

Parent Empowerment

Many of the issues concerning success in school revolve around developing good study habits and expectations regarding homework. Parents, you definitely play a major role in providing the encouragement, environment, and materials necessary for successful studying to take place. The brochure on this website may be helpful to you:

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/succeed/05-studyhabits.html>

There are a number of educational websites that are excellent resources for parents and their children. For parents that have children that struggle to read, technology can be a motivator for the struggling reader. At-risk children are more apt to become involved in the reading process if they are engaged in a learning game or with technology. This website could be helpful to you to engage middle school aged children in language arts activities:

<http://www.cogcon.com/gamegoo/gooley.html>

ATTENDANCE UPDATES: EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY... SCHOOL

During the first month of school (August/September), Greeley had an Average Daily Attendance rate of 88.43. Although this percentage rate is higher than our ADA rate compared to this time last year, we are several percentage points away from where we want to be. Our goal is to have an average daily attendance rate of 94% or higher.

Parents, please try everything within your power to ensure your child comes to school each day. We are certainly trying everything within our power to motivate students to be here. With that said, we are pleased to announce that we had 12 students achieve perfect attendance for the month of September and 16 students achieved perfect attendance for the month of October.

We are so proud of all of our students that have made the commitment to come to school each day. We have shared that pride and our excitement with local business and we have asked them to partner with us as we look to provide meaningful incentives for our students.

We are pleased to announce that Taco Bell has agreed to partner with us in providing incentives to our children. Please take time to visit a local Taco Bell and show your appreciation with your patronage.



Greeley School Newsletter

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
OF THE
REGIONAL
SAFE SCHOOL
FOR PEORIA
COUNTY

November '08



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IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS:

November 6-7th
Parent Teacher
Conferences

November 11th, 2008
Veteran's Day / No
School

November 17th
Board of Education
Meeting

November 26th-28th
Thanksgiving Recess
No School

December 10th
Picture Retakes

A message of hope from the Principal

Dear Parents, students and community partners:

As I write to you this month, I am writing with a renewed spirit of hope. For years, I have served Greeley School and the Peoria Public School District with the belief and commitment that I am capable of providing hope for a generation of children that many in our society have turned their backs on and consider a lost cause.

Despite the sentiments of some and the negative thoughts of others, I have tried my best with the help of some wonderful co-workers to stimulate the minds of our students into believing they could become whatever they wanted to be. On the night of November 4th, 2008, President-elect Barack Obama accomplished something that many people thought would never happen. He inspired a generation of new voters and gave hope to a country in peril. In doing so, Barack Obama will become the first African-American to serve as the President of the United States of America.

As the Principal of a school that is 90% African-American male, Obama's amazing accomplishment gives me yet another example of that spirit of hope that our children need in order to believe in themselves. I believe in our students, I believe in my teachers, and I believe in this community. Together we can inspire the minds of this generation and produce the kind of change many believe is impossible. Yes, we can! Yes, we can!



Sincerely,

Mr. Caffey



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www.psd150.org/greeley

Greetings from Mrs. Lakemper & Mrs. Branch, Room 102

Wow! The first grading period has gone by quickly and it was a great one! We've added a few more students to our room and they are adjusting to Greeley quite well.

In our classroom, the students have been working on a unit about telephone etiquette and business communication skills. This has been a great opportunity for all of us to brush up on our skills.

We have begun this week with our Curriculum Based Management Testing (CBM's) in Reading and Language Arts with the students. They will be conducted on a weekly basis and data will be gathered for the whole school year.

We look forward to meeting with many of you at our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 6th and 7th.



From the desk of Mr. Gilmore

"There are several hands on projects that students enjoy that we will be working on throughout the semester. These projects are meant to give students a glimpse into the world of mathematics that exists outside of the textbook."

High school math classes are going extremely well. Students are studying math subjects ranging from Algebra and Geometry. Students are working very well in all my math classes. We are continuing to work on the development of important mathematical concepts that students can build upon as they continue their education during and after high school. There are very few students that are missing assignments and when students are absent they are taking the responsibility to ask for the assignment they might have missed. I am very impressed by this year's students. We are completing our second chapter this week and will begin our first project. There are several hands on projects that students enjoy that we will be working on throughout the semester. These projects are meant to give students a glimpse into the world of mathematics that exists outside of the textbook. After the chapter exams they will begin a project with statistics. I look forward to showing all my students what math can be about.

In the Technology lab, students are in the final stages of the bookshelf for Mrs. Coffey. Their hard work is a direct reflection of how well the bookshelf is turning out. They used a circular saw to cut the MDF into proper lengths and widths and a jigsaw to cut out the slots. They have installed the shelf supports using a brad nailer and cut the shelves to proper lengths and widths. The next task is to dry-fit the pieces together and use screws to secure it together. After that, the backing will be cut to size. Once everything fits as it is supposed to, they will break it down and reassemble it with glue and screws in Mrs. Coffey's room to finalize the build. They have performed extremely well so far. Upon completion of the bookshelf, they will have the opportunity to create a personal project made from wood. This will be designed and planned in a way similar to the steps they took to complete the bookshelf. My goal is to have an opportunity to complete the personal projects with enough time to have a classroom bridge building project before the end of the semester. Parents are more than welcome to come in and see the progress their child is making on their project.

Mr. Gilmore

HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES UPDATE

First I would like to say thank you and congratulations to the Government students for their 1st place door during Spirit Week. They have been very excited about the recent presidential election and have taken the fundamentals of the election process and conducted their own school-wide election. GREAT JOB!!!

The World History students have been studying the Egyptian and Greek civilizations. They are doing a great job of expanding their vocabulary and identifying the ancient technologies that we still use today.

The Economic students are learning about investing and saving. They are starting to learn about the variables involved in investing and gaining an understanding of the great economic crisis we face in America today.

The U.S. History students have been learning about the 3 different cultural groups present in the start of America. They are identifying how America has developed into colonies and comparing the economic and cultural difference of the New England, Southern, and Middle colonies.

The African-American History students have been studying the diversity of the continent of Africa. They're now learning about the terrors of the Middle Passage and the mass forced migration of Africans to the Americas. Next, we will learn about the "seasoning" of Africans into American Slavery.

Mr. Schmieg



Greeley has new computers! And we have a new updated, concise library! This year we have a brand new media center in our former computer lab.

We are so excited! During the latter part of last school year, we were in the process of removing outdated books from our library, and boxing them up to be moved into the computer lab.

Now that move has happened, our library and computer lab are combined.

Classroom teachers are bringing classes here to work on projects. Many hours of the day find classes of students here involved in research and writing to prepare these projects.

Since the books are readily available, students are now checking out books for pleasure reading, too. So you see why we are very excited!

~Mrs. Habecker



Vision & Hearing Screening

December 3, 2008

On December 3rd, all 8th grade students and all students receiving special services will have a vision & hearing screening performed by the vision and hearing team of Peoria Public Schools. If you have any questions concerning this screening, please contact us at 672-6520.