes it can be hard for our youngest students to remember the routine. The daily cleanup visual schedules are interactive, and students gain a sense of independence when completing their tasks by moving the tasks from one column to the other. It has been a great addition to the art room this year.



Classroom Spotlight

Mrs. Recker's Classroom Enrichment:

In Mrs. Recker's April classroom enrichment classes we focused on the *Earth Day*. One of the lessons the students enjoyed was called "Fred the Fish". This lesson demonstrated the effects of pollution on fish and other aquatic wildlife. This lesson was interactive and the students volunteered to play the part of to pour "pollution" into the water. We discussed how this pollution affected his habitat and talked about how this carelessness changed the way Freddie was feeling.

Another lesson was focused around a book called Agatha's Feather Bed. This book taught students about recycling.

In this story, Agatha forgets to take her own advice when she purchases a new bed and awakens to six, angry naked geese who show up at her house to remind her, "Everything comes from something, nothing comes from nothing. Just like paper comes from trees, and glass comes from sand, an answer comes from a question. All you have to do is ask." The geese remind her that this includes the feathers in her new bed that are keeping her warm at night. After the story, the students made a list of everything we use every day that comes from something else.

Mrs. Recker can't believe there's just one more month of classroom enrichment visits for the school year! She enjoys every class so much!

--- PTO News ---

Color Run:

Your Cascade Elementary PTO is excited to hold our annual Color Run Fundraiser. This fundraiser provides us with the ability to support various experiences and projects at the elementary. We look forward to continuing to host community events, fund field trips for classes, and help provide building and playground improvements.

Thank you for all your support and help making this fundraiser successful! It is so fun to watch the excitement surrounding the event.

Sneak Peek!



Check out what we are purchasing for the hard surface playground! We are grateful for all past and current fundraising efforts that have helped to make this project possible. We are hoping this will be installed for the 2022-23 school year!



Teacher Appreciation Week

May 2nd – 6th

Take a minute to thank a teacher this week or month. A simple email, note, or card showing your appreciation can mean a lot!

PTO Meetings:

Please consider attending a PTO meeting. WE generally meet the second Wednesday of each month. We will have at least one more meeting this school year and will continue meeting at the beginning of next school year.

We value the input of our CES parents and appreciate having different perspectives at our meetings.

PTO Officers:

Kendra Kedley --President

Stephanie Zalaznik -- Vice President

Mary Finzel – Treasurer

Lisa Aschtgen - Secretary

Counselor's Corner

Looking to build Social and Emotional learning from home? Take a look at these fun, interactive SEL apps available to use at home! Social Emotional learning is essential for a child's development in areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making! Key benefits of social emotional learning are the ability to identify feelings, increase coping tools, self-regulate, build better relationships and so much more! Explore these apps and find the power of social emotional learning!

SEL Apps

1. [Harmony Game Room](#)
2. [Wisdom](#)
3. [Moshi](#)
4. [iTouchiLearn Feelings](#)
5. [David Duys website-school counseling apps](#)
6. [Teach Thought](#)
7. [Common Sense Media](#)
8. [Scholastic](#)
9. [Calm](#)
10. [Smiling Mind](#)

2022 Apples for Students

St. Mark Youth Enrichment program is providing school supplies to students entering grades K – 5. This program is a resource for families in need of assistance. The youngest child of each family received a registration form to bring home. If your family would like to participate, please list the children in your household and return this slip to school by **May 13th, 2022**. Please only register children going into Kindergarten through Grade 5 at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Botsford

Email: ashley.botsford@wdbqschools.org

Phone: 563-852-3335 ext. 2005

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Western Dubuque County Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, 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 this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator at 310 4th Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046 or 563-744-3885.