



Newton CSD

# Aurora Heights Intermediate School

## News

May-Summer 2012

Volume 10, Issue No. 8

### End of Year Activities Abound



#### AH Has Got Talent 2012 Talent Show

On April 20, 2012, students at Aurora Heights showed their diverse talents. From singing, dancing, piano, and musical instruments, to digitally created video, the audience was entertained for just over an hour. At left Raven Adams, sixth grader, impressed us all with her musical selection. Way to go AH students. It was a great show! Thanks to Mrs. Jansen for doing a super job of organizing her first Talent Show, after many successful years of shows under the direction of former guidance counselor Mrs. Birkenholz. Mrs. B., was in attendance for the show.

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Talent Show a big success!



#### AH PBIS Spring Fling

At left, H.S. Pace Setters led AH students in one of many activities during the reward time for PBIS organized by Mrs. Vanderlaan and the PBIS team. Other activities included football, soccer, basketball and more with H.S. players helping with various groups. Thanks PBIS team for your work this year!

The Cardinal Code

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Be Respectful

## NTAG News

### Mrs. Van Manen

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Reading NTAG had the opportunity to go to Iowa State University for a day-long Investigation Series called OPPTAG. They were able to select from different interest-area stations and attend the stations of their choosing. Engineering, design, computer design, literature, and many other topics were available to choose from. Our day was concluded with a presentation from Iowa State's Materials Engineering Department on the different things they study. We were front-row witnesses to a large sheet of tempered glass shattering! It was a great day to learn some new things, and tour the beautiful Iowa State campus!



Students find out assigned group



Examining the shatter patterns of the tempered glass

## Community Service Day



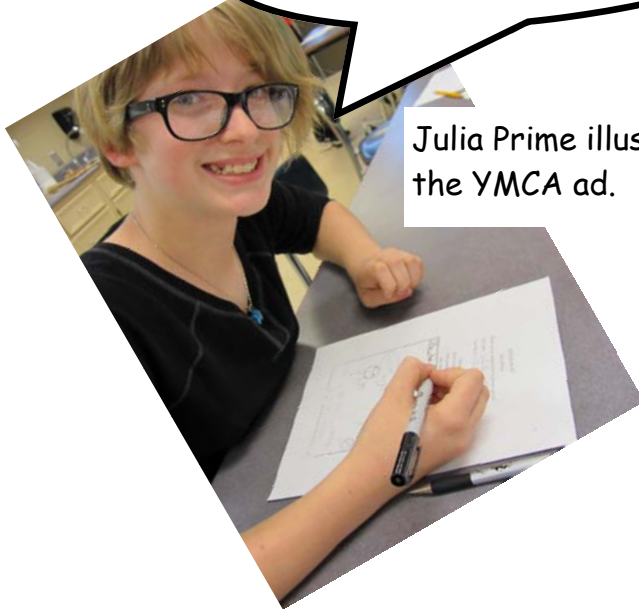
On **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, students from Newton Senior High are coming over for Community Service Day to help with a landscaping project at Aurora Heights. Sixth grade math enrichment students took their learning outside last week and learned how to calculate cubic yards. They were asked to calculate the total number of cubic yards of mulch Mrs. Van Manen would need to order to complete all of the projects. We also spent some time connecting the importance of knowing how to calculate cubic feet and cubic yards for real-life situations. Students from Aurora Heights Intermediate School will work side by side with the high school students to beautify the school. We wouldn't have been able to complete this project without the donation of mulch from Jasper County Conservation and the help of Keri Van Zante, shrubs donated by James Moon from Garden Gate Landscaping, and Coxes Greenhouse for providing us beautiful annual flowers. Also, a HUGE thank you to Newton High School students for volunteering their time and energy! High School student groups will work on projects all over town during the annual Community Service Day.

Thank you to Mrs. Provin for organizing the H.S. volunteers and to Mrs. Van Manen for her wonderful efforts at AH!

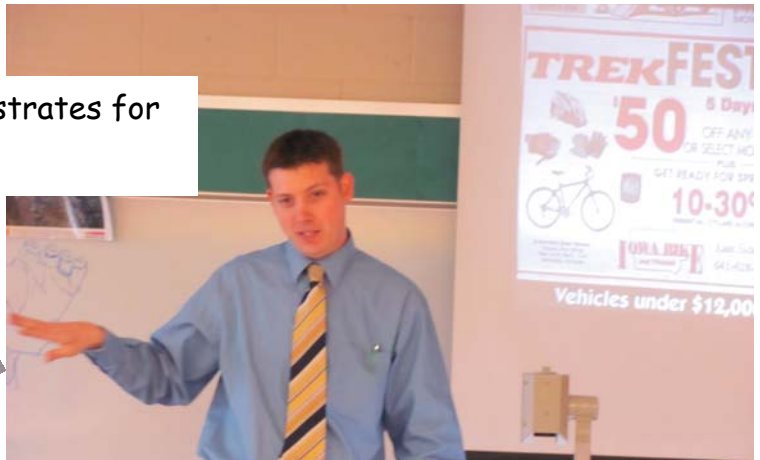




**Extra-Extra  
Read all about it~ Newton Daily  
News visits 6L art class!**



Julia Prime illustrates for the YMCA ad.



