

NOVEMBER 2009 PARENT NEWSLETTER



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Harding parents showed their children how important school is by having a tremendous turnout for Parent-Teacher Conferences in November. 95% of our students had a conference attended by a parent or guardian. Thanks for making Parent-Teacher Conferences a priority!

END OF TRIMESTER #1

Students will be dismissed early (12:15 p.m.) from school on November 13. It marks the end of Trimester #1 and the afternoon is set aside for teachers to figure grades and prepare report cards. Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, November 20. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about your child's education, please contact the teachers or the principal.

FUNDRAISER/LIMO RIDE

Thanks to all the families that helped make the Harding P.T.O. fundraiser a success! The limo ride and pizza lunch for the top-selling students has been scheduled for Friday, November 20.

HARDING ELEMENTARY

1239 N. Rhode Island Ave.
Mason City, Iowa 50401
(641) 421-4406

Michael A. Penca
Principal

SCHOOL EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Nov. 4 | Lunch & Learn- 1 st grade
11:00 a.m. (classrooms) |
| Nov. 10 | P.T.O. Mtg. 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 13 | <i>Early Dismissal</i>
12:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 19 | 4 th grade Music Program
2:15 p.m. (gym) |
| Nov. 23 | HA/HO Band Concert
7:00 p.m. (Hoover gym) |
| Nov 25-27 | <i>NO SCHOOL</i>
Thanksgiving Break |

HARDING/HOOVER BAND

The Harding/Hoover Band will perform its Fall concert on November 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hoover gym. Please invite family and friends to attend this performance!

H1N1 VACCINE

Consent forms for students to receive the H1N1 vaccine were due on October 30. Please contact the Harding office if you would like to request another consent form and please return it to ASAP. This vaccine is optional and will be provided free of charge to students. At this the Cerro Gordo Co. Public Health Department has not set a date to administer the vaccinations at Harding. I will notify parents of the date as soon as I know and will allow parents to be present at school during the vaccinations.

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TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

The Mason City Community School District would like to collect preliminary information from all families about their transportation needs for next school year. This information will help plan bus routes, and assist us in meeting the changing transportation needs of families due to next year's realignment of schools. Please complete the survey by November 6 in one of the ways listed below. You only need to complete one survey per family, as it asks for information about each one of your children who will be attending school in the 2010-2011 school year. *If your child will not be riding a bus, you only need to complete Question # 1 of the survey.*

Complete the survey online at the following web address <http://survey.aaa267.k12.ia.us/survey/5755/180b/> or complete the survey at the Mason City Community Schools website (Resources/Parent- Transportation Survey).

Request a paper copy from the school office and return it to your child's school by November 6, 2009.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

To encourage the donation of Box Tops for Education, the Harding PTO will award a prize to the class who collects the most Box Tops each month throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Each classroom will have a container to put box tops in throughout the month. At the end of the month, beginning November 30, PTO volunteers will collect, count and reward the class with the most box tops. *Please carefully trim all box tops and check the expiration*

STUDENT LEADERS

Fifteen students in grades 4-5 have been selected as Student Leaders. They will meet monthly with the principal to serve as student advisors, to coordinate building service learning projects, and to participate in leadership activities. We had 49 interested students fill out an application, complete essay questions, and obtain signatures of approval from their parents, teacher, and classmates. The following students will serve as Harding's Student Leaders for the 2009-2010 school year: Megan Krahenbuhl, Tyler Benitez, Tanner Jones, Bailey Badker, Hannah Jones, Tyler Jacobsen, Chandlor Galindo, Bailey Tilkes, Caden Koerber, Anna Godfrey, Madison Merriam, Macey Burtness, Gage Jamison, Khellendros Cornwell, and Francesca Wasicek.

4th GRADE MUSIC PROGRAM

On November 19 at 2:15 p.m., 4th grade students will present their music program to parents in the gym. Don't miss the performance by this talented group!

LUNCH & LEARN

1st grade parents are invited to the Lunch & Learn reading program on Tuesday, November 4 at 11:00 a.m. Students and parents will eat a sack lunch in the classroom and then parents will learn ways to support their young readers at home. Thanks to our 1st grade team for planning this event, and we also appreciate the PTO for budgeting money so we can buy each 1st grade student books.

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Lots of Learning Happening in IC Skills

What are students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade learning in IC Skills for the first trimester?

