

February 5, 2010

COWERN Paw Prints

A Word from the Principal

Sonya Czerepak



Dear Cowern Families & Friends,

Spring seems far off, but do you realize that in less than three months, we will once again be celebrating our Cowern Carnival!

It's time to gear up! Please mark your calendars for Friday, April 30th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Our PTG is once again rolling up their sleeves to volunteer and hoping that you will, too. Please join us at HomeTown Creamery on Tuesday evening, February 16th anytime between 5:30 and 7:30 to help us kick-off our carnival.

Last year's carnival was a huge success. As you know, our carnival raised enough money to purchase SMART Boards for the remaining classrooms. An event like the carnival does not just happen though. It takes *over one*

hundred volunteers to run a successful school carnival.

That's why we need your help! The Carnival Committee chairs are gearing up and planning the details, but are in need of volunteers to help carry out the various jobs. The volunteering ranges from set-up, to running the games, to clean-up, to working in the food court, working in the prize room, selling tickets, and the list goes on. Volunteering can take on many forms.

Amy Coborn will again chair our carnival this year. If you cannot stop by HomeTown Creamery on February 16th, but would like to volunteer in some capacity, please contact Amy at 651-779-8833 or e-mail her at coborn4@comcast.net

We hope to see you at HomeTown Creamery on February 16th to kick-off our Cowern Carnival! With your support, it will once again be a great event.

Warmest regards,
Sonya Czerepak

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Upcoming Events

February

- 8 PTG meeting 6:30pm
- 15 NO SCHOOL—President's Day
- 16 Home Town Creamery
- 18 5th Grade to Afton Alps
- 19 Valentine's Day Sock Hop
- 23 Kindergarten Round-up

March

- 8 PTG. Meeting 6:30pm

Future events can be found on the Cowern website listed below.

SOCK HOP—FEBRUARY 19th

Our Valentine's Day Sock Hop will be held *after* Valentine's Day this year on February 19th. Due to scheduling conflicts, we have had to move the sock hop to the Friday after Valentine's Day this year. Everyone is encouraged to dress up in 50's style! We'll be a rockin' & a rollin'!

ELEMENTARY ENRICHMENT

There is still time to register for Colorful chemistry (class #yecw215).

In this very colorful class, You'll learn to mix and unmix colors. You'll even invent some new colors! Come have fun with us.

Date: February 16

Time: 3:25-4:25

Cost: \$8 for 1 session

If you need a new registration form, please call **Lisa Harrington** at **748-6898** or stop by Adventure Connection. Please leave a message with your child's name, and the name of your child's teacher. Another flyer will be sent home to you.

Contact Information

Adventure Connection	651-748-6898
Attendance	651-748-6824
Office	651-748-6800
School Nurse	651-748-6815

You can also visit <http://communityeducation.isd622.org/enrichment> to download the flyers and email your registration form to mdecker@isd622.org! You can also call your registration information direct at 651.748.7445 or our 24-Hour Youth Registration Line at 651.748.7430.

Tidbits from the PTG

BoxTops/Labels/MilkCap Contest – ran this week and was organized by the Student Council. The winning grade, to be announced next week, will get a sledding & hot chocolate party!!! Thank You Student Council for taking on such a huge, profits-for-Cowern, project! Our Student Council Rocks!

FUTURE EVENTS

Next PTG Meeting: This coming Monday, Feb 8th, 6:30 p.m., Cowern Media Center
Hometown Creamery Night / Cowern Carnival Kick-Off: Tuesday, February 16th
Domino's Dough Raising: Monday, February 22nd – leave the cookin' to Domino's!
North Skate Night: Thursday, March 4th, 6-8 p.m.
Cowern Carnival is Coming!!! Friday, April 30th, 5-8 p.m.

Student Council News

School Store

New school supplies are on the way
Store open Tue/Thurs 8:30-8:45
Come visit us by the gym

Working on a project to help the people in Haiti...more to come.



Volunteer Opportunities/News

HELP!

We are in need of a volunteer to work with students in Ms. Lynch's class on a weekly basis during 2:20-3:00pm.

If you can help during this time please contact Cari P.

Cari Pieczykolan, Volunteer Coordinator
cpieczykolan@isd622.org or 748-6850

WANTED

If you happen to have any board games that you no longer use & would like to part with, we would love to have them. When the temperatures dip below -10, students stay inside for recess. A good board game is always a fun "inside recess" activity. Thank you so much.

Literacy Link

February is I LOVE TO READ MONTH

Each week we'll be giving you some ideas to try out at home. Our goal is to build avid, thoughtful readers by providing children with lots of time to listen to books, read independently and talk about books.

We are encouraging all parents to spend some extra time this month reading aloud to their children. "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. It is necessary for adults to read aloud to children not just when children can't yet read on their own, but throughout all the grades."

**** Idea #1****

This weekend cuddle up with your child and a good book.

READING IS THINKING... One way to deepen understanding is to talk about books and grow ideas. As you read aloud, stop and have conversations about the book. Encourage your child to talk about his/her thinking.

Some examples of questions to get your child thinking are:

- * Why do you think the character did what he/she did?
- * How is the character feeling? What makes you think that?
- * What would you do?
- * What does this remind you of?
- * Would you or would you not want to be friends with this character?

Talking about books is a way to bring books to life and help us understand what we read.

Celebrate Reading- Add these dates to your calendar

Thursday, February 11th	"Sock it to Reading"- wear crazy socks
Thursday, February 18 th	"Slip into a Good Book"-wear slippers to school
Thursday, February 25 th	"Reading is No Sweat"-wear comfy sweats to school
Thursday, March 4th	"Hats off to Reading"-wear hats to school



Thank you to all of the 2nd and 3rd music students and 5th grade band students.
You all did a fantastic job performing this week!

Mrs. Bernstrom
Music, band and choir director
lbernstrom@isd622.org
748-6860

"May peace weave us together as a family. May music make our hearts sing forever!"



Dear families/friends of ISD622. . . .

We need your help. We are looking for students with immediate family members that will be serving active duty in Iraq and/or Afghanistan this coming February. The Castle Elementary Carnival would like to honor these families sacrifice. In recognition of students with immediate family member serving in Iraq and/or Afghanistan this coming February we are planning on offering an "Active Duty VIP" pass for unlimited games/activities to the students.

What is an active duty "immediate family member":

An immediate family member is a: mother, father, stepmother or father, parent through adoption, foster parents who stand or stood loco parentis, children, stepchildren, children through adoption, brothers, sisters and half brothers or sisters. *(Immediate family member as defined by the Department of Defense)*

If you have a child that could qualify as a "Active Duty VIP" and would like to come to the Castle Carnival please contact your school secretary to let them know of your interest. They will in turn forward your contact information to Castle Elementary and on to the Carnival Committee. We will be in touch to make arrangements.

Details on the Castle Carnival

The carnival is held on February 20, 2010 11:00am to 3:00pm

The carnival is oriented toward children ages 4 - 11 years of age.

The "Active Duty VIP" pass is good for games and activities but not food.

To get on the list for the Active Duty VIP pass. Please contact Lori Murphy at 651-748-6800