

# Roosevelt Review

April 2009

Volume 2, Issue 8



## April Activities:

- **Monday, March 30**  
3-6 Dakota STEP  
Testing window opens
- **Friday, April 3**  
No Kindergarten Class  
Today
- **Friday, April 3**  
PTO family Night @  
LATI—BINGO  
Pizza and Juice Served
- **Tuesday, April 7**  
11:30 BISCO Dinner @  
Event Center
- **Tuesday, April 7**  
6:00 PTO meeting
- **Fri / Mon April 10 / 13**  
No School—Easter Break
- **Friday, April 17**  
Dakota STEP Testing  
Window closes
- **Thursday, April 23**  
K-6 Benchmark testing  
window opens
- **Thursday, April 23**  
6<sup>th</sup> grade physicals @  
Roosevelt
- **Friday, April 24**  
Midterm grades go  
home!
- **Monday, April 27**  
6<sup>th</sup> grades tour Middle  
School
- **Wednesday - Friday**  
**April 29 – May 1**  
Kindergarten Screening  
Garfield Special  
Services Building  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Wednesday, April 29**  
Early Dismissal  
12:30pm  
**NO AFTERNOON  
KINDERGARTEN**

## Starting Strong; Finishing Strong

The 'Fruits of Our Labor' are beginning to be looked at as I write this. Our students are involved in the harvest portion of their school year both at the district level and the state level.

The Dakota STEP assessment window is open for grades 3 through 6. It is a yearly exam that evaluates both our children learning of required state standards and our school's delivery of the state standards. The feedback will return late this summer and looked at this Fall in our staff in-service sessions. YOU will also be getting a copy of your child's progress in a report given to you in Fall Conferences. Our Roosevelt School goal is to have 95%- 100% of our students in grades 3 through 6 at PROFICIENT or ADVANCED levels. These required assessment results in Math, Reading, and Science (grade 5) are posted and available on-line at:

<https://nclb.ddncampus.net/nclb/portal/portal.xsl?&extractID=10> Please click on Watertown and Roosevelt on the left side of the page to see each grade level results from last year. The 2008-2009 school year's results will be posted in the coming Fall. Roosevelt has continually achieved at a 'Distinguished Level' by meeting the state and federal required levels for Proficient

## Kindergarten Screening

If you have a child who will be age 5 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, he or she may enter kindergarten. Screening and registration has been scheduled for **Wednesday, April 29, Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st**, at Garfield Special Services building. If you would like more information on registration please call Joyce Paulsen at 882-6399.

**April is "Child Abuse"  
Prevention Month**

students in our classrooms. Our goal for Proficient or Advanced student results sets our children up for the success they require for future education needs in any district they attend.

Another assessment that measures our academic growth during the school year is the Benchmark assessment in April and May that follows Dakota STEP. This is a district assessment that measures the progress of ALL K-6 students in Reading and Math for meeting the Watertown School District curriculum standards requirements for our children and teachers. These results could be handed to our children this Spring before they are dismissed for the Summer Break.. Students are evaluated at the Mastery level in the district curriculum requirements. Students must master at least 70% of the curriculum standard requirements in Math and Reading to achieve a Mastery Level. Again, our school goal is to have 95% - 100% of our K-6 children at or above grade level for this year. By meeting this goal, our children should be set up for success in future education needs in any district they attend. \*\*Our Watertown School District Standards are more inclusive than the required State of South Dakota Standards in that they contain ALL of the state standards and require more standards for our District children.\*\*

## Pre-School Screening

Preschool screening will be at McKinley School on **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. It is for children who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2009. Eligibility for the District's preschool is determined by household income, and screening scores. Please bring with you to the screening a **Certified birth certificate** (not the hospital copy) & **Immunization records**.

To make an appointment, please call McKinley School at 882-6350.

## 2009-2010 Class Lists



Early next month, we will begin placing students in next year's classrooms. There are many different factors to consider when placing a student in a classroom. To create balanced classrooms, we take into account a child's academic ability and learning style, gender, and personality characteristics. **We strive to balance each classroom with the right learning chemistry based on all curricular schedules!**

As in the past, we have accepted parent requests for a classroom teacher for their child. If a request is made, please send it through the principal's office in writing with an explanation for the request. This can be in the form of a note or an email (see below). The request can be made until **April 30th**. The goal is to finalize classroom lists to distribute on report cards by the end of May.