Kindergarten

1. How to take care of a book and check out a book using a shelf marker
2. Experience many authors and illustrators of literature by checking out books and listening to the teacher-librarian read aloud
3. Know the parts of a computer and use computer software such as www.starfall.com and Kidspiration

1st/2nd Grade

1. Experience many authors and illustrators of literature by listening to the teacher-librarian read aloud or checking out books
2. What is the Caldecott Award? Identify Caldecott winners.
3. Locate/identify the parts of a book: cover page, spine, title page
4. Identify parts of a title page: title, author, illustrator, publisher, city, and copyright.
5. Use computer software such as www.starfall.com, Microsoft Word, and Kidspiration

3rd-5th Grade

1. Experience many authors and illustrators of literature by checking out books and listening to book talks given by the teacher-librarian
2. Use technology skills such as create a folder, save as, and access saved student work in a folder
3. Keyboarding skills

Productivity Grade

During the first trimester your child will receive only a productivity grade from IC Skills. Your child will be able to earn a 1, 2, 3, or 4. The following criteria are used to grade productivity: 1) Participate in class, 2) Follow directions and show quality work, 3) Work well independently or in groups, and 4) Complete work on time.

Keyboarding Skills

Students in grades third through fifth are currently learning keyboarding skills. Keyboarding meets Mason City Community School District technology standards and benchmarks. By learning proper keyboarding hand and finger positions, not only will students be able to type and use technology in a more efficient and effective manner, but it will also prepare them for intermediate school, middle school, high school, post-secondary, and life, in general.

Please refer to the questions and answers below for more helpful information:

Q: How long will students practice keyboarding skills in IC Skills?

A: Each class meets once per a cycle for 30 minutes. Third grade students will complete 20 lessons until approximately April. Fourth grade students will complete 14 lessons until approximately February. Fifth grade students will complete 10 lessons until approximately January.

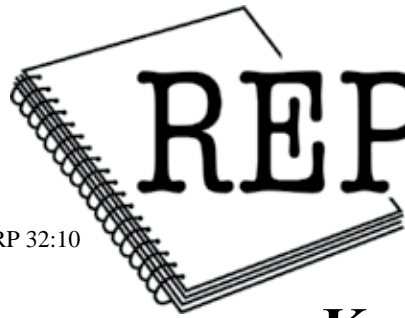
Q: Will students earn a grade for keyboarding in IC Skills?

A: Yes. Your child will be receiving two grades; one grade for productivity and one grade for technology. Is your child making an effort to complete the lesson within the class

period? Is your child able to place hands correctly on the home row and use correct finger positions?

Q: How can my child improve his/her keyboarding skills?

A: Your child can improve by keeping his/her hands on the home row (ASDF and JKL;) when typing papers at home or at school. There are several free websites on the internet, such as freetypinggame.net that offer practice and games. Repetition and practice helps a student improve! Please ask your child to demonstrate his/her keyboarding skills!



REPORT_{to} PARENTS

RP 32:10

Key Facts About H1N1 Flu

If an H1N1 flu outbreak occurs in your community or in your child's school, rest assured that officials will keep parents updated about preventative measures such as disinfections and school closings. Here is information about what H1N1 flu is, how to protect your family, and what to do if your child becomes infected.

How does H1N1 flu compare to seasonal flu in terms of its severity? With **seasonal flu**, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu-related causes in the U.S., 10 percent of whom are children younger than 5 years old. More than 90 percent of deaths and about 60 percent of hospitalizations occur in people older than 65. **H1N1 flu** has caused greater disease burden in people younger than 25 years of age than older people. There are few cases and few deaths reported in people older than 64 years old, which is unusual when compared with seasonal flu. However, pregnancy and other previously recognized high-risk medical conditions from seasonal flu appear to be associated with increased risk of complications from H1N1 flu.

Infection Prevention. There are several precautions you can teach your children to reduce their chance of contracting H1N1 flu. Instruct your children to cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and to throw the tissue in the trash after use. If a tissue isn't accessible, children should be taught to cough or sneeze into the bend of their elbows rather than into bare hands.

Keep your children's hands clean by making sure they wash their hands frequently with soap and water, especially after a cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based cleaners such as Purell are also effective and come in small bottles that can be carried in backpacks. Children should also avoid touching their eyes, noses, or mouths—germs spread that way.

Develop a family emergency kit, which should include medicines, facemasks, alcohol-based hand rubs, and other essential supplies. That way, if someone in your household does get infected, you will be prepared to care for that individual while protecting others in your home.

What should I do? If your children are exhibiting flu symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea), do not send them to school or daycare. Instead, keep them home, making sure they drink plenty of liquids and take fever-reducing medicines (not aspirin) to combat fever, sore throat, and muscle aches. If only one person is sick, keep that person away from those who are not sick. If your child comes into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with H1N1 flu, ask your doctor if your child should receive antiviral medicine.



Get medical care right away if the sick person:

- Has difficulty breathing or chest pain;
- Has purple or blue discoloration of the lips;
- Is vomiting and unable to keep liquids down;
- Has signs of dehydration such as dizziness when standing, absence of urination or, in infants, a lack of tears when they cry;
- Has seizures (for example, uncontrolled convulsions); or
- Is less responsive than normal or becomes confused.