Jeff Holschuh, Advertising Director, explains the importance of advertising.

Jeff Holschuh & Jodi Maher visited the art room so 6L could experience how to create advertisements for local businesses. Students discovered:

- \*what is most important to customers
- \*cost of advertising
- \*artistic design skills

Thank-you Newton Daily News for this opportunity! We loved seeing our artistic ads in the paper last week!  
~Mrs. Saugstad, Art

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Guardians,

We will be having a 4<sup>th</sup> grade track and field day this year. The date is **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** and the rain date will be May 24<sup>th</sup>. The track meet will begin right at 10 am and will last until 11:05. The order of events will be 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls shuttle relay and a dash while the 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys will be doing their field events. At 10:30 we will switch and the girls will go do field events while the boys will run a shuttle relay and a dash. On the field events everyone has already been given a field event and then they can go do any other field event during the 30 minutes. We hope this will get them some experience and knowledge for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade track and field day. We hope you can attend.

Date: May 22, 2012 (Tuesday) rain date May 24, 2012 (Thursday)

Time: 10:00am - 11:05am

Place: HA Lynn Stadium

**Mr. Pearson, PE**

***The 5th/6th Track Meet will be held as usual on the same day, May 22nd in the afternoon at H.A. Lynn Stadium starting at 12:30. (Rain Date-May 24th)***





Happy May! With so many activities and events going on it is so easy to lose track of time and let it whiz on by! I hope you can all take a moment to stop and enjoy these weeks ahead. Every single day offers a great opportunity for your children to grow and learn. I am happy to share the sixth and seventh "C" of resiliency this month:

**Coping** is the ability to overcome challenge. This skill is so important because it enables children to handle the stressors that are an inevitable part of life.

A few ways to develop coping skills include:

- Model positive coping strategies.
- Guide your children to cope positively in a variety of situations.
- Recognize that risky behaviors are sometimes attempts to cope with stress in a negative way.
  - Model handling problems step by step.
- Model the importance of taking care of our bodies through eating healthy, exercising, and establishing healthy sleeping patterns.

Create a family environment that is safe and comfortable for sharing and listening.

**Control** is the end result in which children realize they can control their decisions and behaviors and that they can bounce back from challenges.

A few ways to enhance control include:

- Help your child understand that most things that happen are the result of someone's choices and actions.
- Help your child understand that they are not responsible for bad situations in their life (such as a separation or divorce)
  - Help your child think about the future one step at a time.
  - Help your child recognize small successes and celebrate them.

Help your child understand that no one can control all situations but everyone has the power to choose positive behaviors that make a huge difference.

***Sneak Peek into Guidance:*** We will be ending our year in guidance talking about and practicing ***coping*** skills in all grades. We will be talking about coping with emotions, bullying, stress and change. In sixth grade we will be spending time talking about coping with the transition to middle school—what an exciting and apprehensive time! Make a difference at home by establishing opportunities to talk with your children about how they cope with their emotions and situations on a daily basis. The best way for children to learn coping skills is through positive modeling from adults! We all benefit from practicing our coping skills every day (I know I do) :).

Have a Marvelous May and a Superb Summer!

