



The Source Online

The Spencer Community School District Online Newsletter

FFA RECEIVES RECOGNITION

During the Spencer Chamber of Commerce 2009 Ag Outlook, the Spencer FFA Chapter received the honor of top FFA Chapter in Clay County from the Spencer Chamber Ag Committee, and was awarded a plaque and check for \$250. The FFA members also helped with the setup, tear down, FFA booth, Ag Outlook history presentation and many other duties during the event.



TAILTWISTER MARDI GRAS CARNIVAL AND FISH FRY

Friday, March 20, 2009 Spencer High School Fieldhouse

It's the biggest Tailtwister fundraiser of the year and it's Friday, March 20, 2009, at the SHS Fieldhouse. The Kiwanis and Coaches' Fish Fry will begin at 5:00 PM in the Student Center. All profits from the carnival benefit all of our Tiger Athletes. Raffle tickets and game tickets will be available the week of March 16 at each of the school offices. Game tickets in advance are 5 for \$1.00 and raffle tickets are \$1.00 each. Raffle tickets will provide you the chance to win prizes such as an Ipod Nano, Tiger Apparel, Wii, Bicycle, skateboard and a Holiday Gift Card. Fish Fry tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and are available in the high school office by calling 262-1700 or by contacting any Daybreaker Kiwanis member. The Fish Fry runs from 5:00 - 8:00 PM in the high school student center.

SHS BAND STUDENT TO PERFORMS IN 2009 NORTHWEST IOWA HONOR ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL.

Spencer High School Bassoonist, Katie Simons, was recently given the honor of representing the SHS Instrumental Music Department in the 2009 Northwest Iowa Honor Orchestra Festival held on Thursday, January 22, 2009 on the campus of Dordt College in Sioux Center. The festival ensembles consisted of a 48 piece middle School string orchestra and a 76 piece high school orchestra. Membership in the string sections of the two groups is by audition from area school orchestra programs. The wind players in the high school ensemble were selected from the membership of the NWIBA District Honor Band. The guest directors for this year's festival were Dr. Richard Rognstad and Dr. John Thomson both of the University of South Dakota. The Spencer High School Instrumental Music Department is under the direction of Kurt Schwarck.

TIGER JAZZ ENSEMBLE RECEIVES HIGH HONORS AT NWIBA JAZZ FESTIVAL.

Spencer High School's Tiger Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Kurt Schwarck, was recently rewarded for their hard work and careful preparation as they received 3rd place in Class 3A at the NWIBA Jazz Festival. The festival was held Tuesday, February 3rd at the Sioux City Convention Center and included middle school through Class 4A high school jazz bands. Also receiving awards in Class 3A were MOC-Floyd Valley – 1st, Storm Lake – 2nd, Spirit Lake – 4th, and Le Mars – 5th. As the top two bands of the class, MOC – Floyd Valley and Storm Lake now move on to compete at the Iowa Jazz Championships in Des Moines. Spencer's placing also makes them eligible for consideration as a "wild-card" contestant in the Championships.

"Placing 3rd at our district festival was a real treat for the kids", said Schwarck. "When we started the season together, our goals were mainly to get some good jazz fundamentals going, have some fun and play our best. The lesson I try to teach the group is that its more important how the group prepares itself, and that the process is much more important than the outcome at a contest. If the group does its preparation with the right attitude, the recognition and rewards will follow". Schwarck went on to say that a great deal of credit goes to Paul Jepson and his work with the middle school jazz program. "Great bands have great beginnings, and our entire music staff works hard to give kids those great beginnings".

The Tiger Jazz Ensemble next performance will be with the Spencer Middle School Jazz Band as they present "An Evening of Jazz" in the commons of the Spencer Middle School on March 17th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcements on the Middle School webpage are now up and running. It is our goal that these announcements will be updated with daily announcements and pertinent information for parents.

STUDENT ONLINE INFORMATION

It is encouraging that so many parents are accessing their child's information online. If you have lost or misplaced your password, please feel free to call the school. This information is there for you to keep current on the progress of your child and we want to help in any way we can.

FAIRVIEW 2ND GRADE

Fairview 2nd grader's celebrated 100 days of school on January 30. The second graders at Fairview participated in a variety of math activities with 100 items. They sorted, counted by 2's, 5's, and 10's, completed number stories, and measured their 100 items.

Author/Illustrator Coming To Spencer

Children's author/illustrator, Lisa Campbell will be visiting Spencer Elementary Schools on March 31, 2009. This is a unique opportunity for young children to watch and listen to an author/illustrator of Mrs. Ernst's caliber. She will give a 7:00 evening presentation at Spencer Community Schools Central Office open to the parents of young children.

Mrs. Ernst has written and illustrated over twenty books including Stella Luella's Run-away Book, Sylvia Jean, Drama Queen, The Gingerbread Girl, and Sam Johnson and The Blue Ribbon Quilt, Wake Up Its Spring, When Bluebell Sang, and Ginger Jumps.

Mrs. Ernst states, "There is nothing to compare with the absolute joy of creation...the act of taking a blank sheet of paper and making a whole new world. I consider myself one of the luckiest people in the world because I get to work at something I love to do...create books. It's a grand adventure that I approach with the hope of touching some lives, hearts, and funny bones along the way.

Mrs. Ernst grew up in Oklahoma. She spent nine years in New York City. She returned to the Midwest and lives in Kansas City with her husband Lee and daughter Elizabeth. The Family Literacy Grant is delighted to sponsor Mrs. Ernst's visit. If you would like more information on the author/illustrator's visit please contact Pat Burke at 262-2710 extension 6121.

