



October Newsletter

The Leader in Me: Habit 1 - Be Proactive!

This is the second in a series of articles about a new endeavor, The Leader in Me, at Grant Elementary School. The Leader in Me initiative is based upon Dr. Steven Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. These habits focus on essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the future.

Thanks to several groups here in Muscatine, teachers are being trained on the Seven Habits this semester, and the habits will officially roll out for students second semester. A few teachers have been "dipping their toes" in the project and have started introducing these habits, so you might be hearing language like, "Be proactive!" or "Think Win-Win!"

Habit 1 is "Be Proactive!" This means that each individual is in charge of his or her own decisions. We have the freedom and power to "choose our own weather" each day and decide whether our glasses are half full or half empty. This habit aligns with the Character Counts trait of responsibility.

Part of the Leader in Me initiative includes promoting leadership in children. Specifically, we are trying to teach children how to lead their own lives. Our roles as adult models is important in promoting this type of leadership. Demonstrating how to be proactive and make good choices speak volumes.

Red Ribbon Week - October 25-29

Grant Elementary School will be participating in the nationwide celebration of Red Ribbon Week. This week promotes positive attitudes toward staying drug-free. Guidance lessons also focus on this theme during the month of October.

Special days will include the following:

- Monday, Oct. 25: "Get 'T'd' Off About Drugs! – Wear T-shirts
- Tuesday, Oct. 26: "Stay In The Game – Be Drug Free!" – Wear athletic gear or favorite team jersey
- Wednesday, Oct. 27: "Wear Red Day!" – Wear red clothing to celebrate Red Ribbon Week
- Thursday, Oct. 28: "I'm A 'Jean'-ius – I'm Drug Free!" – Wear jeans
- Friday, Oct. 29: "Being Drug Free Is No Sweat!" – Wear sweatpants and sweatshirts

Cognitive Abilities Test

Third and Fifth graders will take the Cognitive Abilities Test the week of October 11th. This test is given each year to students in grades three and five. The test measures students' reasoning ability. Please stress the importance of these tests with your child and emphasize that we want every child to do his/her best. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Art on the Walls:

As you walk down our hallways please stop and notice ALL the artwork that is on display! It's awesome!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ A new portable sound system is on the way. Our old one of 25+ years did us well. Thanks PTO for making this happen.
- ☺ The annual Halloween parade/celebration will take place at 2:30 on Oct. 29. Please watch your child's monthly classroom letter with details.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Oct. 1** No School
 - Oct. 4** Teacher In-Service Day- No School
 - Oct. 11** COGAT testing (3&5 grades only)
 - Oct. 19** PTO meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
 - Oct. 24** Red Ribbon Week
 - Oct. 29** End of 1st quarter
 - Halloween Parade @ 2:30 (ALL grades)
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Notes from our Nurses

It seems early but we are already seeing many signs of the cold/flu season.

Just a friendly reminder to never underestimate the Power of Hand washing, for preventing illness.

Good old soap and warm water will do the trick. Hand sanitizer also works if water isn't available.

Creating good hand washing habits, at an early age, will keep your children healthier throughout their lifetimes.

Also remind your child to always cover his/her mouth when coughing or sneezing. If a tissue isn't available they should use their sleeve or elbow, not the hands.

Also a "heads up" that "head lice" can be present at anytime in the classroom. It's

crucial that you check your child's hair, for 20- 30 minutes, under bright light, every week. Please notify the school if your child ever has head lice.

Teresa Kulick & Joni Turner

"The best way you can predict your future is to create it."

—Steven Covey

Notes from the Principal

The Power School Parent Portal is officially open to parents. Many parents signed up during conferences. If you are a parent of a third, fourth or fifth grader and wish to sign up, please contact the office.

Thank you, Grant parents, for helping our school make 100% attendance at conferences. Teachers reported that conferences went smoothly, and the last of the make-up conferences are happening. I want to remind you, however, that we encourage you to contact your child's teacher anytime you have an idea, question or concern. You do not have to wait until spring conferences to do this.

Also, as we are right in the middle of our annual fall fundraiser. I want to thank you for helping us with this important event. Our PTO has organized this event, which looks like another successful year of raising funds for Grant School. Please turn in all orders to the office by **Oct. 7**. **All products will be delivered on Oct. 27. A note will be sent home with your students explaining the pick up procedures.**

Future Calendar Dates

Oct. 29 Halloween Party/Parade
(2:30 p.m.)

Nov. 1—Teacher In-service Day

Nov. 15 Orchestra Concert
(Gr. 5; 7:00 p.m.)

Nov. 16 Band Concert
(Gr. 5; 7:00 p.m.)

Dec. 2 Winter Concert
(7:00 p.m.)

Dec. 23 Winter Break Begins
(3:30 dismissal)

Jan. 3 Classes resume

Feb. 18 School Carnival

Feb. 18 Spring Picture Day

March 11 No School

March 14 Spring Break begins

April 11 ITBS Week

May 31 Field Day
(noon-3:15 p.m.)

June 2 Last Day of School
(2 hour early dismissal)