-Mrs. Jansen-

## Stupendous Student Council

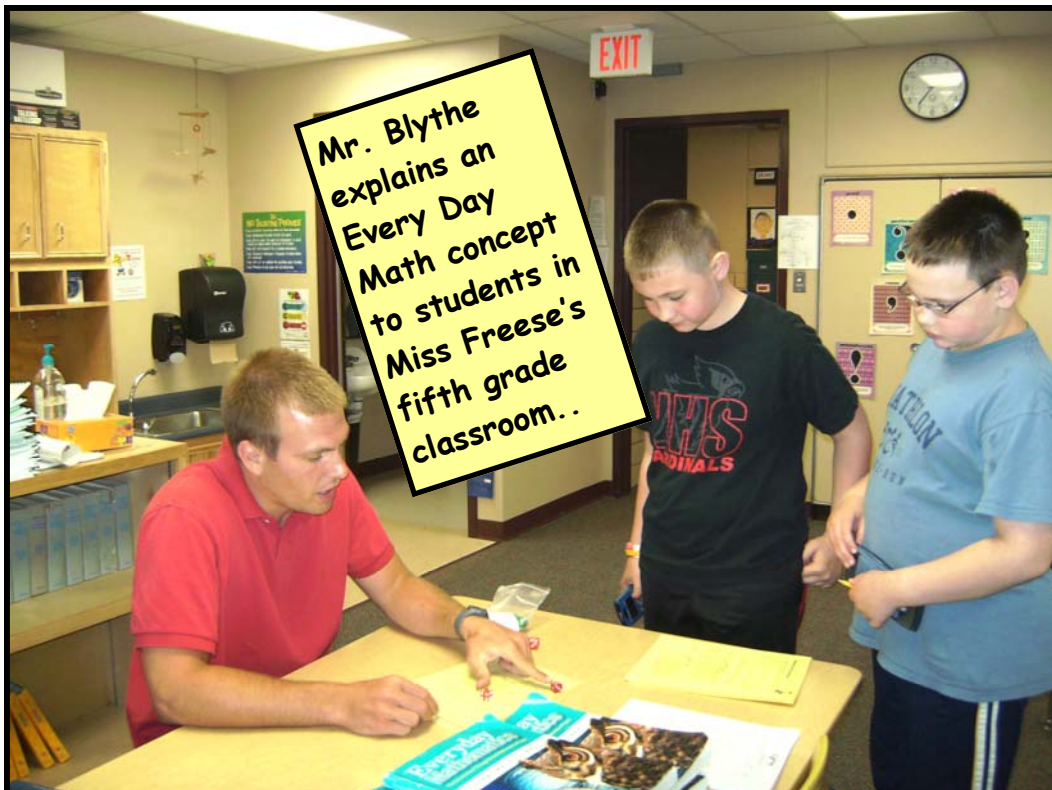


There have been a lot of events that have happened during this semester. We still have a little more to go! Starting April 24<sup>th</sup> we have 26 days of school and we will celebrate each day in a special way using the alphabet, such as B for wear blue day. There will be more details soon. We can guarantee Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> will be Decade Day—dress up as a decade (50's, 60's, 70's, etc.). The Talent Show of 2011-2012 went very smooth. We had acts such as musical talents and various dances. It has been a great year so far and we are looking forward to next year!

By Student Council Reporter Larkin Christy

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." John Quincy Adams

Mr. Blythe, Student Teacher in 5F

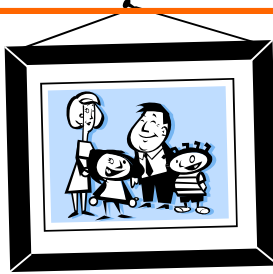


# Students and Families of AH - 4th - 6th Students

Our 2012-2013 4th grade students and families are also invited!  
Welcome BE third to fourth grade families!

Mark your  
calendars  
now!

We hope you  
can join in the  
fun!



AH staff and PTA would like to invite your family to attend a

*Family Celebration Night*  
*At Aurora Heights on May 17, 2012*  
*From 5:30-7:30p.m.*

- Free Hotdogs and pizza in the gym—5:30-while supply lasts!
  - Cake Walk
  - PTA Scholastic Book Fair
    - Hula hoops; soccer kick and free throw
  - Sno Cones, popcorn, cotton candy- \$1.00 each
    - "Photo Corner"
  - Music by *Celebrations*—Karaoke and DJ Services
  - PTA SILENT AUCTION BASKETS-on the Stage
    - (Bidding until 6:45-claim at 7:15)



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Come join us!

# Fourth Grade

## Manners Matter!

Fourth Graders learned about manners with Mrs. Jansen. Each class then put on our finest and took a trip to Sisters of the Heart Tea Room in Prairie City to practice the newly learned manners. What a wonderful experience!  
By Mrs. Turner



**Fourth Grade Vertebrate Open House is scheduled for May 16  
Mark your calendars!**

## Professional Development Teachers Participate in Book Study on Wednesdays—Fifth Students model and talk about book logs for staff....



Left to right: Rachel Rhoads; Skye Gregory, Hanna Clark and Ethan Amensen



Teachers from Woodrow Wilson and Aurora Heights have been participating in a book study around the topic of engaging students in reading through differentiated instruction by reading Laura Robb's book "Teaching Reading in the Middle School". On Wednesday, April 25th, four fifth grade students spoke to the group of teachers about their personal reading journey this school year. The students talked about reading goals —varying from reading 35 books (the class goal) to Hanna's goal of 100 books. (She has already read 103 by the way, and counting :) Students talked about their book logs and the types of books they have read so far this year, including favorite authors, a favorite book, an abandoned book and a book they didn't enjoy reading. The students have become prolific readers and did a great job of presenting to the group of teachers. All are in Miss Freese's fifth grade classroom.