A Child's Garden Applications

A Child's Garden Preschool will be accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year starting March 1, 2009. A Child's Garden is state funded through the Shared Vision Grant. This grant provides preschool programming to children that are three and no older than four by September 15, 2009. It is an income eligible preschool serving families at or below 130% of the poverty level. An example from last year's income guideline would be a family of four making no more than \$27,560 gross income from their tax return. The family must live in the Spencer Community School District to apply to A Child's Garden.

A Child's Garden is located in Johnson School. It follows the regular school schedule. Children are in class Tuesday through Friday. The program is free of charge to income eligible families. Transportation and meals are provided. Parent involvement is strongly encouraged. Parent involvement includes volunteering, Family Time, Parents As Teachers Home Visiting program, and Tiger Book Bag Program.

For more information or to request and application please contact Pat Burke At Johnson School phone # 262-2710 extension 6121.

Spencer Community School Foundation sends students to NASA

The Foundation is excited to enhance and enrich education by providing funding for SHS students and two instructors that will be traveling to Houston next month to participate in the 2009 Spencer Settlement Design Competition at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Johnson Space Center.

This will be the first year that students from the local school district have been invited to participate in an engineering industry simulation thanks to Jim Christensen, who runs the NASA Educator Resource Center at Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA). Christensen hosted teacher workshops at Johnson Space Center, as well as worked as an educational specialist in its Teaching in Space Office, during the summer months. Spencer was invited to take part because of its utilization of the AEA's science material center, which recently began supplying the district with science products.

Of the 24 students nominated by teachers to take part in the upcoming contest, 8 have been selected to participate. They include, Abby Bedore, Aaron Brockshus, Craig Cunningham, Sarah Dillard, Tyler Kramer, Mary Krull, Nick Lewis and Andrew Uphah. Rebecca Florke and Joel Glover are the two alternates selected. These students will be accompanied by SHS teachers Elli Wiemers and David Munson from March 5-9, 2009.



2009 Tiger Pa's

After several entertaining practices, the Spencer Community School Foundation's 2009 Tiger Pa's debuted their version of the "Evolution of Dance" performance during the half time of the girls and boys basketball game on January 20, 2009. This event was part of the Foundation Fun Night held in the Spencer Field House.

The Pa's twisted, strutted, shook, rattled and rolled from eras dating from the swing to hip hop - each dressed to match the music. Following each performance, the Pa's canvassed the fans for donations, totaling \$1,341. The Farmers Bank partially matched the donations with a \$500 gift to show support for the Tiger Pa's and the Spencer Community School Foundation's mission for a grand total of \$1,841. The Pa's children, spouses, mentors, friends and other fans for the evening enjoyed seeing the Pa's talents come alive.



END OF 3RD QUARTER –MARCH 11
March 11 & 12 –No School –
Teacher Inservice

YEARBOOKS ON SALE
SHS Yearbooks are on sale at the High School through the end of April. Cost is \$55. Contact Cindy Davis at cdavis@spencer.k12.ia.us or call 262-1700

Spencer Middle School and High School Band members to participate in the 28th Annual Buena Vista University Honor Band

The 28th Annual Buena Vista University Honor Band Festival will be held on February 28, 2009.

Representing Spencer Middle School in this year's festival will be: Rachel Dole – Flute, Kelsey Morisch – Oboe, Tiffany Martindale – Clarinet, Amber Ellis – Clarinet, Sean McCord – Tuba, Sam Koppen – Tuba, and Tory Soma – Tuba. Representing Spencer High School will be: Katie Simons – bassoon, Elise Burham – clarinet, Haley Jones – clarinet, Devin van Holsteijn – tenor sax, Alyssa Carlson – French horn, Eric Rutt – trombone, Michael Seeley – euphonium, Sarah Rutt – euphonium and Kyle Winterboer – tuba.

Membership to the 100 plus-member middle school band (grades 7 and 8) and the 100 plus-member honor band (grades 9-12) were selected on the basis of nominations submitted by their school band directors. Over twenty-five school districts are participating in this year's festival and include schools from Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Students will gather on the Buena Vista University campus on Saturday February 28th for two 3 hour rehearsals with the guest conductors. Both bands will perform a grand finale concert at Schaller Memorial Chapel on the BVU campus at 6:30pm.

Guest conductors for this year's festival will be Larry Mitchell for the high school honor band and Barb Wells for the middle school honor band. Mitchell is professor emeritus at the University of South Dakota. Wells is the middle school director for the Storm Lake Community School District. Both are longtime music educators with strong music programs to their credit. The finale concert is open to the public and admission is free.





PSY Newsletter

Positively Spencer Youth (PSY) is made up of parents and community members who want to make a difference with the Spencer youth. The goal of the group is to change the attitude towards substance use and abuse through prevention and education.

Future Events:

March 17th: 7pm

Monthly PSY Meeting, held in Spencer Hospital's Cedar Conference Room (lower level)

OUR MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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To reach PSY:
580-SAFE
info@positivelyouth.org

Bowling Party!

Guitar Hero
Dance Dance Revolution
Wii Games
Billards/Pool
Pizza & Pop
ALL FOR FREE

High School March 27th
Middle School March 28th

See you at Spencer Bowl

How can you help?

Contact Amy Simpson if you are interested in making a difference in the youth of our community!

We need your help!

580-SAFE