

Downtown School Dispatch

April 28, 2015

For information about parking and accessibility to the building for the disabled,
please contact John Johnson at 242-8422.
For sign or language interpreters, please call 242-7714.

From the Principal's Desk . . .

I hope you are able to attend the Central Campus Block Party this evening. The Downtown School and Central Campus will be open from 6:00-8:00pm. It is a great opportunity to see some wonderful artwork by Downtown School student artists and the numerous programs available for students at Central Campus.

Congratulations

This school year is going so fast . . . but not fast as these students.

Zachary Jacob, Beatrice Sullivan, Ryan Huang, Olivia Vald, Aiden Jahangir and Rachel Brauch represented the Downtown School last Friday evening at the Drake Relays.

It is very evident that Coach Clark and Coach Watson were very proud of our students.



Downtown School Calendar

I want to thank our parents, staff and community members who have, and continue to, lobby for various school-related legislation.

The calendar debate ended with the passing of HF 227 and Governor Branstad's signing of the bill on April 10. This legislation mandates that schools may not start classes before August 23. Although we received word that our waiver request to begin school before August 23 was denied, that is not the end of the story.

HF 227 also has an exemption for year round schools. With this exemption, there are strict guidelines for determining the criteria that constitute a year round calendar. The main guideline is that schools may not have breaks any longer than 6 consecutive weeks. Since our original proposed calendar (the one shared with parents during conferences in February) had about a 7 ½ week summer vacation, it did not meet those new guidelines. To comply with the new guidelines, we have revised the original calendar by lengthening the calendar 9 days and taking 9 additional days off throughout the school year.

I met with district officials after school on Friday. It was determined that we will submit a revised calendar, with the new requirements, with an application for the year round exemption. That proposal will go to our school board for a public hearing on Tuesday, May 5. The deadline for the application to the Department of Education is Monday, May 11.

I will send a revised calendar to parents, as soon as we receive final approval.

Thank you for your patience. I apologize for the delays and confusion with this calendar issue. The most important outcome is doing what is best for our children!

Downtown School Teaching Garden

Mrs. Watson and the Downtown School Garden Committee met last week and are making plans for a planting day. Watch for additional information.

*Spring is here, here, here.
Frankenstein is near, near, near.
Watch out from Frankenstein,
Or he will crank your spine.
Watch out for Frankenstein.*

I wrote that poem 55 years ago, when I was a second grade student in Mrs. Best's classroom at Perkins Elementary School. This is probably my last chance to actually "publish" my poem. ☺

It is amazing the things we remember from our childhood. I am reminded of that every day as we interact with our children. A kind word or smile can stay with a child for many years. A harsh word or frown can also stay with a child for many years.

PTA Meeting

Our last PTA Meeting of the year will be held on Friday, May 8 at 12:00 noon, in the Downtown School Library. I want to thank our PTA Board for their wonderful leadership and support for the Downtown School. They are a remarkable group of hard working and dedicated parents.

**Mark Your Calendar with These
IMPORTANT DATES
2014-15**

All School Sing / Book Character Day

Wednesday, May 6
8:30am
Central Campus Auditorium

PTA Meeting

Friday, May 8
12:00 Noon
DTS Library

Teacher Appreciation and Bids for Kids

Friday, May 8
6:30-9:30pm
West End Architectural Salvage

Band Concert

Monday, May 11
1:00pm
Central Campus Auditorium

All School Sing

Friday, May 15
8:30am
Lower Gym

May Intersession

May 18-22

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25
No School

Orchestra Concert

Wednesday, June 3

12:00 Noon

Central Campus Auditorium

Field Day

Tuesday, June 9

Raindate: Thursday, June 11

Brody Middle School

Celebration Conferences

Friday, June 12

School remains in session for student-led conferences; No classes

Piano Recital

Monday, June 15

6:30pm

Central Campus Auditorium

Fifth Grade Recognition

Friday, June 19

6:00 pm

Central Campus Auditorium

All School Sing

Monday, June 22

8:30am

CC Auditorium

Last Day of School

Monday, June 22

1:30pm Dismissal

Issues of the Downtown School Dispatch will be sent electronically, unless there is a request for a paper copy.

Check for regular updates on our web site:

<http://downtownschool.dmschools.org>