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## Every School Every Thursday -- Ankeny

May 22, 2008

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### Ankeny schools

Crocker

There will be no school May 26 due to Memorial Day.

Our last day for students will be May 28. We will be dismissing at 12:50 p.m. The last teacher day will be May 29.

Report cards will be sent home with your child on May 28.

Fourth- and fifth-grade AELP students participated in a Creativity Carnival on May 6. They received directions, materials, and a time limit in which to stretch their creative and critical thinking skills in order to create a tall tower of power and an interesting story to explain it. Al Nepl, the assistant principal, judged the activity.

First-graders have learned how to play a game called Race for \$1. The goal is to be the first player to get to \$1. Students roll the die to determine how much money to take. Then they count the coins and record their total amount. Students trade for a nickel when they get five pennies, trade for a dime when they get two nickels, and trade for a quarter when they get two dimes and a nickel. This continues until one player reaches \$1 and wins.

Second-graders have finished their math study of subtraction with regrouping and will go to place value through the hundreds place next. They put their brains to work when addition and subtraction problems were mixed, some requiring regrouping.

The Ankeny Fire Department brought the fire safety house to third grade on May 12. The students were allowed to practice safely



THANKS TO ANDERSON KRUSE FOR THIS PHOTO

One new member was elected and another member was re-elected to the Ankeny Christian Academy board of education May 13. Chad Kloppe of Ankeny was elected to his first three-year term on the board and Doug Reed of Des Moines was re-elected. Going off the board was Mike Sheeks of Bondurant. Board members who continue their terms are Beth Heggen, Bondurant; Steve Mickelson, Kelley; Bob Deo, Maxwell; and Kendall Kruger and Josh Craighead, Ankeny.

escaping from a smoke-filled environment. The children were taught how to pre-plan an escape with a backup plan. They learned how to crawl under smoke to safely escape and they were told to have a designated meeting spot and then practiced how to call 911. Prior to the visit the students watched a video to prepare for the visit. It also reinforced the information that the students discussed on the visit.

Fourth-graders have spent the last month researching famous people. They celebrated what they learned by becoming that person. Crocker parents and students attended the fourth-grade wax museum May 7. After their hard work of researching the Internet, encyclopedia, and various biographies, their presentations were a success.

Nurturing a Student's Vision is an exhibit that is shown during the Des Moines Arts Festival at the end of June. Each area school can submit up to four pieces of art work. This year the two fourth-graders are Kyle Schltz and Hannah McCann; the two fifth-graders are Kylie Behrens and Tess Collins. These students will be honored at a reception and give a free membership to the Des Moines Art Center.

We would like to extend our best wishes to the 81 fifth-grade students as they embark on a new phase of their life - Parkview Middle School. We will miss them and want them to know they are always welcome and encouraged to come back to visit. We also extend a farewell to those students leaving Crocker to attend another Ankeny school or moving to another school district.

East

Nothing submitted

Northeast

All Northeast fifth-graders went to Adventureland on May 19.

All Northeast students participated in an autograph signing party with their yearbooks on May 20.

The fourth-grade students traveled to Hy-Vee Hall and participated in the "Exercise Your Character" event on May 1. The theme of the program was promoting good character and living a healthy lifestyle. The kids heard several Olympic athletes speak, including local gymnast Shawn Johnson.

Students participated in a district-wide fifth-grade track and field day at Northview Middle School on May 13. Students had the opportunity to choose from several individual running events and relays as well as many types of field events.

The I-Cubs mascot Cubbie Bear visited Northeast students during lunch on May 9. Many couldn't resist hugging the big bear and having their pictures taken with him. Cubbie visited the day before Northeast families attended the I-Cubs baseball game as a family outing.

Camden Cox from Northeast Elementary School was excited to show off the deep-sea diver he made in Kevin McColley's art class. Camden's scuba diver is holding a sign saying, "I'm scuba diver Camden swimming so free. What kind of sea creatures do you see? I see a shark swimming towards me!" This project was completed by all second-graders. The assignment was designed to reinforce rhyming sentences, drawing a self-portrait, and having some fun with crayons and watercolors.

