



Feb. 2010 Volume 16 Number 2

The Source Online

The Spencer Community School District Online Newsletter

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Parents or guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their children in another public school district in the State of Iowa for the 2010-11 school year should be aware of the following dates.

March 1, 2010 – *Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2010-11 school year. If a student meets the definition of good cause under 281-Iowa Administrative Code 17.4 (1) because of a change in residence the application can be accepted after March 1, 2010.*

September 1, 2010 - *The deadline for entering kindergarten students.*

A student who transfers school districts under open enrollment in grades 9-12 shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic contests and competitions at the varsity level during the first 90 school days of transfer. Parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance.

If you have questions, please contact the superintendent's office at 262-8950.

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held February 10th only from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Please call the High School office at 262-1700 to schedule an appointment.

TIGER JAZZ ENSEMBLE RECEIVES DIVISION I RATING AT STATE CONTEST

Spencer High School's TIGER JAZZ ENSEMBLE was recently rewarded for their hard work and efforts this season as they received a Division I rating for their performance at the Class 1A and 3A State Jazz Band Contest, which was held on Saturday, January 16th at LeMars Middle School in LeMars, Iowa. This is an annual event sponsored by the Iowa High School Music Association. The band's program consisted of "Time After Time" arranged by Don Schamber, "A Child Is Born" by Thad Jones, and "Afro Blue" by Mongo Santamaria. Soloists for the band were Ethan Hartkemeier on piano, Morgan Kramer on soprano and alto saxophones, Emily Elliott on tenor sax, Jake Hinrichsen on flugelhorn and Joel Kaldahl on trumpet.

Each group is judged on a 5 division rating system with a Division I being a "superior" performance and a Division V being a "poor" performance. The judging process actually occurs in 2 parts. Bands begin by performing their prepared program for a panel of three judges who critique each ensemble for style, musicality, and precision. Upon completion of their prepared program, the students are taken to another room where they are judged on their sight-reading ability. The rating the band receives is a combination of the results from these two performances.

"Our practice schedule got hit pretty hard for a while because of weather", said Schwarck. "But, our group stepped up and produced a very fine performance. We are all very proud of what we have done together. I hope everyone who knows a student in the group tells that person what a wonderful job they do, and how cool it is that they are a part of the program! The kids are the ones that make the good things happen." The Tiger Jazz Ensemble will now begin working towards their performances at the NWIBA District Jazz Festival which will be held on February 3rd at the Sioux City Convention Center.

SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES... TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS!

ONE.....Parent/Teacher Conferences

Traditional parent-teacher conferences will be held only one evening.

February 10, 2010 **3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

(This evening is reserved for discussion about student academic progress.)

Teachers will mail conference requests to parents of students who are experiencing academic difficulty. All parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with individual teachers, including parents whose students are making satisfactory progress. Please call 262-1700 and ask for Sandy if you wish to schedule a time to meet with your student's teachers. Conferences for this evening will not be scheduled until parents initiate a contact with the school.

TWO.....Registration

Registration for next year's classes will include both **students and parents**.

February 11, 2010 **3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

(This evening is reserved for class registration.)

Every student and his/her parent(s) will have a 10 minute scheduled conference on February 11 with the students' advisor to select the appropriate classes for the 2010-2011 school year.

The following registration materials will be handed to all students during Homeroom:

- Graduation requirements
- Current transcript
- Curriculum changes for next year
- Information about courses available at student's grade level
- Development of long term plans

A confirmation card will be hand delivered to parents by the student stating the scheduled time for your February 11 registration conference. Parents should fill out and have their student return the confirmation card to the advisor. The advisor will contact parents who have a conflict with the time and/or date of the conference. Registration materials should be read by both parents and students prior to the conference. Please bring all registration materials to the conference. Feel free to contact the guidance office if you have questions at 262-1700.

