



WILDCAT NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2011

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent conferences are scheduled for *October 25th and November 3rd*. These nights award us all with the opportunity to talk together about student learning and social-emotional growth. The goal of conferences are for both parties to learn new information about the child and his/her learning needs. Once the conference is over, it is time to talk to your child about his/her goals for the remainder of the year. Here are a few tips to use the information learned during the conference in a positive way:

- Talk it over...If your child did well or showed improvement and growth, praise her/him with an emphasis on the effort put forth. If some of the teacher's feedback wasn't so good, ask your child "What are some things you will do to improve?"
 - Set goals...Have your child take ownership by listing at least one academic goal and one social goal for the next trimester. After receiving the next report card, have your child reflect on those goals and their progress toward reaching them.
 - Develop a plan...How can your child reach these goals? Together, sit down and write an action plan for adjusting study habits or social behaviors including ways you, as the parent/guardian, can help.
- These tips were developed to promote responsibility in students while also giving them the feeling of support during the hard work toward achieving those goals. We want kids to learn early in their school careers that hard work pays off!

~Mrs. Kucharski, Principal

Early Release Day
Monday, October 3rd
12:20 pm Dismissal
No Lunch Served

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FIRE-STAY SAFE!

October is Fire Prevention Month in Wisconsin. The Richfield Fire Department will be facilitating a safety program for our Kindergarten through third grade students. The children will be learning valuable information that could save a life some day.

As parents, we know that often times children need to hear information over, and over, and over again before it sticks. For this reason, it is highly recommended to regularly discuss fire

prevention and safety at home. Does your child know...

- How to prevent fires?
- What to do if there is a fire?
- How to get out of the house?
- Where to meet up as a family once outside?

At school, we hold monthly fire drills. In the case of a real fire, the students and staff will quickly and efficiently know what to do and where to go.

Would your family members react in a similar manner? You may wish to consider holding a fire drill at your home!



OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WW = Walking Wildcats	BLT = Building Leadership Team					1
2	3 Early Release Day/Teacher Inservice—12:20 Dismissal	4 WW	5	6 WW Market Day Pick Up 5-6p	7	8
9	10 DI Tryouts 3:45 to 5:30p Library	11 BLT Mtg. 7:30a WW	12	13 WW PTA Mtg, 6:30p	14 Fire Prevention Presentation K-3	15
16	17 BOOK FAIR WEEK	18 WW	19	20 WW Fundraiser Pick Up 4-6p	21 PTA Carnival 6:30 to 8:00p	22
23 30	24 DI Parent Mtg 6:15p 31	25 Picture Retake Day Conferences 4:30 to 8:30p	26	27 No School	28 No School	29

EARLY RELEASE & LATE START DAYS

There are FOUR (4) Early Release Days and TWO (2) Late Start Days built into the 2011-2012 school calendar. On Early Release Days, students will be dismissed at 12:20 p.m. Students will **NOT** eat lunch at school prior to dismissal. Buses will transport students to their regular drop off points. The dates are:

- October 3rd**
- November 23rd**
- December 22nd**
- June 8th**

On Late Start Days, school will begin at 10:47 a.m. Buses will pick up students two hours later than their normal pick up time. Students will eat lunch at school. The dates are:

- November 28th**
- May 29th**

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

As our class Halloween/Fall Festival parties approach, we would like to remind you that we strongly discourage costumes that depict gory, bloody, scary, or violent characters. As you contemplate purchasing or making a costume, please be mindful that any costume involving swords, knives, guns, weapons, etc. as part of the costume will not be allowed in school.

Some wonderful suggestions is that your child dress up as a book character from a favorite book or take time to make a costume. We appreciate your help and cooperation during this time of the year. Each grade level will be sending home guidelines for activities as the day approaches.



TIME TO “PAWS” FOR WILDCAT PRAISE

This section in the newsletter is dedicated to spread all the wonderful thoughts of teachers, students, parents and Amy Belle community members.

From a parent to other parents and staff...

“The students at Amy Belle are so kind and welcoming. This year is going great!”

From a staff member about a staff member...

“Teacher X is sooo good! She jumped in to help solve a problem rather than complaining and adding to the problem.”