The band Legal Limit rocked Northeast Elementary during an assembly May 9. The band is comprised of Des Moines police officers that entertain and also deliver a "just say no to drugs" message to kids. The band has played in many schools over the last 15 years. Northeast students and staff had a wonderful time singing and dancing along with the band.

Northwest

The fourth-grade students took a field trip to Living History Farms on April 23. The students were able to compare life from the loway Indian Farm, the 1850s farm and the 1900s farm. They toured the town of Walnut Hill, visiting the different shops and learning about what jobs were performed.

Southeast

Southeast Elementary School fourth-graders got a chance to see what life was like in the 1800s. They visited Living History Farms for the day. The students experienced life in a small town and a farm back then. They saw the general store, blacksmith shop and even got to ride in a horse-drawn carriage. Most of the kids said the carriage ride was their favorite part of the trip.

Southeast Elementary School fifth-grade AELP (Ankeny Extended Learning Program) students made their own solar cars during their energy conservation unit. The kids had to use critical thinking and problem solving to come up with the design, construction and performance of their solar electric cars. Students learned about aerodynamics, chases, suspension, and considered drag with performance of their own vehicle. The students had friendly competition between rain showers.



THANKS TO ANDERSON KRUSE FOR THIS PHOTO

From left: Miranda Schatz of Ankeny, Juanita Hernandez of Des Moines, Ankeny Christian Academy art teacher Angela Foster of Des Moines, Charity Appell of Ankeny, and Lizzie Deo and Matt Deo, both of Maxwell, sit in front of the Ankeny Christian Academy student artwork displayed in the school's lobby from May 2 to 15.

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### Terrace

Kiley Rasmussen's sister, Kenna, spoke to her classroom about Korea. Kenna teaches English in South Korea. She taught the kids some movements from hapkido, in which she has a black belt.

### Westwood

Westwood held a "Go The Distance Day" event May 5.

As a school we started off working around the school with our Character Counts family groups to show how important it is to be a good citizen. We did spring cleaning inside and outside our building. We also participated in a schoolwide "Go The Distance Day" 1-mile brisk walk with our family groups. We walked through our Westwood neighborhood and returned to the school for a healthy snack and a bottle of water provided by Dewey Ford. We also had the honor of a special guest at our event, Jessica Tekippe. She is the Iowa Dairy Princess. Jessica visited with the kids about the importance of nutrition and dairy products.

Thank you to Gail Peckum from Des Moines Water Works. The children learned about the water cycle by meeting Dewey the Raindrop. They learned new words like: evaporation, wastewater treatment plant, storm sewer, and faucet. This was a marvelous puppet show with the student participation to retell the story using pictures.

First-graders at Westwood Elementary School celebrated Mother's Day with their annual Mother's Day tea May 9. Mothers were treated to cookies and punch, and were given a book written by their first-grader. A PowerPoint presentation created by the children featured pictures drawn on Kid Pix, a computer program. The first-graders grew plants to give to their moms, too.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Westwood Elementary School participated in the school's annual spelling bee May 7. Each homeroom held a bee to determine the three students who would advance to the Westwood Elementary School Bee. Joey Cardamon was the winner and spelled pasteurized and deceitful in the final round. Second place went to Cole Nepl. Arielle Arasga came in third.

### Parkview Middle

On May 13, 50 seventh-grade students participated in an Honor Choir at Waukee Middle School. Students attended practices before school to prepare for the choir. The Parkview students, led by chorus teacher Lisa Evans, joined other metro-area middle schools to create one large honor choir. This year's guest conductor was Hannah Keeling from Johnston Middle School.

It's not too late to register for the Parkview Student Leadership Camp. You can go to the Parkview Web site to print a registration form or stop in the Parkview Middle School office. This is an outstanding opportunity for your student to meet other Parkview Middle School students and learn and practice their leadership skills. The camp will be Aug. 8 and the cost is \$25.

