



December 2008
January 2009

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Dr. Shoultz

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Dates to
Remember

Conferences
January 14th
January 21st

Parent Meeting for
Registration
January 20
6th grade parents,
7:00 pm
7th grade parents
8:00 pm



From the principal's desk...

Dear Parents,

Winter came early this year and with schools being closed on December 9 due to the ice storm, we will now be extending the school year until Monday, June 1. Unpredictable winter weather means that the school calendar is somewhat of a moving target. To that end, we now have an on-line calendar which will allow us to update the calendar daily. Please check it out on the Northwest homepage, <http://www.iccsd.k12.ia.us/schools/nw> and click on the calendar link.

With winter weather comes heavy winter coats, mittens, hats and all of the other accessories. One item which has dominated our PSTO discussion this year is that of the size and condition of our student lockers. Before North Central Junior High was built, Northwest housed over 900 students and very narrow lockers were purchased in order to fit this many lockers into our building plan. Many students were housed in temporaries outside of the building, but all the lockers were located in the building. As a result, we have lockers which measure only 6 3/4 inches wide which is barely wide enough to stuff one student sized winter coat. It has also been noted in our student and parent surveys that the aging locking mechanisms are the source of the biggest frustrations for our students. For these reasons, we are requesting locker replacement as our number one facility need for the coming school year. Given that the replacement cost is very high, I am asking parents for their support as we work with the central administration offices to find a way to make this much needed purchase happen. In the coming months, PSTO members will be working on ways to bring this concern to light. I hope that all parents will lend their voice in support of this project.

Speaking of winter weather, there will be no "ski day" this year due to a new Department of Education ruling which disallows fee-based field trips. There will, however, be a "junior high ski day" sponsored by the Coralville Recreation Center on Wednesday, February 25. There is no school that day, so students will not miss classes in order to go on this trip. Several Northwest teachers will be chaperoning the trip so our students will get first priority. Northwest students can bring in parent release forms and payment to Northwest during the week of January 5 and we will turn them over to Coralville Rec. for processing. After January 9, forms and payment will have to be taken directly to the Rec. Center. Ski trip information and permission forms are located in this newsletter. They will only accept checks or money orders and they must be made out to **Coralville Rec. Center**.

Last year I included a Harpers-style index which illuminated some of the facts and figures associated with daily life at Northwest. I have updated it for 2009 including some brand new statistics from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.

Northwest Index

Student enrollment as of December 1—622

Total number of full and part time teachers—51

Total number of custodians, paraprofessionals, secretaries and kitchen staff—42

Percentage of minority students—34.9

Continued on next page

Attendance rate for the entire school for the first trimester—97.34%
Attendance rate for the entire school for the same period last year—96.1%
Attendance rate mandated by No Child Left Behind—96.0%
Number of classes attended by students in the first trimester—298,560
Total number of office referrals for the first trimester of 2008—601
Total number of office referrals for the same period of 2007 and 2006—503, 493
Cumulative total out-of-school suspension days for first trimester 2008—11
Suspension days for the same period last year—11
Percentage of majority students—65.1
Total number of students who scored 90 or higher on the ITBS Core Total—211
Total number of students who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA—94
Estimated number of slices of pizzas sold a la cart at NW for the first trimester—15,180
Estimated number of regular student meals served during the same period—24,050
In dollars, the gross sales and net profit of the 2007 NW magazine sales—81,916, 30,015
Rank of chicken nuggets in terms of most popular lunch meal at NW—1
Respective rank of French toast sticks and breaded cheese sticks—2, 3
National percentage rank of NW 7th graders Composite score based on ITBS National School Norms—95
Rank of NW 8th graders based on the same measure—95
Percentage of NW 7th graders considered proficient in reading comprehension according to national No Child Left Behind legislation—75.9
Percentages of proficient 7th graders for math and science—85.2, 84.2
Percentages of proficient 8th graders in reading comprehension, math and science—83.8, 82.2, 91.0

The last few statistics involve our students' performance on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Individual results just arrived at the end of the November and they will be mailed out to families the week of December 15. As mentioned in the copy above, when comparing Northwest to other junior highs nationwide, NW ranks in the top 5% for both 7th and 8th grade classes using the school norms developed by Iowa Testing. When analyzing individual student scores, we see a more diverse picture. Our target for proficiency is for every child to score above the 40%. As noted above the majority of students do very well, but too many of our students are not yet proficient. Under No Child Left Behind legislation, we are required to have 74% of our student body score in the proficiency range. NW met this goal in each of the three areas covered by the legislation. However, other selected groups of students, such as students in special education, Hispanic students, and African American students, are also required to meet this goal of 74%. Although there are a couple of "safety valve" provisions in the law which require more calculations, at this time I am anticipating the NW will not be compliant with No Child Left Behind in the subgroups of African American students and special education students.

