

WILDCAT PRIDE

September NEWSLETTER



Dear Families.

I hope you feel our first full month of school has gone well. It is hard to believe September is already over. The school year is going pretty well for us here and our daily schedules and routines are up and running.

Throughout the year in my newsletters, I always like to share positive information. In the past I have highlighted, our elementary staff and how well they teach and care for our kids, how we focus on PRIDE and personal accountability, the efforts of our support staff, the growth of our school, updated curriculums, our elementary staff retention and building and remodeling projects. This month, I'd like to share information about our reading programs and reading improvement our students are showing.

Three times a year, our K-5 students take the AIMSWeb assessments. These tests measure student growth in reading. Each grade level's tests are different, but overall, they test a student's reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The different battery of tests produces an overall score and lets us know of each student's general reading level and if they are at the grade level benchmark or struggling in a specific area.

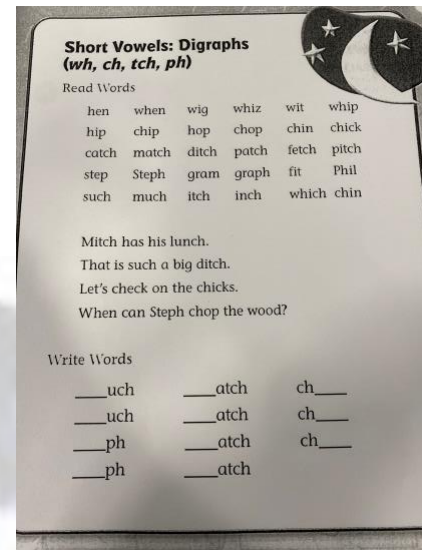
Three years ago on our fall assessments, we had 73 students not meeting fall benchmark scores representing about 26% of students. Overall, that is not too bad and often in education there is typically 20% of students in every population not meeting grade level expectations. We however made it a goal to improve this number.

Over the last couple years, we implemented some supplemental early intervention materials into our daily reading groups in grades K-2. They are called Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and Really Great Reading. We also reorganized some staff to create smaller group instruction and how reading groups are taught. K-2 staff has also taken part in some LETRS training (the science of reading). In doing this, we have made some great progress in these student groups.

We saw improvement from one year of increased imbedded supports last fall and have even more improvement to show for this year. Following the same students through their last three grade levels, we have greatly reduced the number of students scoring below grade level. This fall, we had just 30 total students below representing about 10% of students. I feel this is proof of our efforts and great to see. Additionally, we had 26 more students not only meet the benchmark, but scored above the meeting range.

We will continue the above-mentioned methods and will add one more step. The next step to further our progress is to provide students with even more individualized instruction. We have performed additional screeners to our primary grade students beyond AIMSWeb to help us narrow down each student's specific area of need. Targeted and individualized interventions will take place twice per week where students will have an opportunity to focus on their specific need. As each student progresses, they will move through each new skill level. By adding this last step, our hope is that nearly all students will make even bigger strides in their reading skills.

On the next page there are two pictures. The first one is of the specific skill binders full of mini lessons and specific practice activities. As students master each skill, they will move on to the next binder. The second picture is of an example practice page from a skills binder working on short vowel digraphs of beginning and ending sounds. Having all our students receiving the same research and evidence-based content two times a week will should help all our students to continue their reading improvement.



I hope you feel as good as I do about your child's reading progress. We will continue to make it a focus and do our best to help each student meet their potential. We will be getting a new reading curriculum for next year and are in the process of evaluating new materials for purchase with the help of our ESU2 ELA representatives. There will be some piloting of new materials this winter in Miss Jones, Mrs. Walling's and Ms. Fredrickson's classrooms. If your child is in one of the classrooms and you have questions of what this all means for them, feel free to contact me to discuss.

September **PRIDE** Award Winners Were: **Preschool:** Leo Robinson, William Heisterkamp **Kindergarten:** Wylie Stenger, Ian Reade **First Grade:** Oliver Wolfe, Paisley Juggler **Second Grade:** Arya Litle, Brayden Kerwin **Third Grade:** Gemma Fraass, Bentley Routh **Fourth Grade:** Gracelyn Hanson, Luna Schutt **Fifth Grade:** Emma Switzer, Kenzie Snyder

These students were nominated by a teacher in the building for exhibiting **Positivity** throughout the month of September. Congratulations to these students for being leaders in our building and exemplifying what it means to be a Cedar Bluffs WILDCAT.

Other Information

*ALL LOST AND FOUND items currently in our lost and found will be donated by Friday, October 7th. If you think your child is missing something please have them stop by the elementary office to look.

*We will **NOT** dress in costumes in school for Halloween. All students K-6 are however invited to dress up for the **FBLA TRUNK OR TREAT**. This will be held on **SUNDAY Oct. 23 from 4-5 pm in the fire hall**. *If you would like to participate as a trunk there is an advertisement/link on our Facebook page, or you can contact Kate Chrisman at the school, or type in the below link to register for a spot.*

<https://forms.gle/4ZyAb3Z7i7w15thU6>

***PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES are October 26-27 from 4-7 p.m.** The conference schedule and times have been sent home with students. Please make arrangements to attend. Last year we averaged 97% attendance and would like to see it at 100% for K-5th grade. **First Quarter Report Cards will be given out by teachers at conferences.** If you missed the schedule sent home, call Mrs. Routh in the elementary office and check, or contact your teacher.

Other Information

- *No school Sept 30, Oct 14, Oct 28, Nov 23, 24, 25
 - *Download our School App found in your app store. Just type in Cedar Bluffs Public Schools
 - *There are number of field trips this year. Please be on the lookout for permission slips.
 - *Safety Drill Day Oct 4 (Fire, Tornado, Lockdown, Shelter in Place)
 - *Kids First After School Program and Youth Sports Director is **Jeff Beckman**. Contact him at school with anything regarding those two programs or email him at jeff.beckman@cbwildcats.org
 - *Transportation director is **Tom Brinkman**. Contact him at school for all transportation related issues or email him at thomas.brinkman@cbwildcats.org
 - *I am always willing to try and assist in after school program or bus matters, but please know Mr. Beckman and Mr. Brinkman are the individuals in charge of and responsible for those two areas. Any problems or concerns should first go to them for ASP and Bussing.
- *3-5th Grade Detentions have been taking place since Sept. 8. We have had a couple students receive a detention. Remember, if your child gets one, they are served from 3:25-4:00 after school on Thursday's. You will be notified ahead of time for transportation arrangements to be made. If in detention, students are not permitted to ride the bus, attend the After School Program, or participate in any practices that night and your child will need to be picked up by an adult at 4:00 from the elementary front door. If you've missed the outlined and detailed information sent home, and would like more information, please contact me in the elementary office.
- ****LASTLY**, if you have not joined your classroom teacher on the REMIND app, please do. Ask them for help if you still need to do it and need help. This is how most teachers send out mass communications to classroom parents.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY PRINTED NEWSLETTER FOR THE YEAR. ALL OTHER MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR FB PAGE, ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AND LIVE FEED TOWARDS THE END OF EACH MONTH

GO WILDCATS!