



Comet Community Connection

Caston Elementary School
"Growing Leaders"

September 2011
Volume 17, Issue 1

Sixth Graders Go Live on the Caston "Daily News"

For years, our 6th graders have participated in our daily announcements; this year is no exception. Our daily announcements, however, have evolved from simple intercom announcements to a real live news program that is played in each classroom daily.

Mr. Byrn, music teacher, is directing our daily news program along with the help of sixth grade students who rotate in and out of roles such as anchor boys/girls, meteorologists, and field reporters. They record the program, it's e-mailed to each teacher as a link, and then the teachers can play it on the computer and project it onto the large screen in the classroom at the time that works best for each class.

There is certainly a lot of potential for our program to grow into a more sophisticated production, but for just starting out it is amazing what Mr. Byrn and the kids have been able to do! They have incorporated an interactive weather map, they have included short educational video segments, they have featured athletes, student and staff activities and they have interviewed staff members. All of this with music, sound effects, and eye-catching transitions from one segment to another!

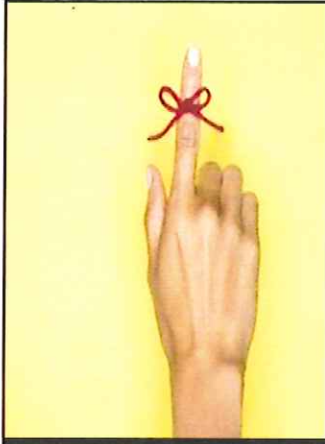
One of the most important skills that students can acquire throughout their schooling is the ability to communicate. This involves the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. We tend to focus a lot in schools on the reading and writing aspect of that, but sometimes we forget that the other skills are equally important. By participating in this type of activity, students see first hand the need to communicate well. They understand that speaking slowly, clearly, and loud enough for others to hear is critical to getting their message across. They can see why eye contact with the person you are communicating with is important.

Looking at the leadership aspect, we continue to focus on ways to grow leaders in our school. By taking on a role in the news program, students take ownership and feel important to the overall functioning of the school — something that builds pride, responsibility, and confidence in our students. Not only that, but our students are having a ball — they are really enjoying the opportunity to have their moment in the spotlight. Learning and growing at school should be fun for the kids whenever possible. Kids relate to the latest technology and appreciate receiving information in a way that mirrors the society they live in. The Caston Elementary Daily News Program promises to deliver more than just the news — it's delivering a whole lot of learning opportunities that will serve our students for many years to come!



What's In the News at Caston?

- This year we're trying something new in an effort to cut down on copying and paper expense. We will be sending home just one copy of all school-wide notes, publications, etc. with the youngest child in the family. Over the course of a school year this will be a significant savings for us! Please contact your youngest child's teacher if you feel items needed are not getting home.
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Please Remember!

Parents are asked to please remember your child's lunch code when you send in lunch money. If you are uncertain as to what your child's code is you can call Mrs. Chapman at the Elementary Office and she can tell you what your child's code is. This is very helpful in assuring your child's lunch money gets placed in the proper account!

Caston's Got Talent!

Caston Students and Faculty — It's time to show off your talents! The Caston High School Concert Choir will be hosting a talent show on September 20th, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria. The concession stand will be open, so come hungry! Be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to see this awesome spectacle!

Each entry will receive a certificate of participation. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 participants in each division (elementary, junior high, senior high, and faculty). This event is a fundraiser for the music department — they are in need of 15 additional choir robes in order to have enough for the 61 voice choir — the new robes will cost about \$2500. You can help by sharing your talent and having lots of fun attending and voting at this event!

Entry forms and further information is available in the music room or in the elementary front office. The cost to enter the contest is \$5 for a solo or a group of 5 or fewer people. For groups larger than 5 people, the cost will be \$1/person in the group. Vote tickets can be purchased for \$1/ticket and are

available in advance and at the door. You can vote for your favorite routines by putting in as many vote tickets as you wish!



Questions??

Contact Mrs. Byrn by e-mail: byrnm@caston.k12.in.us or by phone: 574-857-3505 ext. 361.

Substitutes Needed in Caston School Cafeteria

We are in need of substitutes to work in our school cafeteria. If you would have an interest in applying to be a substitute cafeteria worker, please contact Alysha Kouskousakis, our new cafeteria manager. Many of our substitute cafeteria workers through the years have ended up being full-time cafeteria workers. Even though there are no full time positions at this time, there is always a chance one could become available in the future and a good way to get experience is to sub. Applications are available on the school web page.

Calling Comet Leaders . . . Student Reporters Needed

The Comet Connection is in need of student reporters! We are looking for proactive individuals to help report on school activities and students throughout the school year.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting time, please see Ms. Baxter in room 107 on Wednesday, September 14th during S.T.A.R. time!