I hasten to add that standardized test scores are just one measure among many that indicate a successful school. While I am heartened by the overall positive outcomes of our test results, I am just as proud of our music program, the thriving culture of our academic clubs, and the many achievements of our students, both in and outside of the classroom. In the end, our goal at Northwest is not to maximize the score on a standardized test, but to encourage and educate competent and confident young people who are ready for the challenges of high school.

Gregg Shoultz, PhD
 Principal, Northwest Junior High School

Counseling Department

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Gregg Shultz, Principal

Carla Krogman, Associate Principal

From the Counseling Department

ITBS Test Scores will arrive this month.

ITBS test scores will be mailed to parents right before winter break or early in January. These scores show your child's relative position or rank in a group of students who are in the same grade and who were tested at the same time of year. The results from the ITBS will NOT be used to grade your student. The main purpose of the ITBS is to provide the school with information that can be used to improve instruction and to help teachers make sound educational decisions about each student's learning. If you have questions or would like further explanation about the ITBS scores please do not hesitate to contact the school by calling 688-1060.

A Preview of Registration for the 2009 - 2010 School year

During January and early February registration for the 2009 - 2010 school year will be taking place for all our students.

Current 6th grade students will be registering for 7th grade during the month of January at their elementary school. Parents will be invited to attend these registration sessions. Students will return their completed registration forms to their respective elementary schools at the end of January. An evening informational meeting for current 6th grade parents who were unable to attend a daytime meeting will be held at 8:00 PM Wednesday, January 21st in the Northwest Junior High Little Theater.

Dr. Shultz (NW principal) and the NWJH counselors will give current 7th grade students registration information the week of January 12th or 19th. An evening informational meeting for current 7th grade parents will be held at 7:15 PM Wednesday, January 21st in the Northwest Junior High Little Theater.

The West High counselors will give current 8th grade students registration information and materials the last week of January. West High counselors will return to Northwest in early February to collect completed registration forms. An informational evening meeting for 8th grade parents will be held in February at West High.

NAEP - NW has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation's Report Card on February 5, 2009. NAEP is an ongoing assessment of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects. For more information regarding NAEP please read the letter to parent, which appears in this newsletter.

December 8, 2008

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to tell you that our school has been selected to represent schools across Iowa and nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is given by the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what American students know and can do in key subject areas. It is the only ongoing nationally representative assessment that provides this valuable information.

NAEP has been given in schools for nearly 40 years. You may have taken the assessment yourself when you were in school. The results are published in a report called *The Nation's Report Card* which provides reliable student achievement information to educators, parents, and other citizens.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on February 5, 2009 in reading, mathematics, and science. In addition, a few students may be assessed as part of a field test in other subjects. Your child may be selected to take the assessment. In addition to subject area questions, students will be asked some background questions such as how often they use computers and what types of classes they take.

It will take approximately 90 minutes for students to complete NAEP. The results are completely confidential, and your child's grades will not be affected. Your child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish the assessment, and may omit any test question. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to collect information on student achievement that will inform improvements in education. **Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important.** However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by January 9, 2009.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP. We do ask parents to encourage their children's best efforts and to have them get plenty of rest the night before the assessment.

If you would like to have additional information about NAEP, please visit the web site at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. If you have questions or would like to review a booklet that includes the background questions and sample assessment questions, please contact me at 319-688-1060 or via e-mail at Shultz.Gregg@iccsd.k12.ia.us.

We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP, and we are pleased that your child may be selected. We know that Northwest's students will help us to show what American students know and can do!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregg Shultz
Principal

Family Consumer Science
(2nd trimester)

NEW - SEWING MACHINES – EMBROIDERY MACHINES – SERGERS!!

Family Consumer Science 1

We have just finished “Being a Caregiver” and have started our Money Unit. A special thanks to Hills Bank and Dave Kriz for teaching a two-day lesson on banking. Clothing Care and Repair, Sewing Machine will follow, then Foods & Nutrition. Hands-on opportunities for learning are being emphasized.

