

# Window on Woodcrest

October 30, 2008

## Mrs. Kahoun's Corner

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As we support our students in "learning to read" at Woodcrest Elementary, we are also setting the tone for our students to "read to learn". That element of reading is comprehension; understanding what is being read. Comprehension is the reason for reading. If a child doesn't understand what is being read, they are not really reading. Good readers have a purpose for reading and read to satisfy a need. Good readers are also active readers. They try to make sense of what they read and monitor their understanding while they are reading.

Parents frequently ask what they can do at home to better support their child in learning to read and reading to learn. Here are just a couple suggestions as it relates to comprehension and reading to learn:

### Coming Up

#### October

31 Woodcrest Fall Classroom Parties

#### November

2 Daylight Savings Time Ends  
4 Election Day Picnic Lunch in the Gym  
10 PTA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Media Center  
13 Picture Retakes

📖 Encourage your child to share what they are reading. Ask for important details and facts related to the reading. Make sure that your child can tell you the main idea of the text. Praise your child for discussing text with you!

📖 Read a book, or a chapter of a book together and question each other about the text. If a question is asked, and an answer can't be given, make sure to reread text and find the answer.

## Woodcrest Election Day Picnic

Woodcrest students - wear your red, white, and blue picnic clothes on Tuesday, November 4. Woodcrest Elementary is a designated polling place for the General Election that day. Voting will take place in the cafeteria so we will not have access to the cafeteria during the day for students. The students at Woodcrest will have an indoor picnic in our gym that day. We

are encouraging students to dress in picnic attire (we will be having indoor recess) and bring a towel along with a bag lunch on that day. We will all enjoy a picnic lunch without having to worry about rain, bugs, or ants! If you are not able to provide a bag lunch for your child, they can purchase one from the school kitchen for the regular student lunch price of \$2.25.



## Turn Your Clocks Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 1. Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2.



# Words from the Media Center



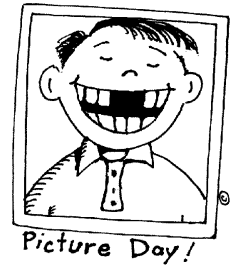
I'm so glad to have been able to introduce the Lovelace Book Award program to third graders recently. This program encourages wider reading for Minnesota kids in grades 3-5 by nominating twelve books and encouraging kids vote for their favorite in the spring. Last year 65 third graders at Woodcrest read enough books (3) to qualify to vote, and we celebrated the announcement of the winner with doughnuts in the library in April. We'll celebrate again this year, I'm sure!

Second and third graders are discovering how a library is organized and how to use library signs and labels to help them find their way around. First graders are enjoying a selection of stories about Anansi - the "spiderman" of African folk tales. Kindergarteners will be enjoying some Piggie Pie!



## 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 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.

## Fall Parties

Our classes hold three classroom parties throughout the school year. We do ask for a \$5.00 donation from each student to cover the cost of all three parties. If your child has not turned in their party money please send \$5.00 cash (no checks) to your child's classroom teacher. Our Fall Classroom Parties will take place on Friday, October 31 this year. Our parties will have a Fall theme rather than focus on the Halloween holiday. No costumes are allowed.



## Dress for the Weather

The temperatures are starting to get cooler. Please remember that students do go outside for recess everyday that it is not raining and the temperature is above -10° F.

They should come with a jacket as well as gloves and hats if needed. Students may not stay in from recess unless they have a doctor's note.



## PTA News

Our PTA needs you! We are in need of more Wednesday Morning Volunteers. We'd love to have you join us any Wednesday morning that you can from about 9:30-12:00. We work on a variety of projects that help out the classroom teachers while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea, and conversation. Your younger children are always welcome to come with. They enjoy the social time too!