

November 4, 2010

Dear Parents,

Can you believe that we have finished the first ten weeks of the school year? You have already had the opportunity to conference with your child's teacher regarding the appropriate grade level curriculum and setting goals for the achievement of that curriculum. Be sure to watch your child's Thursday envelope for more news about what is happening at school and in your child's classroom.

As our days begin to get cooler, it is important for me to remind you that students should not be arriving at school too early. Supervision begins at 8:05 AM on the playground. Teachers are in their rooms preparing for the day and are not able to supervise students before that time. And, the bell to come into the building rings at 8:25 AM. At that time, all students come into the building and may participate in the free Breakfast in the Classroom program. This is an important safety concern for us and we hope that you will be able to assist us in this request.

Each Wednesday, we have an early dismissal so that teachers may meet in groups to work on practices which will increase our students' achievement. We are addressing the areas of reading, math and Character Counts! in our work on Wednesdays. Please remember that school is dismissed at 2:20 PM on those days. Students need to be picked up at that time. Remember that teachers are in meetings on those days and are not available for supervision. Your help in picking up your child(ren) at the designated time is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who visited our book fair during conference time. Because of the amount of books purchased by our families, Anson Elementary received nearly \$500 worth of free books for our media center. That means that there are now more than 30 new books on the shelves for our students to read! Thank you for your support of the fall book fair.

American Education Week will be celebrated November 15-19 at Anson Elementary. The theme for the week is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility." A variety of activities will take place during the week in various classrooms and between grade levels. Be sure to ask your child how his/her class is celebrating this very special week.

You will find information and a reservation form for our reading night, Bingo for Books, in this folder. It is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th. Reservations are due Friday, November 12th. We hope to see you and your family at our pizza supper and Bingo for Books night.

It's November in Iowa which means that our winter season is just around the corner. Please remember that school delays will be announced on local radio stations and Des Moines television station WHO, channel 13. Tune into local stations KDAO, 1190 AM or 99.5 FM; KFJB, 1230 AM and KXIA, 101.1 FM to get this information, too. Reports will be aired on these stations by 6:30 AM. Without this media notification, you may

assume that we are having school. Bundle your child up in the appropriate winter clothing and help them get to school. Attendance is so important each day for every child.

Thank you for all of the efforts that you have made to get your child(ren) to school each day and on time. If you remember from my September newsletter, attendance at our school is tracked by the State of Iowa as part of the No Child Left Behind federal legislation. It is also important that your child be a part of the learning environment each day. I had told staff and students that I would treat everyone in the building on any day that our building attendance was at least 99%. I am so pleased to tell you that this has already happened 3 times this school year! And, we were able to give out 157 certificates and awards for perfect attendance during the month of September. We hope that our numbers continue to grow each month!

Reminders for a few issues that have occurred recently are as follows:

Remember the policy that does not allow students to wear clothing that reveals their underwear. Please make sure that your child's pants do not hang so low that the child's underwear shows. Having a child stand up in class and walk to the front of the room with his underwear showing is very distracting to the class.

Remember, too, that many of our students have allergies. Having your child wear heavy cologne to school can cause a child sitting nearby to have an allergic reaction or to have difficulty breathing. Please keep this in mind when your child gets ready for school each day.

Also stated in our handbook, remember that students should not bring invitations to school to pass out unless it includes an invitation for every child in the class. Doing otherwise causes hurt feelings among students who are not included.

Please remember that school will dismiss at the regular time on Tuesday, November 23rd for the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. School will resume at its regular time on Monday, November 29th.

Miss Niblock