Sewing/Clothing

Sewing/Clothing Class will begin next trimester. Students learned about fibers/fabrics; patterns and clothing construction; fashion and color. And..... SEW...SEW...SEW.....Many beautiful projects were made. If you enjoy creating, coupled with hands-on learning...this is the class for you!!

Family Consumer Science 2

FCS2 builds on top of the skills learned in FCS1. We have finished the Design Unit and are learning to operate our brand new sewing machines. They were needed! Consumer Unit follows, then Foods and Nutrition.



Sewing Club –

It's in full swing. We meet on Mondays, right after school in room 116 till 4:30. All interested students are encouraged to join us. Bring your projects from home to school and have fun. ALL current members please bring snacks to share. I will store the extras for upcoming week. Questions – contact Mrs. Hanes

Dress code

The major responsibility for appropriate dress and grooming rests with the students and their parents. An individual's appearance and dress can greatly influence that individual's self-image and behavior, as well as that of others. Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in a way that is not offensive or distracting to students and/or faculty.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school and all related activities (including parties, sports events, music events, etc.) A student's attire may not unreasonably infringe on the right of other students to benefit from a productive educational environment, or adversely impact the health, safety, welfare, or property rights of others.

Items not allowed

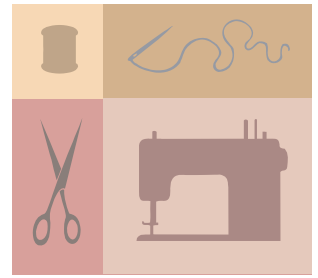
- *Bare midriffs, chests, or torsos
- *Back-less or strapless attire
- *Thin T-shirts worn over colored undergarments
- *Pants, slacks, or shorts worn below the hips
- *Clothing or accessories that
 - promote the use of alcohol or drugs
 - include profane or offensive language or pictures
- *Students ARE REQUIRED to wear shoes or sandals at all times during school.

Parent Volunteers Needed

The concession stand was re-opened during volleyball and football season this fall and has been an overwhelming success! All proceeds from the concession stands go to the main Club West fund that supports the athletic programs for West High, Northwest and North Central Junior Highs.

Club West needs a few parent volunteers to Co-chair the concession stand. Without parent volunteers, the concession will be unable to remain open. The responsibilities would be contacting parent volunteers to work shifts and oversee the function of the concession stand.

If you are interested in, please contact Rhonda Roskos at 631-4298 or 351-2515 or via email : roskos4@aol.com





AMERICAN MATH COMPETITION 8 NATIONAL HONOR ROLL MEMBERS 2008

School Winner

David Ahn (tie first)
Ivan Ye (tie first)

National Distinguished Honor Roll

David Ahn* and Ivan Ye* (three time member)

Honor Roll Members

Uma Balakrishnan*, Maya Bassuk, Asya Bergal, Adam Boldt, Thomas Burrill, Savannah Butler, Ji Eun Choi, Trevor Clinkenbeard, Erin Kallsen, Hilah Kohen, Daniel Lin*, Leah Miller, Thomas Scruggs, Alyse Slaughter, Jen Sluka, Aditya Subrmanian, Kai Yan and Anthony Zhang*

**two time member*



Knowledge Master Competition—Fall, 2008

Thousands of students throughout the country and in many foreign countries competed December 3rd in the 48th Knowledge Master Open academic competition, designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. Student teams faced their computers and 200 tough questions to vie for top scores based on the accuracy and speed of their answers.

A team of 23 students at Northwest placed 1st in the state, answering correctly 188 of the 200 questions and scoring a total of 1540 points out of a possible 2000. This marks the 4th state championship in a row for NWJH. Their score also placed them 17th in the nation out of 639 teams competing. "This was particularly tough round of questions, but their vast knowledge and teamwork were factors in their outstanding performance. I think they even surprised themselves," says academic coach Dan Mascall.

Students on the team included 8th graders Nathaniel Lovin, Nicholas Barker, Andy Rosse, Uma Balakrishnan, Uma Blanchard, Lizzie Warren, David Ahn, Isaac Jensen, Brian McCarthy, Nick Pearce, Alyse Slaughter, Eva Thomas, Nick Wagner, Tong Yu, and Anthony Zhang. 7th graders included Hilah Kohen, Stephan Bork, Zach Cicha, Elijah Schenkel, Kai Yan, Jeremiah Anthony, Jonathon Ni, and Elliot Young.



