

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

www.ecusd7.org/cassens

September, 2009 newsletter
Working Together – Building Children’s Futures!
Martha Richey, Principal

A Message from the Principal

We are off to great start in the 2009-2010 school year! It was wonderful to see our families at Parent Orientation and to see so many parents and grandparents in the building each day. The strong partnership between our teachers and parents is evident in the many committees and volunteer activities that are up and running at Cassens. Please come out and join us at our first PTO meeting on Monday, September 21.

Our students are showing “*Nothing Less Than Their Personal Best*” each day as they put forth their best effort both socially and academically. Look for a midterm progress report to be sent home with each student Friday, September 18. Current grades can also be accessed daily through Tigerview.

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail your child’s teacher, or to contact me with any questions you may have about your child’s education at Albert Cassens Elementary. It is by working together that we create a positive and productive learning community!

Sincerely,
Martha Richey

Mark Your Calendar!



- Monday, September 14
School Board Meeting
@ Woodland – 7:30 pm
- Thursday, September 17
5th Grade Field Trip – Nature Day
- Friday, September 18
Progress Reports Sent Home
- Monday, September 21
PTO Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Thursday, September 24
Student Picture Day
- Monday, September 28
Kick-Off for Grammy’s Best
Cookie Dough Fundraiser
School Board Mtg.
@ Woodland - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 30
1st Collection
Box Tops for Education

Nothing Less Than My Personal Best!

Bullying Stops With Me!



Bullying is when someone with greater power unfairly hurts someone with lesser power through their actions or words over and over again.

Students at Cassens are currently being taught in classroom sessions with social workers and in health classes, how to identify bullying and how to deal with bullying behavior.

Types of Bullying:

- *Physical**
- *Emotional**
- *Cyber Bullying**

Difference between teasing and taunting:

***Teasing** is playful and used in relationship building. The teaser and the person being teased swap roles. If someone becomes upset, teasing is discontinued.

***Taunting** occurs when there is an imbalance of power and intent to harm. Only one person is laughing and roles are not swapped.

Difference between telling and tattling:

***Tattling** is speaking to someone about a problem just to get someone else in trouble, to get your own way, or to make yourself look good.

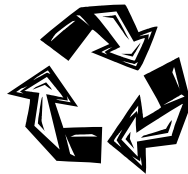
***Telling** is speaking to someone the child trusts about a problem because you or someone else may be getting hurt.

Strategies to Deal with Bullying

- *If you feel safe, tell the bully to STOP
- *Let an adult at school know or tell your parents and ask them to call the school
- *Remind adults or keep telling if bullying continues.

A bystander, or someone who sees bullying is also an important person who can stop bullying. It is important to tell an adult if you see bullying!

We are all responsible for helping to create a safe, caring, respectful, and bully-free school!



RECYCLING PROGRAM

Last year our efforts toward recycling earned Cassens School our own Earth Flag from the state of Illinois. Help us keep our program growing this year

A cart to collect items for recycling is placed at the entrance to the gym each morning. We invite parents and families to join us by sending the following items to school for recycling:

- Printer cartridges (all sizes)
- Cell phones
- Soda can tab tops
- Plastic soda can rings
- Eyeglasses
- Metal keys

(We are no longer collecting milk jug lids)

If you own a business and would like to recycle your used cartridges through us, please contact the school. We earn cash for recycled printer cartridges

Nothing Less Than My Personal Best!



Nurse's Notes



CASSENS BAND NEWS:

Band classes have started at Cassens. All students should have their instrument, their Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, cleaning supplies, and a folding music stand for home practice. Fifth grade students should also have a three-ring binder for supplemental music.

Handbooks have been sent home with all band students. Parents, please read over this with your student, both of you sign the back page, and return it to Ms. Stranc by September 11th.

Check out our Elementary Band Website - it has many cool links, plus you can find band schedules, and other important information here:

<http://www.ecusd7.org/homepages/columbusstaff/cstevens/>.