The students in the Opportunity Center have been collecting pop tabs all year for the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines and presented them to the house May 13. Students also took a tour of Blank Children's Hospital and were able to see how the Ronald McDonald House benefits families of patients at the Hospital.

The final Book Talk was May 20 at the Kirkendall Public Library. Students met in the Parkview Media Center after school and walked to Kirkendall Public Library with Mike Nieland, teacher librarian.

### Northview Middle

The ninth-grade tech skills students are completing a unit in PowerPoint learning more advanced features. They have applied their skills in creating a presentation to teach their classmates about a topic that they are familiar with. Their final PowerPoint project combined action buttons and reviewing for the final test.

A group of students at Northview Middle School took on an end of the year project that spiraled into a huge success. Members of the Student Leadership Council began a campaign to collect items for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Using the Web site [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com), the students assigned a specific troop member to homerooms. "By giving students a name and possibly a photo of a soldier, it personalized the collection of items. Students realized that the war has a name and a face with it that way, when they brought items they realized they were buying them for 'Joseph' or 'Linda,' not just a generic soldier," states organizer, Sasha Webster. "We originally hoped to send 33 care packages, but our school really went all out and now we are sending over 60 care packages." When students were asked why they brought items, student Mark Voyna said, "I brought Twizzlers for the soldiers and maybe they'll share them with some of the kids in Iraq, too." Student Brittney Silvey said, "My mom and I donated a sack of items because we wanted to help somebody out." The next task that the SLC group faces is getting the funding to ship the boxes. Each flat rate box costs \$10.95 to ship. Originally the group planned on collecting \$360 to send the care packages. Now it will cost the group \$660 to send all of the packages. "It's a great problem to have, I am so proud of the students and teachers for their generosity," Webster states. Collections are being taken at the school to meet the shipping costs.

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High School

Nothing submitted

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Central

On May 9, the Central and West fifth-graders participated in Junior Achievement BizTown. Students spend the day operating a simulated city's commerce as business owners and employees offering goods and services. This experience began to build a basic foundation of business, economics, and free enterprise. Before we went to BizTown, teachers taught lessons that define the rights and responsibilities of citizens as workers and consumers in the community. We also focused on building money management skills through practical knowledge of economic concepts and banking practices. All the students set up their own checkbook. The students used communication skills, teamwork and critical thinking skills to learn about key economic concepts. Students used reading, writing, math and social studies skills. This hands-on field trip experience helped prepare the students for a lifetime of learning to live in our world of work. We had many Central and West parents accompany us on this field trip. Mrs. Overbaugh, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Hanlon, and Miss Erickson appreciated our volunteers' help.

West

Kindergarten students at North Polk West Elementary celebrated a year of learning Friday with a Letter Friend Celebration. Throughout the year, the kindergartners have met a new Letter Friend each week. They learned about each Letter Friend's letter, sound, and unique characteristics (like Mr. M's munching mouth and Mr. H's happy hair). The kindergartners celebrated by dressing up like their favorite Letter Friends, playing "name that tune" with Letter Friend songs, and writing about their favorite Letter Friends. Even the kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Jones, joined in the fun, dressing like Ms. K with a kaboom kick and Ms. S with super socks.

Junior and Senior High School

Nothing submitted

## Saydel schools

Cornell

Dana Goetz and Ashley Greubel's classes went to the Heartland Track and Field Day on May 1 in Indianola. The students participated in bowling, jump rope activities, pushups, sit-ups, standing long jump and T-ball. In the outside events, they ran the 25-meter run, rode go-carts, threw the foxtail, ran the hurdles and played golf. After the events were completed at noon, the students had a picnic at the park.

Third-grade students visited Norwoodville on Monday. They toured the building and met with the fourth-grade classroom teachers.

The annual Field Day events are today and feature group games, activities and lots of outdoor fun. Thank you to PTO for the Popsicles.

Kindergarten students are studying oceans and sea life. The students have focused on reading, writing, math and science activities involving the many types of life under the sea.