¿Necesitas ayuda con el español?

Tutoring Thursdays are back!

We will be having tutoring sessions on Thursday mornings from 7:45 am till 8:10am. If you need help or if you just want to review, come to Señora McAndrew's classroom on Thursdays. You can come any time between 7:45 and 8:10 and stay for as long as you need to. If you can't make it then, see Señora to set up a time. Remember: You can get help any day before or after school! See Señora to set a time or to see her during her prep periods.

This and That

Report Cards

The first trimester ended on Monday, November 10th. Report cards were distributed on November 14th. Students were instructed to take the report cards home to share with their parents. If for some reason you did not receive your child's report card, please call the school (688-1060) and let us know. A few students may not receive their report cards because of overdue financial obligations.

Attendance and Student Activities

All students participating in Northwest activities are expected to be in school at least during the four final periods of the day on the day of the scheduled student activity. **This includes school dances, athletic contests, practices, and musical events.**

Lost and Found

There are many jackets, sweatshirts, lunch bags, shoes, etc., in the lost and found. You are encouraged to come in and check to see if any of these items belong to your child. The lost and found is located in the Health Office.

Special Celebrations

Are you planning to celebrate your child's special day by sending flowers or balloons to Northwest? Please know that such items are restricted to the office area after delivery as they present significant distractions within classrooms. Transporting balloons home via school bus presents a visual hazard for the driver. We recommend that balloons and flowers await your student at home so that they may celebrate their special day with you.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Once again, we will be holding two nights of parent-teacher conferences. We first tried this format last year in order to ease the congestion that results from arena style conferences. Parents of students with the last name beginning with A-L will have conferences from 3:45 to 7:00 on January 14 while parents of students with the last name beginning M-Z will meet from 3:45 to 7:00 on January 21st.

Bus Lanes

Pre/Post School Bussing and Traffic: The lane immediately in front of the school building is **RESERVED FOR SCHOOL BUSES** before and after school. All other traffic should use the lane in the South parking area. Please observe the **BUS ONLY** rule for the safety of all of our children, especially with the Winter Weather.

The Arts



Band Room

Second trimester brings the inevitable chair placement exam, which may explain why the instruments have been going out of the building a little more than usual. We will do this again at the start of third tri.

Ms. Tara Meade finishes up her student teaching by December 12th. We have gotten used to having her very able assistance in the band program, so it will take some adjustment when she is gone. We wish her well in her job search and offer sincere thanks for her very able assistance while she was here. We were very happy with the student effort for the first concert and are now hard at work for program number two.

The following students have been selected to audition for The SEIBA district honor band. We wish them well on Jan. 6 when they travel to Fairfield High School for the auditions. **Alto Sax 8:** Daniel Lin. **Oboe 8:** Madison Waite, Joanne Lin. **Clarinet 8:** Anthony Zhang, Tong Yu, Rachel Anderson, Barbara Newhall, Erin Kallsen. **Euphonium 8:** Carter Robbins. **French Horn 8:** Kristin Lineback. **Flute 8:** SoJung Kwon, Megan Moser, Hankyeol Song. **Flute 7:** Meredith Cullen. **Trombone 8:** Blake Manternach, Nicholas Barker. **Percussion 7:** Ben Mirr. **Trumpet 8:** Allison Moran, Thomas Scruggs

We urge all parents to support the Iowa City Music Auxiliary by joining that organization. Much of the support for our music programs comes from the Auxiliary and we are most grateful to that organization. Northwest has always done a good job of this and we want to keep up that tradition of support.

Orchestra Notes

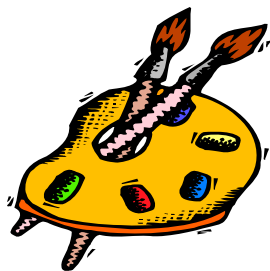
Congratulations to the following Northwest students who were accepted into the highly selective Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra held in Ames on Friday, November 21st. The students spend the day in rehearsal and present an excellent concert in the evening.

Eighth graders:

David Ahn, HaRin Lee, Phoebe Low, Elliot Stalter, Ivan Ye

Seventh graders:

Kate Anstreicher, Devin Hedlund, Fiona Edberg



Art

Students in Art 1 have been studying about linear perspective. This is learning a theory of drawing to create illusions of depth on flat surfaces. A project they will begin doing is designing their own Fantasy Room in perspective. Students will work on this project with much satisfaction not only because they can put anything they want in their room but also it will enhance their drawing ability to make things appear 3-D.