BLT UPDATE

The BLT (Building Leadership Team) met on September 13, 2011. Below is a brief description of the items that were discussed:

- Team Development-Discussed Draft of Operation Principals
- District Strategic Plan-Shared three page document of the district’s strategic plan for this year.
- Roundtable Structure-developed a year-long professional development plan based on time, district reading goal, and strategic plan.
- District Annual Budget Meeting-reminder of annual budget and school board meeting on September 26th at 7:00 p.m.
- Building Changes-discussed the implementation of the new lunch and recess schedule and gym conflict. Specialist schedule will be looked at. Also, Dr. Borden, Mr. Erickson, and Riteway Representatives have been here after school to see how we function our dismissal at the end of the day.

The purpose of the BLT is to develop strategies for addressing current educational systems or practices in order to produce an improved learning environment. You may contact your parent representatives: Mike Alburg at 414/331-8678 or malburg@dyensol.com or mlalburg@ameritech.net or Tom Becker at 414/640-6589 tom@beckertechnology.com.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 11th at 7:30 a.m.

TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Do SmartBoards Make a Difference? A highly respected educational research specialist, Dr. Robert Marzano, is in the midst of a multi-year study to determine the effectiveness of interactive boards as a tool to help improve student achievement. The first phase took place in the fall of 2008 and included 79 teachers from 50 schools from across the country. The results were astounding!

The study found that utilization of interactive boards lead to immediate and sustainable improvement in student achievement. Students taught in these classrooms achieved a 17 percentile points higher on average, than students taught by the same teacher, teaching the same content, using other more traditional methods.

Thanks to the PTA donation of four Smartboards in spring, and additional district support, all second through fifth grade classrooms are interactive board equipped. The next step is to complete interactive boards for all of our homeroom classrooms and then how to integrate them in our common learning spaces and with our specialists. If you would like to download a copy of the complete study to date go to www.PrometheanWorld.com/stimulus. Thanks for making this possible here at Amy Belle!
~Mrs. Kucharski, Principal

WKCE STATE TESTING REMINDER

The state-established testing window for all third through fifth graders is October 24th through November 21st. Parents at each applicable grade level will receive a letter specifying the exact dates for test administration in next week’s Wednesday Folder. Please have your child in attendance on those days. While some days are reserved for make-up tests, the time available is limited. Lack of participation in the state test can negatively impact our school’s test scores. More importantly, students will miss important learning opportunities when they are pulled out of class to complete make-up tests. Thank you for your support and understanding.

CONFIDENTIALITY IN SCHOOL

To protect the health and personal related confidentiality rights of our students, we ask that you not inquire about why a student is in the Health Room or the Office area. This may put the students in an uncomfortable position of feeling like they need to respond to an adult. We will share health and other concerns appropriately on a need to know basis. Thank you for your cooperation.

WHAT'S HAPPENING at the BELLE?

Guidance—Mrs. Wolff & Mrs. Nettlesheim

Each classroom is working hard this month learning about empathy and friendship skills. All of this will lead to learning how to solve problems and prevent bullying. 5th Grade is working hard on preparing to write their learner resumes – ask your 5th grade students about what they are doing in Guidance! Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding problems that might be affecting your student's learning. Mrs. Wolff is at Amy Belle on Tuesdays and Mrs. Nettlesheim is here on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Greetings from Mrs. Grosse (formerly Ms. Vissers):

The music room has been a busy place! We have lots of songs to learn, skills to practice, and instruments to play. Here are some of the things we have been working on: **Kindergarten** students have been becoming familiar with the music room procedures, participating in voice exploration activities, and learning about how music has a steady beat. Ask your kindergarten student to sing "Hello Everybody" or tell you about "Mr. Wiggle & Mr. Waggle." In **1st grade**, we have been reviewing and practicing the steady beat on our bodies and classroom instruments, working on using our best singing voices, and getting ready to learn about our first rhythms. Ask your 1st grade student to sing "Happy Heart" or "Dr. Knickerbocker." In **2nd grade**, we have also been practicing our steady beat with games and classroom instruments, using our very best singing voice on every song, and reviewing our rhythms from first grade. Ask your 2nd grade student to sing "Button You Must Wander." In **3rd grade**, we have been practicing using our best singing voices and reviewing our rhythms by playing classroom instruments. Ask your 3rd grade student to sing "Do Re Mi" or "I Bought Me A Cat." In **4th grade**, we have been preparing for playing the recorder by learning how to read the music notes written on the staff. Ask your 4th grade student to sing "Whacky Do Re Mi." In **5th grade**, we did a "Rockin' Rhythm Review" where students were challenged to play and maintain their instrument part in small groups. Ask your 5th grade student to perform the speech for "Rockin' Rhythm Review" or sing "Fuzzy Wuzzy." I will be available for parent conferences on October 25 from 4:30 to 8:30 in the music room. I can always be reached by phone (262-253-3470) or e-mail (jgrosse@germantown.k12.wi.us).

