

# Window on Woodcrest

November 6, 2008

## Mrs. Kahoun's Corner

Woodcrest Elementary  
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One of the teaching practices we use at Woodcrest is strategy instruction. We understand the importance of not only telling children the "what" of their learning, but the "how" and "why" as well. This is critical so the students are able to use their learning independently and flexibly as they work on their own. We model for our students and think aloud the steps we take and why we take them. We allow for guided practice as children first implement strategies. As children practice and become more independent they have opportunities to use strategies on their own as we gradually release the support we give them. For example, following are steps we take when teaching the strategy of summarizing:

1. Explicitly state to the children why we are learning to summarize..."We are learning to summarize because that is what good readers do to help them understand the story."
2. Tell how using the strategy of summarizing helps us to become better at what we are trying to do..."Summarizing help us become better readers because we can identify what is happening at the beginning, middle and end of the story, along with the author's message."
3. Tell how and when we will use the strategy of summarizing in the future...It is important when reading on your own to be thinking about what is happening in the beginning, middle and end of the story, along with thinking about the author's message to help you understand and make meaning of what you are reading.

All of our Woodcrest children practice the strategy of summarizing. As you read with your children at home, please use the steps described above to help them practice this strategy. Think out loud and offer your children problem-solving support as they make meaning of the stories they read!

### Coming Up

- 7 NO SCHOOL
- 10 PTA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.  
Media Center
- 13 Picture Retakes  
All School Meeting - 3:00 p.m.
- 22 Fundraiser Product Pick-up -  
3:45-7:00 p.m.  
PTA Fall Party - 5:00 7:00 p.m.
- 25 End of Trimester
- 26-28 NO SCHOOL
- 27 Thanksgiving

## All School Meeting

Woodcrest will have its second all school meeting this year on Thursday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m. Parents are invited to attend. The focus of this all school meeting will be the "I" in our "I CARE" theme. The "I" stands for Integrity (being honest). Students are encouraged to wear their blue I CARE shirts that they received at the beginning of the year. If they are new to the school, they will receive a shirt

that day. This also happens to be picture retake day so students who are new to the school, who were absent on picture day, or who need retakes should wear their clothes for their pictures on that day, but may bring their blue t-shirt with and change into that for the all school meeting. Students will all be receiving a red silicone "I CARE" wristband that day.



**NO SCHOOL TOMORROW - November 7, 2008**

## Greetings from the Gym!



We are busy in Phy. Ed. Class. This month we participated in our jump rope unit and cooperative games unit. As usual, we are working on increasing our fitness levels, cooperating with others, and being a good sport. Questions you can ask your child:

What are the names of two jump rope skills?

What is one P.E. skill jumping rope improves?

Why did we learn about jump ropes in P.E. class?

Did you know research suggest that exercise may help brain cells regenerate in adults? At Woodcrest we are learning how to lead healthy lives!

There are volunteer opportunities available in the Physical Education Department. If you are interested, please contact me at school!

Please remind your students to bring their P.E. shoes to the gym for their own safety. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's fitness or skill level, don't hesitate to stop by and see me in the gym. I hope you have a great month!

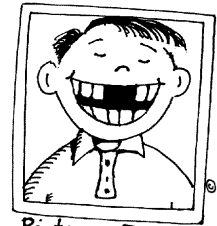
Stay Fit!

Mr. Vogel  
Physical Education



## Picture Retakes

Picture retakes have been scheduled for Thursday, November 13. If your child is new to the school or was absent on our picture day in September they will have their pictures taken on that day. You will receive an envelope to order a picture package if you wish. The order, along with the payment must be turned in at the time the student has their picture taken in order to receive a



Picture Day!

package. If your child needs to have their picture retaken, you must send the complete package to be returned at the time pictures are taken. Be sure they tell their teacher that they need to go for retakes on that day.

## Kindergarten Plus Open House

Welcome, to Mrs. Barbara Rudek, our new Kindergarten Plus teacher. Mrs. Rudek is holding an Open House for all of the parents of her Kindergarten Plus students. You are invited to come and visit the classroom anytime between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14. Mrs. Rudek is

anxious to meet her student's parents and the students are anxious to introduce you to her. Please join us next Friday in welcoming her to Woodcrest!



## PTA News

Please join us for our next meeting on Monday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodcrest Media Center. We welcome your input as we plan for upcoming PTA events and activities. Some of our Special Education staff will also be on hand to share some insight into their role here at Woodcrest.

We had a very successful fundraiser this year, but it's not over yet! We need lots of help with sorting all of the product and getting it ready for distribution as well as people to help with the distribution process when parents come to pick-up the products. We will begin the sorting process at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20. Product distribution will take place from 3:45 to 7:00 p.m. which means that parents should plan to pick up the product either after school on the 20<sup>th</sup> or during the Fall Party which will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. that evening. If you are not available to pick up product that day, please make arrangements to have someone pick it up for you as we do not have adequate space to store it.

Volunteers are needed for the Fall Party as well! Watch for more information to come on that! Please call Laura Lilja at (763)572-2475 or sign up on the PTA bulletin board in the front lobby to volunteer for any of these opportunities.