Sketchbook assignments are a part of each student's grade. We use this sketchbook as an art research journal, as we keep everything we have learned in Art in it. Parents can encourage and help students brainstorm ideas for their assignments and also remind them to use them during free-time. It would be great if they can get in the habit of drawing by "observation" (looking at something) and also "invention" (creative drawing from an image they see in their head). Any journaling and note-taking is also encouraged.

Studio art students are busy making an Altered Book, which will be a place they can explore different mediums in a creative way and also plan out their projects they will do this trimester in Studio Art.

Power school is an excellent way to check weekly how students are progressing in the class. I encourage all art students and parents to log in periodically. Going to my website is also a great way to check on daily plans we will be doing in Art, due dates for assignments, handout attachments, and also photos from the Art class. Please take some time to check it out: <http://www.iccsd.k12.ia.us/Schools/NW/teachers/bishop/index.html>

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Fax (319) 248-1899



Matt Hibbard
Recreation Center Supervisor
mhibbard@ci.coralville.ia.us

2009 SKI TRIP

The Coralville Parks and Recreation Department is planning a ski trip to Sundown Mountain Ski Resort near Dubuque for seventh and eighth grade students on Wednesday, February 25.

The cost of the trip is \$45.00 per student and includes the bus ride, lift ticket, lesson and ski equipment rental. ***Snowboard rental will not be allowed.*** Students who own a snowboard and equipment may bring it for personal use. If students have their own equipment the cost is \$38.00 for the bus ride, lift ticket and lesson.

We will travel to Sundown by chartered bus, and students will be randomly assigned to buses. On the registration/permission form, each student may request one friend to be assigned to the same bus. Friend requests are not guaranteed.

At Sundown, all students will be expected to take the ski lesson and will be responsible for returning the equipment checked out to them.

Lunch is **NOT** included in the ski trip price. All students are to bring a sack lunch or extra money for meals. It is suggested that students bring approximately \$8-10 for purchasing food IF they do not bring their own lunch. The bus **WILL NOT STOP** on the return trip for dinner. It is also recommended that students take along extra clothing and quarters to rent locker space.

The registration fee for the ski trip can either be paid in the main office at Northwest Junior High, starting Monday, January 5, 2009, or at the front desk of the Coralville Recreation Center. No money or forms will be accepted before this time. Each student **must turn in a completed parent/guardian permission form with their money. Payment made at Northwest must be by check or money order. NO CASH. Checks must be made out to CITY OF CORALVILLE.** The registration deadline is Friday, January 23. Withdrawals or cancellations after January 23 will be subject to a 50% cancellation fee.

All active sports, including skiing and snowboarding, carry risk of serious injury to the participant which common sense and a personal awareness can help reduce. The skier's responsibility code must be adhered to for the skier/snowboarder's safety and the safety of others. If you do not agree with the safety code and accepting the inherent risk of skiing or snowboarding, do not purchase a ski package. Purchase of a package will acknowledge your agreement that you accept the risks inherent to skiing/snowboarding and that you will obey the Sundown Mountain Skier's Responsibility Code.

In case of serious injury, the student will be taken to a Dubuque hospital by one of the chaperones and parents will be informed immediately by phone. Parents of an injured student may be required to pick up their child in Dubuque.

Students are to report at the main entrance of Northwest Junior High at 6:30 a.m. the morning of the trip. **The approximate time of return is 6:00 p.m. Please make arrangements to pick up your child at or about this time.** Students will be chaperoned by Coralville Parks and Recreation staff, Northwest faculty members and screened volunteers. Students may not accompany the trip unless they are skiing. Parents of students who misbehave while on the trip may be contacted to come to Dubuque to pick up their child.

Special emphasis will be given to student compliance with safety procedures. Instructions will be given prior to the trip. Supervisors will be available to assist students when they put on their equipment. Students skiing on slopes more advanced than their ability or skiing in a reckless manner will be asked to change slopes or turn in their equipment.



Equity Statements

It is the policy of the Iowa City Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, disability, or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices.

If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact the Equity Director, [Ross Wilburn](#), at 509 S. Dubuque Street, 319-688-1000.