

SCHOOL NEWS

Countryside Elementary School • The Countryside Howler

September 2009

Check out our website at www.dysart.org/countryside everyday for announcements

A note from Mrs. Honne

Wow, what a great start to school we've had! Our students are learning so many new skills and behaving impeccably! We could use parent support to enforce good manners in the cafeteria, such as; waiting patiently, saying "please" and "thank you," picking up after ourselves, taking turns and keeping our voices down.

If you have ever spent a lunch with us, you are aware that the cafeteria can get very noisy during the lunch period. This isn't the student's fault, it is a large space, with many bodies and they are enjoying a much deserved break from instruction. To work on the noise level we have mounted a stop light that measures decibels. As the noise increases it turns to yellow, and if it becomes very loud, it turns to red. We have been calibrating the light with the noise, and now have it at a level that is comfortable for students and staff.

PTO has graciously agreed to provide funding for rewards for grade levels that are able to sustain a green light! These incentives are cumulative, not consecutive, days. One off day, won't ruin the fun. We will be offering the following incentives:

5 Green Days – Popcorn	15 Green Days – Tootsie Pops
30 Green Days – Popsicles	45 Green Days – Lunch under the ramada

Thank you for supporting us in providing a safe and caring environment for all students.

Kathleen Honne
Assistant Principal



Lockdown

Countryside Elementary will hold their first lockdown drill on **Tuesday, October 20th at 2:00 pm**. All Dysart Schools are required to hold four lockdown drills per year. We practice lockdowns so that all staff and students are prepared if a real lockdown situation occurs.

Please note that students will not be able to be checked out by parents during the lockdown. Parents will have to wait in the parking lot until Administration has given the "all clear" announcement.



• UPDATE:

Please note the following revisions to the 2009-2010 Student and Parent Handbook:

1) On page 30 in the discipline matrix for grades 7-12, the following infraction was inadvertently left off the matrix:

	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
Leaving Campus without Authorization/Unauthorized Absence/Tuancy	Notify Parent Detention One (1) Day Susp	Three (3) Day Susp	Five (5) Day Susp

2) On page 21 in the discipline matrix for grades K-2, the first infraction should be:

	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
Alcohol (use and/or possession)	Same as what's in matrix	Same as what's in matrix	Same as what's in matrix

The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the assistant superintendent for human resources at (623) 876-7000.

Clubs

NJHS



National Junior Honor Society meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Club sponsors are Ms. Blackwell & Ms. Petersen.

NEHS



National Elementary Honor Society meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Club sponsors are Ms. Blackwell & Ms.

Fallon. At their first meeting, students worked in groups to make the tallest structure they could with straws and tape without talking to each other! This was difficult but lots of fun and made them realize there are other ways to communicate besides verbally while working together.

Leo Club

Leo Club will be collecting the following during the school year to help out various organizations: *Toiletries for the troops, cell phones, print cartridges, pull tabs, eyeglasses and hearing aides.*



Drama Club

Drama club started out with a bang as over 50 students attended the first meeting! If your student attended, they have a student information sheet that needs to be filled out and returned to Miss Haag by the next meeting. Along with their information sheet, students need to bring \$5 for yearly club dues and \$5 if they would like a drama club t-shirt.



Yearbook Club Begins September 22nd



Art Club



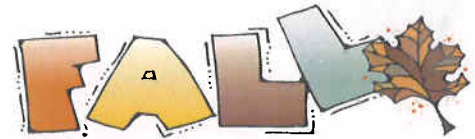
Art club students will work on items for Grand Canyon State Games poster contest. Visit the website at www.gcs.org for more information

All Countryside students will get a chance to participate in the winter art show. Their art work will be framed by "Kids Art Fairs." Parents will also have an option to purchase these frames.

Writing Club



Cynthia Hickey, Countryside's School Monitor and a multi-published author, will be leading a writing club for 6th—8th graders. She will take them through the process of writing a novel from concept to finished product. The club will meet each Thursday after school from 3:15 – 4:15.



Mark your Calendar

- October 7-Site Council
7:15-8:15 am
- October 9 & 12-Fall Break
NO SCHOOL
- October 13-PTO Meeting
6:30 pm, Library
- October 15-Fall Picture Day
- October 16-School Carnival
5:00-8:00 pm
- October 23-Sprit Week
- October 29-PTO Family Movie
Night, 6:00 pm

Recently, we have been experiencing a high volume of students being checked out early before the 3:00 bell. It is extremely difficult to pull students out of classrooms the last 15 minutes of the day, as teachers are wrapping up the day and preparing younger students to walk to their assigned pick up areas.



We would appreciate your cooperation in not signing out students the last 15 minutes of the school day, except in emergency situations!

Thank you,
Countryside Staff



School Supply drive—PTO is having a year-long School Supply Drive. Each month has a designated item which students need as the year progresses. **September's item is crayons** and **October's item is Expo markers**. We accept any size and any amount of new school supplies. The drop off box is located in the front office.



Spirit Fridays! Show your spirit and wear your Countryside t-shirt every Friday! You may "get spotted" by a PTO parent and win a prize.

Box Tops for Education—Please continue to send the box tops with your student. They may turn them in to their classroom teacher.



Movie Night—PTO will have a family Movie Night on October 29th. More information will be coming soon.



Please remember to give your child specific instructions on how to get home after school. Whether they ride the bus, or are being picked up by a parent, they should be informed prior to leaving home in the morning. You can also send a note to the teacher in your child's backpack. Calls will be taken by the front office only if the transportation change is an emergency.

Attendance Reminders:

When your child is absent for any reason, you **must** call the Attendance Line at **623-876-7803** to report the absence. If an absence is not reported, a call will be made home to confirm the whereabouts of your child.

The first bell rings at 8:05 am. Students should be at school and ready for classes at this time. The tardy bell rings at 8:15 am. Any student not in class by 8:15 is required to have a tardy pass. Students who are tardy create a disruption to the educational process. Please make every effort to ensure your child is at school each day and on time. If your child is tardy, a parent **must** come into the office and sign them in.

Three (3) unexcused tardies will result in an after school detention.

Please keep in mind that removing your child prior to the end of the school day directly affects his/her academic success. These interruptions also affect other students and the teacher. Please make appointments after school hours and allow your student to remain in class for the entire day.



