



# Tiger Tales

## Hillcrest Elementary School Newsletter

Being our Best, Working for Success

Home of the Tigers

May 4, 2012



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### PTO Board

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Secretary/Treasurer

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### Ghouls in School

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### Partnership

Action Team

(PAT)

Coordinator

Heidi Chipman  
Team Members

Andi Jones  
April Calderon  
Chris Hanson  
Erica Stuchka  
Jaime Wright  
Jaimie Hernandez  
Kathy Baker  
Kimberly Roice  
Kurt Thaemert  
Laura Buhler  
Sarah Radican

## CONGRATULATIONS !! APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

- for being shining examples of CONSERVATION.

Mrs. Marks 1 <sup>st</sup>	Irvin S. & Brianna B.
Mrs. Brooks 1 <sup>st</sup>	Hunter P. & Angel R.
Mrs. Lyons 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Domenick O. & Jaiden P.
Mr. Oppenheimer 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chloe D. & Ella E.
Ms. Barry 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ryan M. & Jasmine W.
Mrs. Kearns 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nathan K. & Sophia M.
Ms. Omas 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	Kade V. & Claire S.
Miss Harsin 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kyle T. & Jordan W.
Mr. Dearing 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kyle S. & Montana C.
Mr. Clapp 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tabarak M. & Gwenna G.
Ms. Price 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	Max B. & Rebecca M.

## MAY EVENTS

Much is going on in the month of May! Please mark your calendars (or use ours). Here are the main May events:

- **May 7—11 is Teacher Appreciation Week.** If you appreciate your child's teacher(s), let them know! *See back page for more info.*
- **Thu., May 17, 9:30 am** is the Band, Orchestra and Choir Concert.
- **Fri., May 25, 2:45 pm** Grades 4—6 invite you to their beach party concert in the gym
- **Mon., May 28 is Memorial Day** and there is **NO SCHOOL.**
- **Tue., May 29, 4—5:30 pm** is the End Of Year Ice Cream Social for all Hillcrest families. Enjoy ice cream and fun activities. (Field Day is scheduled during school time.)
- **Wed., May 30, Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony**, with K AM at 10 am and K PM at 1:15 pm. Please note that kindergarteners still have school Thu. & Fri. that week.
- **Thu., May 31** is the 6th Grade Celebration.
- **Fri., Jun. 1 is EARLY RELEASE at 1:45 pm** and the **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

## Minimize your kid's summer learning loss

Many students lose more than 2 months of knowledge over the summer.

Taken from an article by Dr. Ruth Peters, Ph.D.

Summer will be here before you know it, and if you think those lazy, hazy months should be all play and no work, take a gander at the following statistics . . .

- All students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.
- On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during the summer months.
- Low-income children and youth experience greater summer learning losses than their higher income peers.
- Only about 10 percent of students nationwide participate in summer school or attend schools with non-traditional calendars.
- A majority of students (56 percent) want to be involved in a summer program that "helps kids keep up with schoolwork or prepare for the next grade".
- Research shows that teachers typically spend between 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.

**What can parents do to help stop summer learning loss? Here are some ideas** →

## Musical Notes

**On Thursday, May 17, 9:30 am, Band, Orchestra and Choir** will hold their final concert of the school year. Everyone is invited to enjoy the great music.

**On Friday, May 25, 2:45 pm, Grades 4-6** would love to invite you to their beach party in the gym. See you here!

## Live on the Boise Bench?

Tell the Ada County Highway District where sidewalks and bike lanes are needed in your neighborhood. Join us at one of three open houses:

**May 17** 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Borah HS • 6001 Cassia St.

**May 24** 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Jefferson Elementary • 200 S. Latah St.

**May 29** 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Owyhee Elementary • 3434 Pasadena Drive

For more information and to take the **Walking and Biking Surveys** log onto [www.achdidaoh.org](http://www.achdidaoh.org) and click on "Connect Your Neighborhood Survey: ACHD Neighborhood Walking and Biking Plans." For a paper version of the surveys please call 387-6100.

