

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

BURWELL & DIST. #70 ELEMENTARY



IMPORTANT DATES:

Daylight Savings Ends	Nov. 3
Picture Retakes	Nov.
Longhorn Pride Assembly @ 2:15	Nov. 8
Veteran's Day Program @ High School 10:00	Nov. 11
Hoops for Heart @2:30	Nov. 12
School Dismissal @ 1:00	Nov. 27
Thanksgiving Vacation	Nov. 28-29

THE STUDENTS CORNER



The inspiration of children generated during classroom discussions, does not commonly materialize into beautiful, symbolic monuments of hope, peace, and freedom, but for students at Burwell Public Schools, their imaginings instigated an ongoing service-learning project that did just that. What started during a literature unit, reading the book, *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowry and a classroom discussion on symbolism in 2011, evolved into a project that will be an enduring reminder of the lessons learned in the sixth grade.

From the first day of school and throughout the whole year the theme words: Hope, Peace, Tolerance, Patriotism, Freedom, Teamwork and Education are intertwined within the sixth grade curriculum. Their importance is conveyed through the study of national history (emphasizing the value of American freedoms and civil liberties), carefully chosen literature units on topics such as bullying and the Holocaust, and highlighted stories of personal struggle. Motivating individual life stories such as the ones of; Mattie Stepanek, Ryan White, Randy Pausch, Ben Carson, Lizzie Velasquez, Mawi Asgedom, Benny Hochman, Sadako Sasaki, and Gerda

Weissman-Klein, are shown to teach students that life is definitely not always "fair" and that our "real character" is shown in the daily decisions we make.



Three years ago during the Holocaust study, when the now freshmen class was in the sixth grade, the students were shown several monuments around the world that exemplified

symbolism. It was revealed to the students that learning about the past is a way to better the future. Lessons on the Holocaust and the events that took place during World War II are taught to make the educated aware, so that these atrocities will NOT be allowed to happen again. After viewing the monument in Hiroshima, Japan, in memory of Sadako Sasaki from the book, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, another book read during this literature unit, student Devin Watts simply stated, "We should put a peace monument in Burwell." From that day forward, the mission was set.

The class conversed about the importance of learning the facts about the Holocaust so that they cannot be denied in the future. Mrs. Schott pointed out that with this knowledge comes responsibility because the survivors of this terrible time in our history would not be around forever to verify that it really happened. Student Tori Huffman came to school the next day with a yellow post-it note in his hand and on it was written, "You Are My Witnesses-Isaiah 43:10."

During another discussion one student wanted to know if they were going to have their names on the monument. Jessica Brunken responded to the remark, "It's not really about us."

"It is amazing to behold the intuitiveness of young people. They seem to have a greater belief in the possibility of peace and through these lessons, even as sixth graders, they really do understand the importance of this information," expressed teacher, Mrs. Joy Schott. "Getting an education is not just about what can be learned from our text books and it is projects like this that will hopefully be remembered a lifetime and make a difference in their future."

The students had several fundraisers that began with a bake sale in 2011 where funds were matched by a grant through the G-L-W with the help of Ruby Plock. The next proceeds were earned selling Discount Cards. This suggestion was brought forth by Lori Mares. With the contribution of fifteen of Burwell's local businesses discounts were given to cardholders throughout the whole year of 2012. During the 2012 Calamus Court Basketball Tournament, Terry Smith of NAPA Auto Parts in Burwell, donated forty basketballs to sell with all earnings going to the students. ACE fliers were distributed throughout the town for two consecutive years. The last profits were made selling items from Na-



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Elementary Library News

The excitement of being named a National Blue Ribbon School has not died down a bit. What an honor for our school and community!

Fall activities in the library have been going strong. The Kindergarten and 1st grade classes have been reading Halloween books and drawing pumpkins for our giant pumpkin patch.

The 2nd grade has begun its Passport to Mexico. We will be celebrating the very important Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead.

3rd grade is doing research on famous artists while the 4th grade is doing a unit on folktales, including building a gingerbread house.

The 6th grade is reading and studying about Newbery books, a special award given to chapter books by the American Library Association.

The 5th grade is currently doing its Passport to Germany. The class presented schultutens to the Kindergarten class. Schultutens are given to German children on the first day of school to make the day special.



Blue Ribbon Tail Gate party before the football game against Clearwater/Orchard.



Blue Ribbon Balloon launch at the first Longhorn touch down against the Clearwater/Orchard Cyclones.

Counselor's Corner

I continue to make weekly visits to the elementary classrooms to discuss a variety of topics. In grades K-3 we have been discussing good manners including how to give and receive a compliment. In grades 4-6 we have been learning about building community in the classroom through a variety of activities and discussions. We have also been learning about skills and the knowledge needed to serve others in our community.