2011-2012 Concert Schedule:

Wed, Dec 14 – 2nd Grade Holiday Play & Concert at 2:30pm
Amy Belle Elementary Gym

Thurs, March 29 – 3rd Grade Concert as part of
"Germantown Schools Celebrate Singing" All-District Vocal Concert
7:00pm at Kennedy Middle School

Tues, April 3 – Kindergarten & 1st Grade Combined Concert at
6:15pm

4th Grade Concert at 7:30pm
Amy Belle Elementary Gym

Wed, June 6 – 5th Grade Farewell & Concert (time TBD)
Amy Belle Elementary Gym

Physical Education —Mr. Osieczanek & Mrs. Redies

We are currently finishing up our track unit for all grades. In the month of October we will be working on yoga, tumbling, and Pilates. We will also be working on fitness and jump rope. Remember your gym shoes on gym days!

Art—Mrs. Cheung

During the month of September the primary grades started the year by reviewing lines, shapes, and colors. **Kindergarten** created a portrait, a landscape, and a cityscape. Students were able to experience a variety of media including crayon, chalk, oil pastel, and paint. We will be creating a collage about the primary colors too. **First grade** has been reviewing their lines and shapes and talking about Wassily Kandinsky, a famous abstract artist. We painted to music as Kandinsky did, trying to create a visual interpretation of what we heard. **Second grade** created wild and crazy animals using line and shape patterns. Next, we will be making a collage about fall and discussing symmetry and texture. **Third grade** is completing the exciting robot sculpture project. Students were asked to pick a person or animal to design their robot after. **Fourth grade** is making a landscape using a variety of media, including metal. Students are making a car or a building using heavy gauge foil. **Fifth grade** is learning about artist Thomas Hart Benton and his Regionalist style landscapes. Students took their sketchbooks outside to make a drawing of our school community. We are now using those sketches to paint our landscapes. October is going to be a busy month in the Art room. Students are busy finishing up amazing projects before I go on maternity leave.

PTA SCHOOL STORE

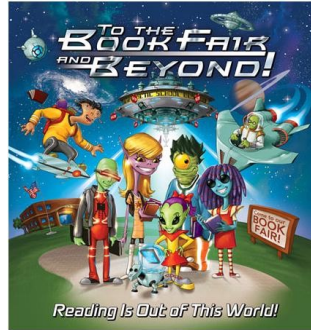
The Amy Belle PTA/5th Grade School Store will be open on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month during the lunch hours. Look for the sign on the School Store stating if it is a store week or closed week. A few of the items you can find for sale are: headphones (\$5), water bottle holders(\$1), pencils, eraser toppers, grips, mechanical pencils, mini staplers, plus a great variety of other items at excellent prices! Come check us out!

SPANISH ADVENTURE AT AMY BELLE

Please join us for an adventure in SPANISH right at AMY BELLE! Futura's interactive, dynamic teaching style will get students speaking "Real World" Spanish before you know it! Learn practical travel vocabulary and important conversation elements, which will be essential in this global nation. The classes are held on Thursdays from 3:45 – 4:45pm; \$210/16 weeks; Classes start 10/13 Register online: www.futuraadventures.com Call: 262-719-9332 with questions. Forms are also available in the school office.

READING IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

The Amy Belle Book Fair is landing in the library on October 18th - 20th from 9:30-3:00. We are having a special Family Night on Thursday, October 20th from 4-8. Make sure to stop in and check out all the new books. Hope to see you there.



If you have any questions, please contact Patti Claas at (262) 628-9207 or iam-mot@charter.net

~Patti Claas, Chairperson

DO U DI? - I DO DI!

Destination ImagiNation, Inc. is devoted to teaching three essential skills: Creativity, Teamwork, and Problem Solving. Destination ImagiNation promotes these skills through its global problem solving program and tournaments for students of all ages. Interested in joining the proud tradition by trying out for an Amy Belle School Destination ImagiNation team? Applications and information regarding tryouts are in the office. Applications are due October 7th and Tryouts will be Monday, October 10th from 3:45 to 5:30 in the Library. If you'd like more information about Destination ImagiNation or to view information about the upcoming year, go to www.idodi.org or contact Mrs. Timmerman with questions at 262/628-3690 or datimmermans@wi.rr.com.



