



Grand Ridge Grade School

NEWSLETTER

Week of Dec. 11-17, 2012

400 W. Main Street
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

David Mathis, Supt. — Ted Sanders, Principal
"Large enough to educate you, small enough to know you."

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A Few Words from Mr. Mathis . . .

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AND EMERGENCY FUND



I hope you will be able to attend our Christmas concerts next week. On Monday, Dec. 12, the 3rd, 4th, & 5th will be held at 6:30 p.m.



On Tuesday, Dec. 13, the Band and Choir Concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. This also is a time when we collect for the Grand Ridge Emergency Fund for needy families in the district. I hope you can help out with those less fortunate. Your donations are very much appreciated.

PHONE ALERT SYSTEM



We anticipate using ALERTNOW to notify you of school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather, as well as occasionally reminding parents of various events. In the event of an emergency at school, you can have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed immediately by phone. Some of things you need to know about Alert Now:

Caller ID will display the school's main number when a general announcement is delivered.

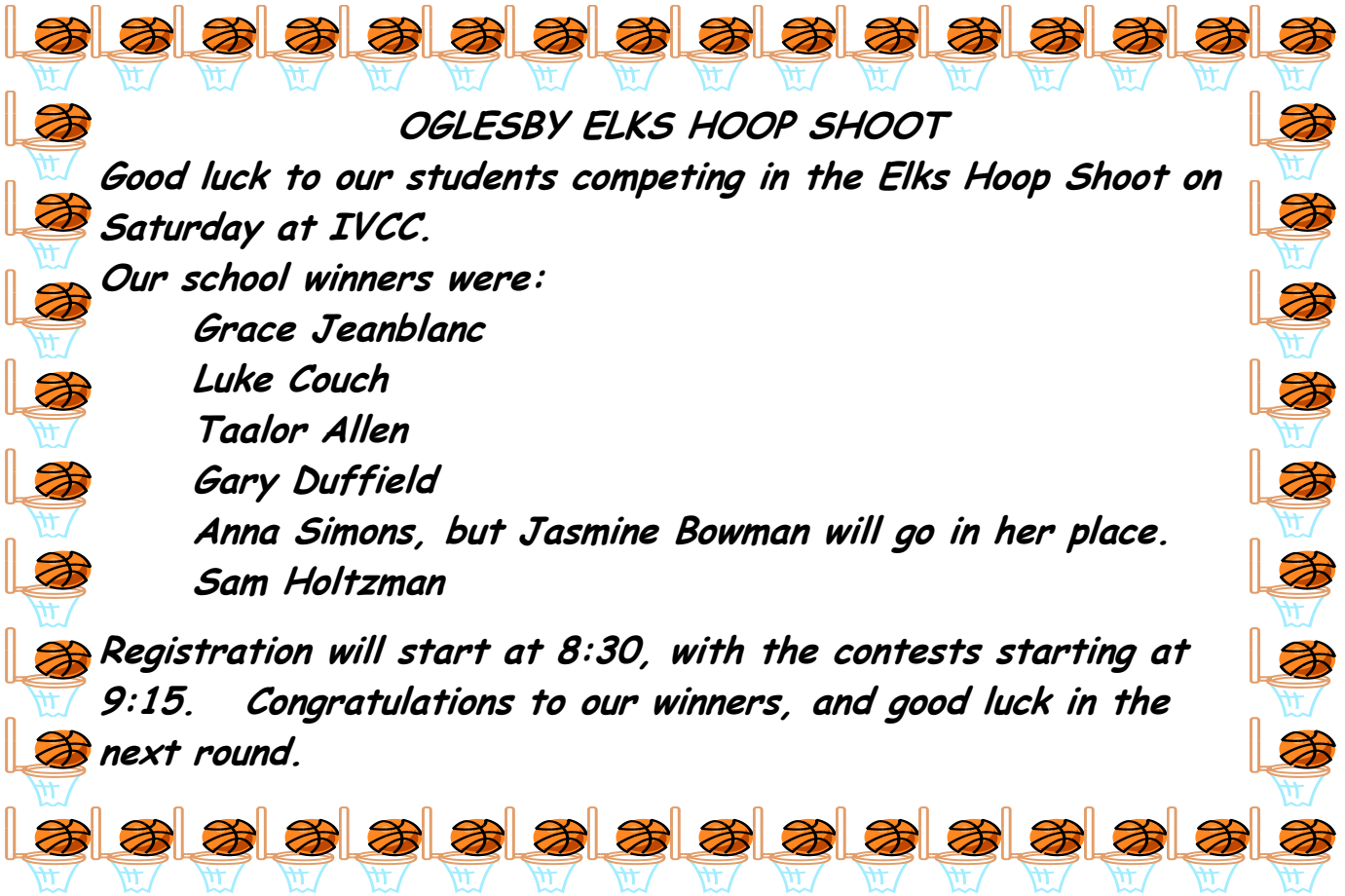
Caller ID will display 411 if the message is a dire emergency.

