

ALBERT CASSENS ELEMENTARY
1014 Glen Crossing Road
Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

www.ecusd7.org/cassens

October 2009 newsletter

Working Together – Building Children’s Futures!
Martha Richey, Principal

A Message from the Principal

October brings the first report card of the school year. Our students are demonstrating their personal best daily through their respectful behavior, good study habits, and enthusiasm toward each school day!

Morning meetings with all of our students are a great start to each day as we cover current events at school and recognize Cougar-ific students for being positive role models in our school community. Every student is eager for a turn to lead the entire school in the Pledge of Allegiance.

An energetic and committed PTO is very active at Cassens as is shown by the many events scheduled during the month of October. This is just a small sample of an entire school year of plans being made to give our students the best school experience possible!

The Grammy’s Best Cookie Dough Fundraiser is an easy and delicious way to support the many activities and enrichment materials provided to our students through the PTO. The students and staff members at Albert Cassens thank you for the many contributions you make as partners in education!

See you at Family Bunco Evening!

Martha Richey



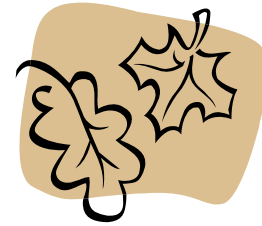
Mark Your Calendar!

- Monday, October 5
Sign Up Deadline for
Family Bunco Night
- Thursday, October 8
Papa Johns Night
- Friday, October 9
Family Bunco Night 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Monday, October 12
Columbus Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, October 13
School Board Mtg. @ Woodland 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, October 14
Cookie Dough Orders Due
- Thursday, October 15
Box Tops Deadline
- Friday, October 16
End of 1st Quarter
½ Day Teacher In-Service
- Mon. – Fri. October 19-23
Red Ribbon Week
- Monday, October 19
PTO Mtg. – 7:00 pm
- Friday, October 23
First Quarter Report Card Sent Home
- Monday, October 26
School Board mtg. @ Woodland 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, October 28
Picture Retake Day
- Friday, October 30
Fall Classroom Parties 2:30-3:30 pm

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Lunch Recess

Now that autumn has arrived, our students are encouraged to watch the weather forecast and come to school with the clothing needed for the great outdoors during recess periods.



RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week will be held during the week of October 19-23. This event is an important week in our school as we celebrate the life of former DEA agent Enrique “Kiki” Camerena and his stand against drugs. As a part of the awareness campaign, we will have theme days each day for the week of October 19 through October 23:

Monday, October 19

Wear Red Day – Stop Drug Abuse

Tuesday, October 20

Crazy Sock Day – Sock it to Drugs

Wednesday, October 21

Sunglasses Day – Too Bright to do Drugs

Thursday, October 22

Team Spirit Day – Teaming Up Against Drugs

Friday, October 23

Backwards Day – Turn Your Back on Drugs

The EHS Cheerleaders will be our special guests to Kick Off Red Ribbon Week!

Donations of Disney Movies or other fun “G” rated movies on DVD are being accepted at Cassens to use for our Rainy Day Movie Theater during lunch periods.

Fall Classroom Parties

October 30 - 2:30 – 3:30

Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers for organizing the fall classroom parties on Friday, October 30.

Students may wear costumes during the party time of 2:30 – 3:30. We ask that costumes be appropriate for school and that students are able to move freely and see freely through the costume.

For safety, all students will change from their costumes before leaving school at 3:30. Costumes dragging the ground can be a danger in boarding and exiting school buses.

We look forward to our celebrations!



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CASSENS STUDENTS SHOW COURAGE!

As we enter the “scary” month of October, our students have reflected on the word of the past month and share their own definitions of courage.

COURAGE IS . . . something you and everyone has, you just have to work hard at it – TymeI D

When you make a speech in front of a lot of people – Cierra V

Telling the truth the first time – Ross K.

When you run the football and it's the last play of the game – Devonte' T.

Trying out for parts in the Drama Club and talking in front of the whole school – Natalie H.

Believing that you can do something – Reginald W.

Doing something that no one else would do – like killing a snake – Dean S.

When you want to do something that is bad, but you don't do it – Blake N.

Standing up to your older brother or sister – Meghan G.

Making the right choice – Ryan B.

When your mother says you're in trouble and you don't cry – Alexandria L.

When you're able to face your fears - Justin H.

Speaking our your own ideas and not being shy about it – Kaitlyn J.

When you get bucked off a horse and get right back on again! – Jaiden D.

Giving someone a hand when they drop their stuff in the hallway – Zoe D.

Jumping off a 100 meter high dive – Colin

Saying “Hi” to everybody that you don't know just to be nice – Kali

Taking a chance – Zelman

When I rode all the roller coasters for the first time at Six Flags - Jaydi S.

Telling your friend sorry for forgetting their birthday – Annie M.

Going up to an adult and asking for help – Samantha B.

Not screaming or yelling when you get a shot – Lauren B.

To introduce yourself to someone you don't know when you want to make a friend – Elli W.

Doing something that you don't want to do, but you do it anyway – Quinn C.

Standing up to a bully who is picking on you or your friends – Chase G.

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Riding your bike for the first time – Alex J.

Having courage is to make it through hard times. – Colin

Being a good sport at baseball – Johnathan H.