October was Red Ribbon Week "Be Smart, Don't Start". We worked with the GLW high school students and Mrs. Smith to be more aware of the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and bad choices. If you have any questions, please contact me at jtetschner@esu10.org or call 346-4150. - Miss Tetschner



District 70 News

Miss Tetschner has been helping the District 70 students learn more about Teamwork. They have been working in small groups to build houses of cards. The students have found it is easier when they listen to others' ideas and work together.



District 70 students participated in Hoop for Heart on Wed. Oct. 16th. They spent some time doing dribbling drills, shooting, and playing a game of "HEART". So far, they have raised more than \$450, with more money to be turned in. Way to go District 70!



ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

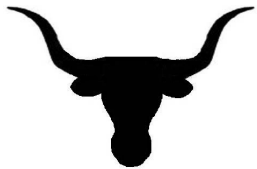
The A.H.R.A. (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) regulations require yearly notification to parents of the presence of asbestos within the district buildings. Asbestos is a mineral fiber associated with lung disease when inhaled. However, asbestos within building materials usually does not pose a health problem when maintained in good condition and not disturbed. Such is the case at Burwell Elementary and District #70 Elementary Schools.

Burwell Jr. Sr. High School, Burwell Elementary and District #70 Elementary Schools have an asbestos management plan on file at the district office located at the Burwell Jr. Sr. High school. All three schools had their inspections completed on October 9, 2006 and everything was found satisfactory. The District's management plan is available for inspection upon request. If you have any questions regarding the district's management plan you may contact, Dan Bird, at 346-4150.

November 2013
News Letter

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*When you do good things,
Good things happen.*

Happy Thanksgiving



November

2-Dillon Critel
Mrs. Simpson
5-Anna Gideon
6-Copeland Carstens
9-Braiden Moses
11-Bladen Peterson
12-Tiffany Mayfield
22-Bridget Brockman
23-Bodie Barton
24-Wyatt David
25-Dylan Larsen
27-Miss Tetschner

The Students Corner- Continued

ture's Vision Magazine, a fundraising company that donates a portion of its profits to environmental causes. As the funds necessary to accomplish the project mounted, the last task was finding the perfect artist for the job.

"Finding the right artist for the job turned out to be one of the biggest challenges of the whole project," stated Mrs. Joy Schott. "We found out that commissioning an artist is a very expensive undertaking. We had to find someone who was willing to incorporate the students' ideas and do it for the amount of money that we had to spend."

After working with three different artists, the ideal match was finally found. Nationally renowned artist, Dale Lamphere and his associate Lane Golliher of Lamphere Studios in Sturgis, South Dakota, took the ideas collected from the two classrooms of students and designed a clay model of the sculpture. After getting the approval of the Burwell School Board of Education the construction was underway. Oil based clay was sent for the students of the two classes to form the continents of the Earth so that the impression of their own fingerprints could be permanently cast into the bronze for the sculpture. The stunning monument is constructed of stainless steel with elements of bronze. Etched into the base of the sculpture is a verse from the poem, "The Divine" written by German poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832).

*Noble be man,
Merciful and good!
For that alone
Sets him apart
From every other creature
On Earth.*

Author: Goethe

The students from both classes agreed that this should be put on the monument. The significance of the verse comes from the true accounts of then 17 year old Gerda Weissman-Klein during WW2.

Dale Lamphere delivered the sculpture on Thursday, October 24, 2013. Mr. Max and the freshmen Industrial Arts boys were there to assist Mr. Lamphere unload, prep the pedestal, and assemble the peace monument. Ironically, this was the class that initiated the project. The monument stands at the south end of the Burwell Elementary building between the school and the tennis court. The space has been beautifully prepared by Kevin and Paul Plock with a meticulous circle of concrete and sidewalk leading up. All of their labor was donated for this project. To give the monument a place of distinction a pedestal was constructed by Vore Construction with labor donated by Jason Vore.

Through the efforts of last year's sixth grade students, the graduating class of 2019, funds were raised to purchase a granite bench engraved with the words, "What every one of us does MATTERS!" and the word "HOPE" engraved on the back. The bench is an inspiration

and very impressive to see! This year the students in sixth grade will work to put another granite bench on the site. Join these students' enthusiasm and come take a look!



Cold Weather

It's that time of year again, the weather outside is getting cooler, we are encouraging the students to come to school dressed appropriately.
(Hats, gloves, coats, and boots)

Please put your child's name in all their outer wear, it will make it easier to reunite them if they get separated.