ALERTNOW will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.

If the ALERTNOW message stops playing, press 1 and the message will replay from the beginning.

Sunday night we will test the system at 6:00 to remind people of the Holiday Programs on Monday and Tuesday. If you do not receive a call, please contact the school on Monday so we can check to make sure we have your correct number. It is important that we have your most current phone number, so you are able to receive all messages.

Also, please understand that Alert Now may not work sometimes, because the school or maybe my home could be experiencing a power outage, or the Internet may be down. So we may have to rely on calling the local radio stations to get out the message. The stations we call our WCMY 1430, WLPO 1220, and WSTQ 1250. We always call the radio stations, so if all else fails, listen to the radio.



OGLESBY ELKS HOOP SHOOT

Good luck to our students competing in the Elks Hoop Shoot on Saturday at IVCC.

Our school winners were:

Grace Jeanblanc

Luke Couch

Taalor Allen

Gary Duffield

Anna Simons, but Jasmine Bowman will go in her place.

Sam Holtzman

Registration will start at 8:30, with the contests starting at 9:15. Congratulations to our winners, and good luck in the next round.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO DONATE TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE.

We will be taking 2 canned goods as entry into the 6/7/8 Boys' Basketball Game on Thurs. Dec. 15. We also will be passing the baskets for donations during the two Holiday Music Programs. Thank you for donating.



HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAMS

3rd—5th Holiday Program - Monday, Dec. 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Band & Choir Holiday Program - Tues., Dec. 13th at 6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL DISMISSES AT 11:50 on Wednesday, Dec. 21 for Christmas Vacation.

Thoughts from Mr. Sanders . . .

"Only the brave should teach. Only those who love the young should teach."--Pearl Buck

Recently we have had some discussions around the school regarding PBIS and the philosophy that comes from the "Positive" in the Behavior Interventions and Supports. The goal of this article is to clarify any of the questions that may be out there about what the system is and why we are using it.

There are really two modes of thought when it comes to behaviorism, the classical form called Operant Conditioning that was made famous by B.F. Skinner, and the more progressive form of discipline which focuses on the individual's choice, and making good decisions using a logical approach. In the latter, there is a discussion with a mentor over the behavior choices and the intended and unintended consequences of the behavior. PBIS is using these modes of thought to increase positive behaviors and diminish negative behaviors. Operant Conditioning is built on a reward system whereby increased positive behaviors equate to increased rewards. On the other hand, negative behaviors result in taking away rewards or punishment of some kind. In the past, our district has focused primarily on this side of the behavior paradigm. However, with the new system, we not only have a reward/punishment system, we also have a system which teaches consequences of behavior decisions through mentoring with adults.

In laymen's terms, we still punish students using the handbook as our guide when there is an obvious infraction that requires an immediate consequence. You will notice however, that we have begun to use the term "consequence" more than "punishment." The goal is to teach the child that his/her action is the direct antecedent of the consequence, and that the consequence is a logical outcome based on the behavior. The change in philosophy comes in the more moderate behavioral expectations such as being responsibly prepared for class, being respectful of others, being safe in the school environment, and being kind and caring to those around us. In these cases, if a student has been referred to be in our Check-In/Check-Out (CICO) program, we establish a teacher mentor who will check on the student's behavior twice each day in the morning and the afternoon before they leave. The student is then responsible for carrying a chart with him/her to each class and checking with each teacher to find out how he/she performed in the class. We use CICO as an intervention that causes the student to take control of his/her own behaviors, and it gives the student multiple chances to receive positive reinforcement from teachers in order to increase the desired behaviors.