[gregg.despiegler@k12.sd.us](mailto:gregg.despiegler@k12.sd.us)

## Dakota STEP testing



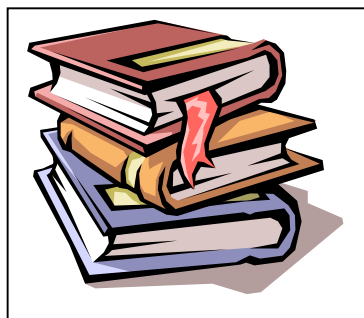
Starting **March 30** and ending **April 17th**, students in grades 3 – 6, 8 and 11 will be taking the **Dakota STEP** assessment. Your child's teacher has selected certain dates out of the above testing window to test your child. Most teachers will administer this test in the morning. The testing areas will include reading, math, language, and science (5<sup>th</sup> only).

Thank you for taking the time to help your child perform at their best! If you have any questions regarding the upcoming tests, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the office at 882-6360.

**Check grades on Campus at:**

<http://watertown.k12.sd.us/curres>

Select Campus for Parents



## Roosevelt School Yearbook

Roosevelt Elementary School students will again have the opportunity to receive a yearbook. The yearbook will be assembled at a local business. You may be getting a phone call from

us to assist with putting the Yearbook together! Thank you for your participation!

"For parents of sixth graders and/or middle school students... Check out the new blog at [www.wmshappenings.blogspot.com](http://www.wmshappenings.blogspot.com) for announcements and information regarding activities. You can also click on the link to the blog from the Watertown Middle School home page."

Mrs. Nancy Weber

*Asst Principal  
Watertown Middle School  
Ph. 605-882-6370*

***BLOGGING!!!***

[www.wmshappenings.blogspot.com](http://www.wmshappenings.blogspot.com)



## ENHANCED STUDENT LEARNING through Community Involvement is found in Roosevelt's H.O.S.T.S. Program

HOSTS is a proven, instructional strategy which is integrated into the curriculum

in grades 3-6 at Roosevelt Elementary. HOSTS reinforces classroom teaching.

The instruction is one to one with friendly, caring, and committed volunteers from our Watertown community.

Roosevelt's HOSTS Program has approximately

175 community volunteers mentoring in reading and language skills

helping about 55 Roosevelt students.

HOSTS students build self-esteem and become

more self-reliant while improving achievement and communication

skills. The volunteers' encouragement

produces better readers, increased vocabulary, and reading

comprehension

for each of their HOSTS students.

HOSTS has been extremely fortunate to have County Fair and Hy-Vee donations,

anonymous donations to help children as needed, and Premier Bank Card employees making

it possible to have a BOOK FAIR in which our local B Dalton bookstore

brings in and displays books for the HOSTS students to select their very own book to take home. Thus the beginnings of a student's very own personal library.

The HOSTS students will love to tell you about the time we had a chocolate fountain(with fresh fruit) to celebrate a holiday, a kazoo band, and another time we made 'Ice Cream in a Bag' between mentor/student to celebrate another holiday. Once in a while students walk in the HOSTS room to the smell of fresh chocolate chip cookies baking...so they munch and read.

HOSTS students who choose to attain their classroom AR GOALS are entitled and invited along on a spring HOSTS field trip.



### Spring Showcase @ the Middle School Changed!

Due to other conflicts, the Middle School will be holding the **Spring Showcase on May 5, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m.** We are aware it conflicts with grades 5/6 band concert.

Mr. Buechler had mentioned it to sixth graders during his first visit to the elementary schools. Students wrote it in their planners at the time. It was initially scheduled for April 14. Thank you for noting the change!

### 4th Grade Water Festival—Mark your Calendars!

What: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Festival

Where: Brookings

When: May 12th

## **Hot Food...Hot Topics—Three Courses of Conversation**

### **Tuesday, April 7th**

Parents join us for a night of “Hot Food...Hot Topics” ... Three Courses of Conversation on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30p.m. at County Fair Banquet Hall. This event is for parents and their children in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. The evening will be focusing on three topic areas:

- Parents, Parties & Underage Drinking
- Tobacco – Not Just a Gateway Drug
- Teen Dating Boundaries & Healthy Relationships

It's never too early to talk to your child about these issues. This evening will give you tools and information as to how to start and continue having conversations with your child...and why not around the dinner table? Speakers for the evening are Darcy Jensen, Community Prevention Specialist from Prairie View Prevention Services; Brandon Carmichael, Smoking Got Me.com; and Austin Vanderzee & Julie Evans from Truth4Youth.