Norwoodville

On May 13, students visited Starlab, a portable, inflatable planetarium. Teachers Carolyn McCauley and Katie Mary planned and implemented an "out-of-this-world" experience. Students viewed the night sky starfield and located the Big Dipper, moon and the North star. Students explored constellations and myths from ancient Greek and Native American cultures.

The fourth-graders attended the Iowa Children's Water Festival on May 9. Each class learned why water is such an important resource to us here on Earth. Through games, presentations and exhibits the students gained a perspective on the many different uses for water, and why we should try so hard to keep it safe and clean for all to enjoy.

Last week our fourth- and fifth-graders and staff enjoyed getting to see former Norwoodville students perform in the musical "Guys and Dolls." The Woodside students, under the direction of Brenda Ashley, brought over their costumes and props and did a fabulous job of singing and reciting their lines.

Our last day of school will be Tuesday. In the morning the Battle of the Books championship match is scheduled for 10 a.m. Team 4 will battle Team 8 for this year's championship title. Those on Team 4 are Madeline Bozman, Carlton Keary, Brooklyn Allgood, Kasi

Frideres, Cory Harden, Curtis Fields and Justin Roesch. Students on Team 8 are Max Kayser, Casey Brown, Sarai Carrillo Alonso, Jose Carrera, Kim Knutson, Betsy Breitbarth, Hannah Van Houten and Mandi Zahn. All students and staff will watch the competition in the gym. In the afternoon, we will meet again for our student awards and promotion ceremony. Fourth-grade student awards will be 1-2 p.m. and fifth-grade awards will be 2-3 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

#### Woodside

The seventh- and eighth-grade band returned from its trip to Chicago on May 11. The students received many compliments about their outstanding character from guests at the hotel, from the band director and judges at Niles North High School where the students performed, from the bus drivers and many others as the students were out and about. The band won first place in the concert band category, two outstanding section awards (percussion and tubas), and an outstanding soloist award - Luke Logan for his snare drum solo in one of our pieces.

#### High School

Nothing submitted

### Other schools

#### Ankeny Christian Academy

Kindergarten graduation will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday. Seventeen students will be graduated to first grade. The students will sing songs, ring handbells, recite poems and share what they learned in kindergarten. Administrator Joyce Hansen will present them with their diplomas. Friends and families will enjoy cake and punch with the graduates following the ceremonies. The kindergartners are taught by Mindy Jeske.

An all-school awards ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. in the auditorium the last day of school, Friday. Classes will dismiss at 1:40 p.m. for the school year. The teachers' last day is May 29. Report cards will be issued June 11. Classes will resume Aug. 20.

The Parent-Teacher Fellowship celebrated the end of the school year with a sundae party during the lunch period May 15. For \$1, students could choose from three different toppings for their vanilla ice cream.

Instrumental music instructor Heather Iverson will offer summer lessons to ACA students and other interested band students. ACA students enrolled for 2008-09 receive a discounted rate.

One new member was elected and another member was re-elected to the Ankeny Christian Academy board of education on May 13. Chad Kloppe of Ankeny was elected to his first three-year term on the board and Doug Reed of Des Moines was re-elected to the board. The election took place during the annual parents association meeting. Kloppe is a vice president of risk management at Wells Fargo and has a son in kindergarten at ACA. Reed is a registered nurse at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. He has a seventh-grader and a 10th-grader at ACA. Going off the board was Mike Sheeks of Bondurant. Board members who continue their terms are Beth Heggen of Bondurant, Steve Mickelson of Kelley, Bob Deo of Maxwell, and Kendall Kruger and Josh Craighead, both of Ankeny. In other business, the association reviewed the board's annual report for 2007-08 and approved the preliminary budget for the 2008-09 school year. Administrator Joyce Hansen outlined the major accomplishments during this past school year and plans for the next year.

#### Central Campus

Seven students from Joyce Johnson's seventh-grade Prep Academy English classes won awards in the annual Polk County Bar Association Law Day poetry contest. Anthony Treager won first place, Jessica Shedd placed second, and honorable mentions were awarded to Brandon McGill, Milena Torres, Patience Kpurukoo and David Ortiz. They were honored with their parents at a luncheon on May 13.