Spring Music Program DVDs are available for \$10. To place an order, please send a check made out to Aurora Heights PTA for \$10. by May 4th. Thanks to Mrs. Schwarck and students for a wonderful spring music program.

# Staff Entertains Students Musically in Effort To Encourage Students to Do Their Personal Best on Iowa Assessments

We hope to have results from the New Iowa Assessments for you as parents before the end of the school year. Students in grades fourth, fifth and sixth were encouraged by staff the Friday before the tests at an all school assembly. Teachers sang new words to common songs relaying the message to do their personal best on each test.



## Do My Best (Tune: This Old Man)

Do my best on this test!  
I know how. I am not stressed  
'Cause I worked, I learned  
and studied through the year.  
I'll do well. I have no fear!



## All Those Nights Of Homework (Tune: Itsy Bitsy Spider)

All those nights of homework and all those days in school!  
Lots of information, lots of learning tools!  
I know I'm ready, I'll do the best I can  
On the tests that I am taking. Oh yes, this is my plan!



## Time For Tests (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle)

Time for tests where I will show  
Things I've learned and things I know.  
I am ready! I feel strong!  
When I'm careful, can't go wrong.  
I worked hard the whole year through.  
I will show what I can do!

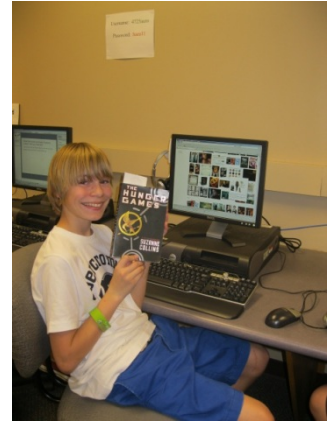
## **Library Media Center – Aurora Heights**

### ***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins**

There is no doubt that *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins has received considerable attention from sixth graders at Aurora Heights this year. I have read the trilogy and have had many meaningful conversations with sixth graders about their perspective on the book's literary elements...characters, setting, problems, and solutions. We have decided that the book is SO much better than the movie, and the characters we visualized in the book were very different from the actors cast in the movie. Gavin (6H) has graciously forgiven us for giving away a few key events before he was finished with the book. The URL below will give you access to a YouTube Video of (6V)sixth graders having an informal conversation about *The Hunger Games*. You can also access the video using the QR Code with the QR Reader App on your mobile phone.



<http://youtu.be/2j7bdJYEnVQ>



***And the Aurora Heights Iowa Children's Choice Award Winner is.....***

***Smile* by Raina Telgemeier**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: NERDS by Michael Buckley

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Powerless* by Matthew Code and *Tentacles* by Roland Smith

***And the State of Iowa Children's Choice Award Winner is.....***

***Smile* by Raina Telgemeier**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: NERDS by Michael Buckley

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Baseball Great* by Tim Green

**Thank you to the Aurora Heights students who participated and voted in this building and state-wide contest.**

***Great Books to Read this Summer - 2012 – 2013 ICCA Titles***

*The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity* by Mac Barnett

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

*Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-burd)* by Kathryn Erskine

*Like the Willow Tree: the Diary of Lydia Amelia Pierce* by Lois Lowry

*Born to Fly* by Michael Ferrari

*Million-Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica

*Finding Danny* by Linzi Alex Glass

*Word after Word after Word* by Patricia MacLachlan

*Getting Air* by Dan Gutman

*Neil Armstrong is my Uncle & Other Lies*  
*Muscle Man McGinty Told Me* by Nan Marino

*The Ghost of Crutchfield Hall* by Mary Downing Hahn

*Strawberry Hill* by Mary Ann Hoberman

*The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass

*Runaway Twin* by Peg Kehret

*The Clone Codes* by Pat McKissack

*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly

*Faith, Hope, and Ivy June* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

*Zoobreak* by Gordon Korman

*I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005* by Lauren Tarchis

*Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos* by R.L. La Fevers

*The Thirteenth Princess* by Diane Zahler

***Summer Reading at the Newton Public Library***

Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 PM with a kick-off hotdog picnic on the library lawn. You will set your own goal for how many books you will read this summer. When you reach your goal, bring the book log back to the library and receive a ticket to the pizza and pool party at Maytag Pool on August 3<sup>rd</sup>! Additional special events will be available throughout the summer. Phyllis will visit schools in May with more information. Details will also be available at [www.newton.lib.ia.us](http://www.newton.lib.ia.us) next month.