CICO is a very moderate intervention and is showing some good results. It is an intervention that is reward-based, NOT punishment-based. If a student is on a chart, it does not mean he/she has done something wrong, but it means that a particular student is working at managing his/her own behaviors, ranging from turning in homework on time, to bringing materials to class, to being polite and kind to others. Being on a chart is not a "Bad" thing, only something that needs to be done to teach a particular skill. We use the terms "skill deficit" or "performance deficit" when discussing behavior. What happens is that our PBIS team must determine if a particular behavior is the result of not having the skill, at which time we provide instruction to the students; or if they know what to do, but they aren't doing it (a performance deficit), we put an intervention together that meets the child's needs. CICO works effectively for most kids (approx. 75%) and causes them to change their behaviors fairly quickly. For those whom the CICO intervention does not remediate behavior, we provide more layers of intervention to help the individual be more successful in the school environment.

I'm sure there may be lots of questions regarding PBIS. We are glad to discuss any questions you might have regarding the district's programs, so feel free to call us at the school any time. Teaching is about training behaviors and inspiring others to think for themselves. If you have heard the saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.", you understand the dilemma. Teachers cannot program brains, but they can teach children the behaviors it will take to be a good student and lead to success later in life. I hope this helps to clarify our beliefs about discipline and again, we are here to answer any questions you have, so please contact us with your questions or comments.

Have A Great Week!!!

GRAND RIDGE COMMUNITY FEST
INVITES ONE AND ALL FOR A
PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
WITH SANTA AT THE
TOWNSHIP HALL IN GRAND RIDGE
FROM 8:30—10:30 A.M.

ON

SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 2011

WE ASK THAT ANYONE WHO WISHES TO ATTEND
BRING A CANNED ITEM FOR THE
GRAND RIDGE EMERGENCY FUND!

ATTENTION 8TH GRADERS!!

Please bring in a baby picture for the yearbook.
We need them by Friday, Dec. 16th.





Calendar of Events

- Mon. Dec. 12 3RD—5TH Holiday Program—6:30 p.m.
 Tues. Dec. 13 Band & Choir Holiday Program—6:30 p.m.
 School Board Meeting—7:00 p.m.
 Wed. Dec. 14 DISMISS AT 2:15 P.M.
 5th/6th BBB at home vs. Oglesby Washington—5:00 p.m.
 Thur. Dec. 15 SENIOR LUNCH
 6/7/8 BBB at home vs. Tonica—5:00 p.m.
 (2 canned goods for entry)
 Fri. Dec. 16 & 17 7th BBB Grand Ridge Holiday Classic
 5th BBB in St. Francis Tournament
 Sat. Dec. 17 5th BBB at St. Francis Tournament
 7th BBB Grand Ridge Holiday Classic



Special Birthdays

Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	Dec. 17
William Haynes	Noelle Wilinski		Alexis Stell Ashley Stell	Bryce Peacher Hannah Rambo	Emily Wright Sadie Lechel	



**SCHOOL DISMISSES AT 11:50 A.M.
 ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 2011
 FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION, RETURNING ON JAN. 3rd.**

REMINDER:
LUNCH TICKETS: \$17.50—K-2ND
\$19.00—3-8TH
BREAKFAST: \$10.00



Lunch & Breakfast Menus

	Monday Dec. 12	Tuesday Dec. 13	Wednesday Dec. 14	Thursday Dec. 15	Friday Dec. 16
Breakfast Menu	Oatmeal Cinnamon Toast Orange Juice Milk	Pancakes/Syrup Sausages Fruit Milk	Cereal Granola Bar Juice Milk	Ultra Bagel Hash Browns Juice Milk	Cereal Cheese Toast Juice Milk
Lunch Menu	Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup/Crax Peaches Yogurt Milk	Pizza Munchables Carrots/Dip Applesauce Rice Krispy Treat Milk	Bar-B-Q on Bun Corn Peaches M & M Cookie Milk	SENIOR LUNCH Pork Roast Scalloped Potatoes Apricots Christmas Cookie Roll, Milk	Hot Dog on Bun French Fries Applesauce Peanut Butter Bar Milk



WINTER WORD SEARCH