SAFETY PATROL

Many of you have noticed our 5th Grade Safety Patrol helping out with morning drop off. The 5th Grade Safety Patrol is responsible for helping schoolmates safely out of their vehicles during morning drop-off, guiding them to the playground, and also helping with morning bus duty. They are supervised at all times by an adult.

Safety Patrol is a program that was started by AAA in the early 1920's and has been utilized by schools in at least 30 countries. For more than 80 years, AAA has proudly sponsored, promoted, and aided AAA School Safety Patrol programs. AAA has guidelines that every registered Safety Patrol Group must follow. It is a very rewarding experience knowing you are making your school a safe place.

With safety in mind, the next time you drop your child off in the morning, PLEASE:

- Pull forward cautiously to one of the designated drop-off points.
- DO NOT get out of your vehicle! If you feel the need to exit your vehicle, please PARK your vehicle in one of the designated parking spot in the front of the building.
- Have your child ready to exit. Follow the flow of traffic cautiously. Always watching out for our Wildcats!



PTA INFORMATION

Given the funding cuts to Amy Belle's budget on a state and federal level, our primary PTA goal is to make sure our classrooms and teachers have everything they need for the best possible learning environment for our children. Our second PTA goal is to add the 4 remaining Smart Boards to our 1st and Kindergarten classrooms. Please join the PTA and help make these goals a reality!

PTA still needs people to head up the following events:

- Santa Secret Shop (Saturday, December 3rd)
- Parent Night Out (Friday, December 16th)
- Spring Fling (Friday, May 11th)

(If we can't find people to take charge of these events, we may have to cancel them.)

Hope to see you all at our next PTA Meeting on Thursday, Oct 13th at 6:30 in the AB Library. ~Janice Slawny—jslawny@charter.net



AMY BELLE SCHOOL

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://
WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG)



BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

The Amy Belle Riteway bus drivers were welcomed back with an on-the-go continental breakfast. Home-made muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt, and juice was delivered with a warm smile and a big "thank you" in the morning of September 9th to all of our drivers. Yvonne Nelson and Amy Lerch were available to lend a helping hand and I appreciate all of the help in putting this together; this could not be done without either of you!

If you are interested in joining our Bus Driver Breakfast Brigade for the Amy Belle PTA, send me a note and I will add you to the list. The next breakfast will be held on December 20th after the drivers bring the kids to school in the morning. A sit down breakfast is served to our drivers with many volunteer made and/or store bought items served.

The Amy Belle bus drivers are the best, so help show our Wildcat appreciation!

De Anna Ayer—Amy Belle PTA-Bus Driver Breakfast ayerforce3@aol.com
or at (262)628-9173.

SAY CHEESE! PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Say Cheese!! Amy Belle Student and Faculty Picture Re-take Day is coming soon. VIP will be onsite at Amy Belle School on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 from 9 am - 12 pm to take pictures. This is your last opportunity to have your 2011-2012 picture taken!

All students and faculty who have either not had their picture taken yet or who wish to have their picture retaken are offered this opportunity. So put on your best clothes, brush your teeth, comb your hair and smile pretty for your 2011-2012 picture!

If you are having your picture retaken, bring in your packet (which will be sent home shortly) or if you are new and need an order form, they are available in the office. Please contact Megan Ryczek at mryczek@wi.rr.com.

PTA CORNER

Our next PTA meeting of the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Thursday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Please remember that childcare is provided for your children.

PTA meetings are a great way to get involved in your child's education and a way to meet new people. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a board member listed below.

2011-2012 Executive Board

President—Laurette Alburg 262/251-7094 or mlalburg@ameritech.net
1st Vice President—Janice Slawny 262/628-9128 or jslawny@charter.net
2nd Vice President—Patti Claas 262/628-9207 or iammot@charter.net
Secretary—Lori Herden 262/253-3470 or lherden@germantown.k12.wi.us
Treasurer—De Anna Ayer 262/628-9173 or ayerforce3@aol.com

PTA Meeting
Thursday, October 13th
6:30 p.m. ~ Library
Child Care Available