MyLunchMoney.com

District 7 has implemented a new and exciting lunch program. MyLunchMoney.com. It is one way for you to prepay for school lunches using your credit or debit card. It is an optional form of payment. You may also send cash or checks to school to pay for student meals.

Don't Forget To Call!

Please remember to call the school before 9:15 a.m. in the event that your child is unable to attend school. Our attendance secretary, Amy Cary, may be reached at 655-6150 or at acary@ecusd7.org.

Many of the most common infections are spread by germs, such as bacteria and viruses, on the hands. Consider how many objects you touch throughout the day.....books, telephones, computers, water fountains, toilets, money..... and then consider how many germs are picked up on your hands with every touch. Now, consider using those same germ filled hands to eat lunch without being washed.

Handwashing is the single BEST way to prevent the spread of germs and prevent illness by reducing the amount of germs on the hands! Encourage good handwashing (with warm, soapy water and lots of friction) as often as possible, especially prior to meals and after using the restroom. Encourage children to wash for at least 20 seconds, which is about how long it takes to sing "Twinkle, Twinkle" or "The Alphabet Song" twice.

Dana Wilson

dwilson@ecusd7.org

The staff of Albert Cassens would like to thank our parents for a wonderful luncheon on the first day of school!

Thank you also to the parent volunteers who helped with our very successful registration!

Nothing Less Than My Personal Best!

PTO News...

The PTO Officers are excited about this year at Cassens!

The **FIRST PTO MEETING** is on Monday, September 21st at 7pm in the Media Center. We will be approving a budget and building plans for the year. Please join us! We welcome all parents, guardians and teachers to come to our meetings and events. We are pleased to have Chairs for all of our committees, but we welcome – and NEED - volunteers to help throughout the year as you are able to do so. We value your opinion and hope to see you at our meetings and events. Thank you to our Volunteer Coordinator Amy Powell.

PTO COMMUNICATION will be sent out via the school newsletters, the school website, flyers, email correspondence, and on the PTO bulletin board located in the Commons Area between the restrooms and the library. We will do all we can to communicate in a timely manner while respecting our commitment to the environment. We will use flyers when necessary, but hope to rely more on other means of communication.

REGISTRATION went very smoothly this summer thanks to our Chair Tammy Perry and ALL of the volunteers who helped throughout the day.

A **STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON** was held on the first day of school to let all of the hard-working staff know how much we appreciate all they do and to let them know we support them. Thanks to Co-Chairs Joanne Spencer and Ann Marie Swalley – and all the volunteer parents for donating the delicious salads and desserts.

SCHOOL PICTURES are scheduled for Thursday, September 24th from 9:30-11:30am. Order forms will be sent home this weekend. Thank you to Chair Linda Lawhead for getting information to families and scheduling volunteers.

YEARBOOK information just arrived and will be sent home soon.

The **SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERS PROGRAM** is off to a great start!

- Our first **PAPA JOHN'S NIGHT** was held September 10th. Mark your calendars for the second Thursday of each month. Cassens receives 20% of your order – and you don't have to cook! Thanks to Chair Karen Johnson for setting up this program.
- The first **BOX TOPS 4 EDUCATION** collection will be September 30th followed by October 15th. Last year this program raised over \$2,000 for our school. Thanks to Chair Diane VandenHeuvel, we look forward to another great year for Box Tops.
- Other programs – **SCHNUCK'S eSCRIP CARDS** and **TARGET RED CARDS**. Sign up at the store and designate Albert Cassens Elementary to receive benefits from purchases you already make.

The **PTO COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER** will be kicked off at the end of September, so please look for information to come home. Thanks to a fantastic response last year, the PTO made over \$16,000! The fundraiser helped the PTO fund many important projects and events throughout the year. Thank you to Chair Felicia Crabtree who has agreed to Chair the fundraiser again this year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF PTO – and PLEASE JOIN US!

Sara Berkbigler
President

Elizabeth Grant & Kelle Hanson
Co-Vice Presidents

Tammy Perry
Secretary

Janet Huffstutler & Donna Nahlik
Co-Treasurers

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