Seating is limited and a free dinner will be provided, so reserving your seats is important. Please RSVP with the number of seats you would like by April 1<sup>st</sup> to Kelli at [kellir@humanserviceagency.org](mailto:kellir@humanserviceagency.org) phone: 884-3518 or fax: 884-3522. This event is sponsored by the Watertown Healthy Youth Initiative, Watertown School District, Watertown Tobacco Free Coalition and Truth4Youth.

## **SPRING GREETINGS FROM GATE**

It's good that children ask questions: that's the best way to learn. All children have two wonderful resources for learning--imagination and curiosity. As a parent, you can awaken your children to the joy of learning by encouraging their imagination and curiosity. Teaching and learning are not mysteries that can only happen in school. They also happen when parents and children do simple things together.

For instance, you and your child can: sort the socks on laundry day--sorting is a major function in math and science; cook a meal together--cooking involves not only math and science but good health as well; tell and read each other stories--storytelling is the basis for reading and writing (and a story about the past is also history); or play a game of hopscotch together--playing physical games will help your child learn to count and start on a road to lifelong fitness.

By doing things together, you will show that learning is fun and important. You will be encouraging your child to study, learn, and stay in school.

How do you feel about your years in school? If you have happy memories, chances are you can help your children be excited about learning and have good memories, too. If you disliked school, it's harder, but you can do lots of things to help make school a better experience for your children than it was for you.

The good news is that every child in every family has the power to succeed in school and in life, and every parent, grandparent, and caregiver can help.

But how do we help our children succeed? How do we give them the power? The most important thing we can do is be involved with our children's education even before they are in school, and then stay involved once they are in school.

Success in school takes hard work, planning, a few basic skills, and the will to want to succeed. How do we pass these ideas on to our children? What we know about success in school is a combination of common sense mixed with new ideas about learning.

It's no surprise to anyone that children need time with their parents. And even though most parents are extremely busy, whether they work outside of the home or not, they do find time to spend with their children. But they want that time to count in helping prepare their children for the world they will find outside the home.

What counts most is what we say and do at home, not how rich or poor we are or how many years of school we have finished. When children can count on getting attention at home, they have a greater sense of security and self-worth. This will help them do better not only in school, but also when they grow up.

## Watertown School District

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us

### **Roosevelt Elementary**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[http://watertown.k12.sd.us/  
schools/elem/roosevelt/inde  
x.htm](http://watertown.k12.sd.us/schools/elem/roosevelt/index.htm)

## Social Work Corner

### Parenting Tip of the Month

In our busy lives, it is important that we work to surround children with positive people. The more positive adults our children have in their lives, the better they will be able to deal with life's challenges. Adults who engage children in proactive, healthy behaviors help teach children how to be positive and also help build skills that children can use to resist negative influences as they grow up.

All parents want their children to have love and support. Sometimes we need to look beyond our home and family for the additional support our children need. Mentoring, either through a formal program or an informal friendship, has been shown to have a huge impact on children's longterm success. Challenge yourself to surround your child(ren) with adults that are positive role models. Your child(ren) will learn from them and even more importantly, will gain confidence in themselves by having more adult support.

### Resource of the Month

There are many resources to help find positive adults for your children. Churches and community sports are a wonderful source of community and a great place to have your child involved with positive adults.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a formal mentoring program that matches a child with an adult to do activities in the community. We are very fortunate to have the program in Watertown. For more information on the program, contact Jenny Stratton at 886-1554 or e-mail her at [bbbsgl@bbbsse.org](mailto:bbbsgl@bbbsse.org)

\*\* Please remember that if your income has changed due to a job loss or layoff, you can fill out a new application for Free and Reduced lunch at any time. The school is a resource for you!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Physicals

Every year the Watertown Medical Association physicians and health care workers donate their time to provide health physicals to the Watertown School District. These physicals are provided, free of cost, to students in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The South Dakota Athletic Association requires physicals for certain school activities and camps.

We highly encourage you to have your child(ren) participate in this free service. The physicals will be done May 7 at the High School. A form will be sent home with your child in advance and we ask that you complete the form and make sure you have your signatures in the required places.

Please read over the form, complete, and have your child return to his/her teacher ASAP.

Contact the school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

Kayla Mohling  
Staci Eggen  
Kaylene Gonnely  
Connie Fannin