### SAVE THESE DATES

May 7—11

Staff Appreciation Week

May 17 9:30 AM

Band/Orchestra/Choir Concert

May 25, 2:45 PM

Music Program Gr. 4-6, 2:45 pm

May 28 NO

SCHOOL—

Memorial Day

May 29

End of Year Social, 4:00—5:30 pm

May 30 K Graduation Ceremony

May 31 6th Grade Celebration

June 1 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, EARLY RELEASE at 1:45 pm

# MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	IRI and CBM TESTING	2 IRI/ and CBM TESTING	3 IRI and CBM TESTING	4 Invite Your Mom to School Day, 2:30-3:45	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	JUNE 1	2
	Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	Field Day End of Year Social 4-5:30 pm	K Graduation Ceremony K AM-10 AM K PM-1:15 PM	6th Grade Graduation	Last Day of School & Early Release	

← Staff Appreciation Week →

## Teacher Appreciation Week Activities

**Mon., May 7:** Write a note of thanks on teachers' doors

**Tue., May 8:** Sweets for our Staff and Teachers.

**Wed., May 9:** Healthy Snacks for the Staff

**Thu., May 10:** Soup Luncheon for "Souper" Teachers

**Fri., May 11:** Small Tokens of Appreciation.



## Character Trait for May: HONESTY

Teaching children about honesty is an important and ongoing lesson. Honesty is the backbone for having healthy relationships. Here are some steps parents can take:

### Make it Clear

Children are often motivated to lie to avoid getting in trouble. Explain the difference between a truth and a lie and why lying is wrong. Parents should also explain how telling stories falls into the mix since it exists in a gray area between truth telling and lying. Teach children that to be trusted and to trust others, they need to be honest.

### Create Safe Space

Children are bound to make mistakes. Parents should not want their children to be so fearful of their reactions that they lie in order to avoid it. The goal is to make home a safe space that will encourage a child to choose honesty over lying without the threat of harsh negative consequences. Every cause has an effect so their behavior should not go unnoticed, but if parents feel their children need to be punished then explain how the punishment fits the crime.

### Praise the Truth

If you know your child is being honest about something that was difficult for him to share, praise him for his bravery and honesty. Thank him for being honest. However, if you catch your child in a lie then talk to him about why he lied. Discuss what would have happened if he had told the truth. Ask him how he can right his wrong by apologizing, if necessary, or make amends.

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

(cont'd from front page)

Before this school year ends, check with the teacher(s) to get suggestions for summer workbooks and pleasure books, science activities, etc. He or she will know what will be helpful for next year. Check with next year's teacher to get his or her advice on interesting summer activities.

**NOTE:** This is especially necessary if your child is "on the bubble" (weak in a particular subject, afraid to answer questions in class for fear of being wrong). Summer is a great time to fill in the learning gaps and to begin the next year in a confident manner.

### Learn from a vacation

Think of your summer vacation as a teachable moment. It's sort of like tricking your kids into learning. Stealth learning is a neat way to get your kids reading, doing math or learning geography without them even realizing it!

Let the kids go online to sites such as Mapquest or one of the travel sites to help "research" the journey to and from the vacation site, as well as activities surrounding where you will be spending your summer vacation. Even if you can't leave town for a vacation, have your child compile a "virtual vacation" by doing some research and downloading pictures of events that he or she would like to take part in. Who knows, maybe next summer they will be able to actually visit the location!

### Local learning resources

Don't forget summer learning opportunities locally, in addition to your library. Check out museums, the zoo, aquarium, concerts and parks that you don't usually get to attend during the school year. Have them keep a journal (writing skills) of their activities, and perhaps e-mail friends and relatives about what they are doing (again, stealth writing practice!).

### Set some goals

Finally, try to motivate your child to complete five to 10 math problems (from a grade-appropriate workbook) a few times a week, and to read a chapter in a pleasure book several days a week also. Hopefully, the work will be fun (keep it low-level and simple), and the kid will do it for enjoyment.

Or, you can enhance motivation by saying, "You can turn on the television after you've read a chapter in your book." Some parents skip the weekly allowance and reward their children for accomplishing some academics during the summer, by tying their allowance to task completion. You know your kids, use the option that will be most successful.

**Dr. Ruth's Bottom Line:** Don't delay — now is the time to take action for keeping the brain stimulated, as well as the body moving, over the summer months. Keep it simple, fun and stimulating. Let the kids pick out the books to read and the sites to research on the Internet (again, only safe sites allowed!).

Learning alone and informally or via a structured group for part of the day or part of the summer will help to prevent summer learning loss and help your child stay sharp for school next year. But, please remember that summer is also for relaxing, taking some time off, and just being a kid. The trick is to balance fun with learning, and with all of the local options available to you, it's a task worth tackling!



**WOO-HOO!** We have exceeded our goal of \$1000 with your donated box tops. We are now at **\$1200**. KEEP THOSE BOX TOPS ROLLING IN!! Thank you for supporting your child's education!