Having faith in yourself. It is doing something you want to do and accomplishing it. – Chase

Courage is someone who is in the U.S. forces – Charles T.

I HAVE COURAGE WHEN I PLAY 4 –SQUARE. – RACHEL

Putting a different answer on a test – Caroline O.

Courage is saying I got a “B” but I’m not trying my hardest. Courage is petting a stingray at the zoo. – Grant

Going up and doing Images of Greatness – Grant T.

Like if you play football and you want your friend to win and you cheer for them. – Naomi A.

When I saved my sister when my brother tried to trap her in a tree – Makenzie

I HAD TO GO GET MY SOCCER BALL FROM SOMEONE I DIDN’T KNOW AND IT WAS REALLY SCARY. – EZRI

COURAGE IS . . . making your hair different – Keaton P.

NOT CHEATING OFF YOUR NEIGHBOR’S TEST – SARAH P.

When I go to Tae Kwon Do and use my nunchucks for the first time, and at tournaments when it’s my turn – Caleb T.

When you are being nice to someone who is being mean to you – Collin C.

Being the first to step foot on Mars – Paige H.

Getting on a skateboard and doing new tricks – Sam G.

GOING ON THE WRESTLING MAT – SETH D.

Going to Iraq – Austin

Being truthful to another person – Jessie B.

Courage is telling a story in front of the class. – Dan

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Doing a hundred meter freestyle even though I felt like I wouldn't be able to breath - Erin M.

Joining the football game with all the boys in the neighborhood - Margaret C.

Standing up for your brother when no one else will - Spencer S.

When I was in 2nd grade I had a best friend and there was a bully that kept bossing us around. Finally I said, "No!" "Stop!" We hate being treated like this. I had courage to do that, and I was proud! - Abby C.

Courage is having the guts to be a boy's friend even if you're a girl. - Madelyn F.

Ignoring peer pressure when you really want to chew gum in class - Nate W.

Driving a canoe in a rapid - Caroline K.

GIVING PEOPLE A SECOND CHANCE - KATHLEEN M.

Being the biggest, hugest, most awesome Cardinal fan going to a Cubbies game! - Austin H.

Courage is shown by the students of Albert Cassens each day as they pledge to give nothing less than their personal best! - Mrs. Richey



PTO Update...

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Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who signed up as PTO volunteers! A special thank you to Chair Amy Powell who created the volunteer database. It is a big job and appreciated by all PTO chairs throughout the year!

The first Family Event will be Bunco Night on Friday, October 9th. This event was very popular last year. It is a casual, fun way for students and their families to get to know each other. No registrations can be accepted after Monday, October 5th, so please send in your forms - or email the Chairs Jen Loyet or Elizabeth Grant (jloyet@yahoo.com or egrant1@gmail.com). Thanks to Jen and Elizabeth for organizing this great family event!

The **Cassens Buzz Book** is being edited as this is written and will be distributed in the next few weeks. Each student will receive one copy of the book. Additional copies are available at a small fee. Thank you to Chair Melissa Reed and her volunteers for their hard work in putting the book together.

School Pictures were taken on September 24th. Thanks to Chair Linda Lawhead and her volunteers, it went very smoothly. Make-up pictures are scheduled for October 28th.

Grammy's Best Gourmet Cookie Fundraiser just kicked off. This year there are ten types of cookie dough and jumbo cinnamon rolls to choose from! Last year the students and families helped raise \$16,000 for the PTO that supported many PTO projects throughout the year. We appreciate your help in the fundraiser. We try very hard to make sure the money raised is used to benefit ALL the students at Cassens Elementary. The deadline for orders is October 14th. Thank you to our Chairs Michelle Boyer, Felicia Crabtree and Karen Johnson for all of their hard work – and the many volunteers who will help throughout the fundraiser.

The **Accelerated Reader** “Reading Roars Store” will be open October 14-15. The students who have Accelerated Reading points will be allowed to “spend” their points in the store. The “Reading Roars Store” will be open three other times throughout the school year. We appreciate the work Chair Tara Hawkins has done – and will continue to do with her volunteers throughout the A/R year.

Room Parent Coordinators are starting to contact parents who signed up to help coordinate classroom parties. Thank you to our coordinators: Angie Henry (3rd); Elizabeth Grant (4th); Karen Troske (5th) – and to all of the parents who have volunteered to help coordinate and donate to the parties.

Cougar Spiritwear has been ordered and will be arriving soon. Items will be sent home with students in their backpacks. Thanks to our Chair Lynn Dean for processing over \$3400 in orders. The halls of Cassens will be full of students decked out in their Cougar Spiritwear!

Media Center Volunteers are needed. Chair Jackie Williford is busy contacting volunteers to schedule assistance in the Media Center. Thank you, Jackie!

Business Partner Programs will continue throughout the school year. Remember that the first **BoxTops** collection deadline is October 15. Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 8th for the next **Papa John's Night**. Coupons for Papa John's will be sent home with students the week before – remember to use the code on the coupon when ordering so Cassens will receive 20%. Thanks again to Chairs Diane VandenHeuval and Karen Johnson for coordinating these programs.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 18th from 7-8pm in the Media Center. Please join us!

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Sara Berkgigler

Elizabeth Grant & Kelle Hanson

Tammy Perry

Janet Huffstutler & Donna Nahlik

President

Co-Vice Presidents

Secretary

Co-Treasurers

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