Three Academy students of Scott Schoneberg competed last weekend in the University of Iowa Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery Hawkeye Challenge programming contest. The students were given five problems to solve and three hours to complete them. They successfully completed the problems in less than an hour and a half. The team members were Alex Crichton, Kyle Moss and Jason Walsh.

#### Orchard Place

Nothing submitted.

#### Ruby Van Meter

On May 8, Paul Greenwalt and Bob Easler of the Greater Des Moines Kiwanis Foundation delivered 50 dictionaries to be given to

some of our students. Graduating seniors and students moving to the high school level will receive them.

On May 12, all of the seniors took a class trip to the Science Center and Gray's Lake. They explored the Science Center and watched a movie about the Grand Canyon in the I-MAX. The day was a great celebration of the accomplishments of each of the students. Charles Farley, RVM transition coordinator, planned and coordinated the event.

The RVM graduation banquet and dance was May 16. Each graduate was honored individually for his/her accomplishments over the years at RVM. The event was held at St. Augustin church with the dance open to all students and alumni.

With the end of the school year in sight, some of the job sites are winding down. Students will soon be ending their experiences and participating in other year-end activities. Some of our students will be attending the state Special Olympics event today and tomorrow in Ames. Other upcoming events include graduation on Tuesday, an activity day and our annual "Fly-Up" activities for students who will be moving to our vocational level (high school) program next year.

The third annual RVM garage sale will be May 31 in the RVM gym from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Booster Club and a fun event for everyone.

#### Scavo

Seniors gathered May 8 to celebrate their accomplishments. The following nine seniors were awarded scholarships for their next phase of education: Chelsea Ackelson, Brenda Argueta, Amber Camps, Keyara Clark, Carla Hanawalt, Stacey Hoch, Brittney Horton, Gabriella Maceda and Oscar Plascencia. Each year seniors, one for each of six curriculum areas, are chosen by the staff of to be honored with Superintendent's Awards. This year students named for these honors were: Amber Ruckman for language arts, Ben Hilt for social science, Oscar Plascencia for science and business, Chelsea Ackelson for mathematics, and Aaron Jones for foods/consumer science.

The Women's Leadership Connection celebrated another successful year of partnership with students May 13. The group had a picnic at Gray's Lake. Young women were recognized for completing the program during the 2007-08 school year. These students are: Karen Alcaraz, Brenda Argueta, Franceska Bennett, Amber Camps, Megan Calkins, Gabriela Maceda, Carla Hanawalt, Norma Marquez, Melanie Parks, Marquita Thomas, Amanda Stilwell and Lisa Thomas. Allied/Nationwide provides this remarkable opportunity for the young women each year.

To finish the Junior Achievement banking program, three students participated in an international banking competition that lasted four hours and required mathematical skills for students competing. Stacey Hoch, Josh Hertz and Carla Hanawalt were selected by Tom Ostwalt, CITI Financial, who taught the banking class this year.

#### Smouse

The early childhood classrooms taught by Abby Zigler, Sandy Bjerk, Rachael Larsen and Kathy Marean are preparing for their end-of-the-year program and Kinderdrama finale on Friday. For the program, the students will act out the story "The Little Red Hen" on stage for their friends and families. "The Little Red Hen" is the most recent book used for Kinderdrama, an early childhood grant through the Iowa Arts Council in which the students learn story retelling skills and relate books to the arts. The program will be followed by a slide show presentation showcasing the school year and each student will receive a certificate for completing one year of preschool.

Art students are doing things green this time of year. Using recycled and donated paper, they are making sand vine and flower pictures for spring. Designing Mother's Day cards, making coil, pinch and thrown pots, and rendering larger-than-life self portraits are also among the accomplishments of this year's art students. We've fired up the new kiln and it is awesome.

Several classes of students visited the Blank Park Zoo on Tuesday. The trip was made possible by Jack Smouse, relative of our founder David W. Smouse, the Northwest Kiwanis Club and the Connecting Kids and Culture Grant.

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