Before seeking medical care, make sure to call your child's primary care physician or the emergency room so that proper precautions can be made.

The thought of an H1N1 flu outbreak in your community may be alarming, but remaining informed and following precautionary measures is your best defense in protecting your family.

Web Resources

Below are useful Web sites where you can access additional and continually updated information about H1N1 flu and pandemic flu planning.

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu

<http://pandemicflu.gov>



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INFORME a los PADRES

RP 32:10

Datos Claves Acerca de la Influenza H1N1

Si hay casos de la influenza H1N1 en su comunidad o en la escuela de su niño, usted puede estar segura de que los funcionarios mantendrán a los padres informados en cuanto a medidas preventivas, tales como el proceso para desinfectar y los cierres escolares. En seguida presentamos información acerca de la influenza H1N1, cómo proteger a su familia, y lo que debe hacer si su niño resulta infectado.

¿Cómo se compara la influenza H1N1 con la influenza estacional en cuanto a su gravedad? Para la **influenza estacional**, más de 200,000 personas son hospitalizadas por causas asociadas a esta enfermedad; 10 por ciento de las personas son niños menores de 5 años. Más del 90 por ciento de las muertes y casi un 60 por ciento de las hospitalizaciones suceden en personas de más de 65 años. La mayor cantidad de casos probables y confirmados de **influenza H1N1** han ocurrido en personas entre los 5 y 24 años de edad. Solo se han presentado unos cuantos casos y ninguna muerte en personas más viejas de 64 años de edad, lo que es inusual si se compara con la influenza estacional. Sin embargo, el embarazo y otras afecciones, previamente identificadas, que presentan un alto riesgo de complicaciones con la influenza estacional parecen también estar asociados a un alto riesgo de presentar complicaciones para la influenza H1N1.

Cómo prevenir una infección. Hay varias medidas de precaución que puede enseñarle a sus niños para disminuir las posibilidades de contraer la influenza H1N1. Enséñele a sus niños que al toser o estornudar, deben cubrirse las narices y boca con un pañuelo de papel o “Kleenex” y siempre tirarlo a la basura después de su uso. Si no tienen un Kleenex, los niños deben toser o estornudar en el codo, y no en las manos.

Asegúrese de que sus niños mantengan las manos limpias por medio de lavárselas frecuentemente con jabón y agua, especialmente después de toser o estornudar. También son efectivos los limpiadores con base de alcohol tales como “Purell” y éstos vienen en envases pequeños que se pueden llevar en la mochila. Para evitar la transmisión de gérmenes, los niños deben evitar tocarse los ojos, nariz y boca.

Mantenga un botiquín de primeros auxilios familiar, en el cual debe incluir medicamentos, máscaras, productos para limpiarse las manos con base de alcohol, y otros suministros esenciales.

Entonces, si alguien en su familia llegara a enfermarse, usted estará preparada para cuidar a aquel individuo, al mismo tiempo que protege a los demás en su hogar.

¿Qué debo hacer? Si sus niños están exhibiendo síntomas de la gripe (fiebre, tos, dolor de garganta, dolores corporales, dolor de cabeza, escalofríos y fatiga, vómitos, o diarrea), no los mande a la escuela o al centro de cuidado infantil. Deben quedarse en casa y asegúrese de que beban bastantes líquidos, y déles medicamentos para reducir la fiebre (no aspirina) y combatir el dolor de garganta y dolores musculares. Si hay solo una persona enferma, mantenga a esa persona alejada de las que no están enfermas. Si su niño tiene contacto con una persona que ha sido diagnosticada con la influenza H1N1, pregúntele a su doctor si su niño debe recibir un medicamento antiviral.



Busque ayuda médica de inmediato si la persona enferma:

- Tiene dificultades en respirar o dolor de pecho;
- Tiene descoloración de los labios, o los labios azules o morados;
- Tiene vómitos y no puede retener los líquidos;
- Tiene señales de la deshidratación tales como mareos, falta de orina, o en los bebés, una falta de lagrimas al llorar;
- Tiene un ataque epiléptico (por ejemplo, convulsiones incontroladas); o
- No responde de una manera normal o se confunde.

Antes de buscar atención médica, asegúrese de llamar al pediatra de su niño o a la sala de emergencias, para que se puedan tomar las precauciones apropiadas.

Aunque la posibilidad de casos de influenza H1N1 en su comunidad sea alarmante, la mejor defensa para proteger a su familia es mantenerse informada y tomar las medidas de precaución.

Recursos en Internet

En las siguientes direcciones encontrará información adicional y actualizada, en inglés y español, sobre la influenza H1N1 y cómo prepararse para una influenza pandémica.

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/espanol

<http://pandemicflu.gov>



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