Spell Bowl Call Out

The 2011-2012 Spell Bowl Team is forming! Students in grades 4—6 are eligible to participate in the Spell Bowl. Don't miss your chance to be part of it! Forms are available in the office or you may see Ms. Baxter in room 107. This is a great chance to showcase your spelling skills and have a great time! Our spell bowl team will be competing in the state competition which is held on Nov. 17, 2011.

**Spell Bowl teams work from a state list of 750 challenging words. The word list is also available in the Office if students &/or parents have an interest in looking at the list of words that the students practice during spell bowl.*

Harmony Provides Parents With Access to Student Info

Parents have access to their child's grades, lunch account balance, discipline files, and other information through our parent link to Harmony. This is accessed through our school web page on the left-hand side of the home page in the main menu. If you access this and receive a message about a problem with the website's security certificate, it is safe to enter through this and proceed to the site by clicking continue to this website. Once in, type in your child's username and password. If you do not have this information, you can receive it by stopping by the school and asking Mrs. Chapman personally, or by sending a written request to the school and asking that we send it to you. For security reasons we do not give this information over the telephone.

2011 Caston Fall Baseball Camp

Who: Students in grades K-6

When: Monday, 9/12
Wednesday, 9/14
Friday, 9/16

Time: 3:30—5:00 PM
(Please pick players up promptly at 5:00 PM)

Where: Caston HS Baseball Field



FREE!!!

**THERE IS NO
COST FOR THE
CAMP!!!!**

All campers need to bring glove, hat, t-shirt, sweats or baseball pants, cleats or outside shoes, and a helmet and bat if they have one.

We will focus on skills and drills that can make your child a better baseball player. Parents are welcome to watch camp to assist your child at home.

Questions can be directed to Coach Mollenkopf
Email: mollenkopfb@caston.k12.in.us
Phone: 574-721-7634

"12 Inches" - The game of baseball is played within twelve inches, from your head to your heart..

Caston Elementary School
Box 128, Hwy 25 South Fulton, IN 46931
Phone: 574-857-3025 Fax: 574-857-6035
School Principal: Mrs. Cindy Douglass



Caston Elementary School is . . .

“Growing Leaders One Student At A Time”

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Habit 1 - Be Proactive (*Look ahead, think it out, avoid problems*)
Habit 2 - Begin With the End in Mind (*Set Goals*)
Habit 3 - Put First Things First (*Make Priorities*)
Habit 4 - Think Win-Win (*There doesn't always have to be a loser*)
Habit 5 - Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood (*listen*)
Habit 6 - Synergize (*When we work together we can accomplish more*)
Habit 7 - Sharpen the Saw (*Have balance in your life & be healthy*)

“High Five” Expectations for Bus, Hallway, Playground, Cafeteria, & Bathrooms

1. Be Kind 2. Be Safe 3. Be Responsible
4. Be Respectful 5. Be Peaceful



CASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- **Monday, Sept. 5—No School (Labor Day)**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 6—6th Volleyball—Home vs. All Saints—4:30 PM**
- **Thursday, Sept. 8—Mobile Dentist Visits Caston**
- **Thursday, Sept. 8—6th Volleyball—Home vs. Pioneer—5:30 PM**
- **Monday, September 12— Community Council Meeting—7:00 PM—Library**
- **6th Volleyball—Away @ Rochester—4:30 PM**
- **Elem. Fall Baseball Clinic—3:30—5:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, September 13—Volunteer Call-Out Meeting—7:00 PM—Library**
- **Wednesday, September 14—Baseball Clinic—3:30—5:00 PM**
- **Thursday, September 15—6th Volleyball—Away @ Wabash—5:30 PM**
- **Friday, September 16—Baseball Clinic—3:30—5:00 PM**
- **Monday, September 19—SCHOOL PICTURE DAY**
- **Tuesday, September 20— PTO Meeting—3:30 in the Library**
- **6th Volleyball—away @ Lincoln MS—5:00 PM**
- **Talent Show—7:00 PM in School Cafeteria**
- **Thursday, September 22— 6th Volleyball—home vs. North Miami—5:00 P**
- **Saturday, September 24—Family BINGO Night—7:00 PM—School Cafeter**
- **Monday, September 26—6th Volleyball—Home vs. Mentone—5:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, September 27—6th Volleyball—Away @ Pioneer—5:30 PM**
- **Thursday, September 29—6th Volleyball—Home vs. Columbia—6:00 PM**
- **Saturday, October 1—6th Volleyball Tourney at Lincoln MS—9 AM**