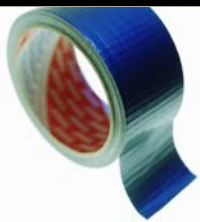
# Ducted Taped Staff—Popular Choice for Spending Cardinal Code Tickets! Good sport staff helps out!



Left:  
Mrs. Sheeks



Right:  
Mrs. Lampe  
  
Center:  
Mrs. Huggins  
Mrs. Sams



Left:  
Mrs. Portner  
  
Right:  
Mrs. Jansen



# More Around AH



1. Mrs. Tingle and Michael Cox are looking good and ready to go to the Manners Matter Luncheon.
2. Larkin, Jaise, Abbie and Lakin came up with the idea of a recycling box for plastics to place in the lunchroom for custodian Gary McVay. They decorated the container with puff paint.
3. The A.H. iSPIN (PSS-Partnering for Student Success Team) has worked twice a month on agendas to consider ways to improve student achievement by our joint efforts. Left to right: Back Row: Brad Freese, Val Steinbach, Paula Klosterboer-Facilitator, Jennifer Sherwood. Front Row: Carol Farver; Katie Revell, Jayne Freese, Vicki Miller and Kim Vanderlaan. Not pictured: Michelle Modlin and Josi Arguello.

**Don't forget to SAVE your Box Tops for Education. AH Student Council organizes to send these in to Redeem for PTA projects for our school! Any time is a good time to send Box Tops to school! We recently received a check for just over \$2,000. to use toward our PTA school sign. Thank you!!**



Newton CSD Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Newton Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (Employment only), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (students/program only) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the District's Equity Coordinator, Steve McDermott, 807

# 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Art Show



## Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>

10am-4pm

Grace Community Church  
300 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street North

Seven hundred students have decided which is their BEST artwork to showcase in the 2012 Spring Arts Show. Each student from Aurora Heights and Woodrow Wilson Intermediates will have one piece on exhibit along side professional local artists. Students will exhibit creations of watercolor, printmaking, pastel, tempera, mixed media, and clay sculpture. CELEBRATE CREATIVITY!!!

Please bring one (or more if you like!) non-perishable food item as your family's admission to the show. Your donation will be given to the Grace Community Church food pantry to help those in need.



# Principal's Page

## Building FOCUS 2011-2012:

1. Nurturing a Culture of Literacy
2. Integrity of Everyday Math Implementation
3. PBIS - Teaching and Expecting Responsible/Safe/Respectful Behavior
4. Focused/timely Interventions -Doing "Whatever it Takes!"

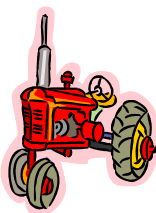
Dear Families of Aurora Heights,

We are closing in on the end of a great year of learning at Aurora Heights for the 2011-2012 School year. Thank you for your support through-out the months of school and as we continue to finish in style. Look for new Iowa Assessment results in the weeks ahead. We will look to those results to continue to refine our efforts to meet our school goals of increased student achievement in the areas of literacy and math.

Please plan on attending our Family Night on May 17th from 5:30-7:30. See the flyer earlier in the newsletter. It is an evening to celebrate our year together. There will be free food, a great silent auction and fun activities to do as a family. Thanks to PTA for arranging.

A Field Day for all AH students will be held on May 22nd with 4th grade in the a.m. and 5th/6th in the afternoon. The rain date is Aril 24th. This is always a fun day for students.

We have selected our new theme for 2012-2013. We will have a farming theme with the slogan of "Planting for Our Future-Growing Success". It should be a great theme with much opportunity to show our pride in Iowa. If you have any ideas and or theme related items to loan to us for the year, we welcome any and all ways to connect our theme to what we will do at school next year.



We hope you will have an opportunity to do some fun things over the summer with your children. Please encourage them to read, write and think mathematically in their daily activities. We look forward to a great end of this year and look to the new year with excitement.

Mrs. Farver, Principal

Our newsletter is available online at: <http://www.newton.k12.ia.us> next, click on the left hand side of the district site on the **SCHOOLS** tab, then **Aurora Heights**, finally **Monthly Newsletter**. If you would like email notification of the new monthly newsletter posting, please let the office know your email address. It is normally available **around the first of each month**. Also keep us updated with email address changes. If you are currently receiving a hardcopy of the newsletter and would consider changing to the electronic version, please let us know. We are always interested in saving paper, and the resolution and pictures are much clearer online.

*Published Monthly for the student families and staff of Aurora Heights Intermediate School*

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