We encourage all parents to schedule Parent/Teacher conferences on February 10. We hope to see students and parents on February 11 for registration.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 4 -	Thursday Night Live – 4:00 P.M. – Auditorium
February 8 & 9 -	Future Freshman Night
February 10 -	2:30 Dismissal & Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7:00
February 11 -	2:30 Dismissal & K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7:00
February 12 & 15 -	No School
February 23 -	School Board Meeting, 5:30 P.M. – Board Room
February 24 -	12:30 P.M. Early Dismissal for Staff Inservice

There are also many athletic events (boys swimming, girls/boys basketball, and wrestling). Go to www.spenceriowaschools.com and click on activities/event calendar for the latest schedules.

LEGO COMPETITION AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The SMS girls' First Lego League team, the Purple Flying Monkeys, were one of 28 teams competing in the South Dakota state competition in Sioux Falls, SD on Saturday, Jan. 9. First Lego League "introduces students ages 9 – 14 to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface." The Spencer team members are Justine Meendering, Katelyn Mortenson, Jordan Hansen, Lauren Schwarck, Taylor, Garot, Tiffany Lovan, Madelyn Barber, Gracie Martinez, and coaches Mary Frank and Melissa Stell.

To prepare for the competition, the girls built a robot out of Legos, applying real world math and science concepts, and programmed it to perform several missions. In addition, they identified a problem associated with the national theme of transportation and then developed a solution for this problem. The problem the girls chose involved how to make student drop-off at the middle school safer. They have consulted with Police Chief Mark Lawson and City Councilman George Kruger. They have also presented their problem and solution to the Safe Routes to School Committee and will also present it to the city council on January 18.

At the competition, the girls participated in a teamwork contest, three robot performance trials, a robot design contest, and gave a presentation of their transportation problem and solution. The team finished fifth overall in the robot performance trials, received excellent rankings in the presentation competition and scored well in their teamwork exercise. The girls were awarded a special recognition, the Team Spirit Award. The Team Spirit Award is presented to the team whose members best demonstrate extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit, exceptional partnership, the utmost respect for their own teammates, and support and encouragement of fellow teams. This team also demonstrated confidence, energy and great group dynamics.



HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES

Congratulations to the following students that have been chosen for participation in the 2010 Space Settlement Design Competition. This competition involves a trip to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas with a group of NW Iowa high school students. Two teachers will work with students preparing for their trip from March 11-15 to Houston. The students are: **Brooke Baschke, Joe Binzer, Clare Goeken, Morgan Kramer, Colton Lindeman, Dalten Scott, Gracie Toale, and Lindsay Tomlinson.** Alternates are **Erin Rossiter and Chloe Brockshus.**

Congratulations to **Erin Dvorak** who is a state finalist in the Voice of Democracy audiotaped speech contest. Other local winners were **Randy Ahlers and Joe Binzer.** Erin will attend the state awards ceremony in Des Moines.

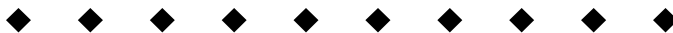
Congratulations to sophomore **Clayton Quail** who is the state winner in the high school division for the Iowa Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest. 1400 essays were entered. Clayton was recognized at a Day of Celebration held in Des Moines recently.

Congratulations to all participants in the January 23rd District Large Group Speech Contests held in Spencer.



DEBATE TEAM UPDATE

The Spencer High School Debate team is collecting printer cartridges, as a fund raiser to help support the program. They may be dropped off at Complete Recovery or at the High School office, or call Cheri Shatto at the High School, 262-1700.



2010 SUMMER DRIVER'S EDUCATION INFORMATION

Sign up for Summer Drivers Education is January 25 – February 10, in the MS or HS offices. Parents of students who sign up will receive an informational letter by March 12th. Registration materials are due in the high school office by April 9th. A tentative orientation meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 17, at 3:45 P.M. in the Middle School Commons.** This is a very important meeting because students will be assigned teachers, driving times will be scheduled, and information on the class will be discussed. The date of the first day of class and the cost are yet to be determined. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Beehler or Mrs. Foerster at 262-1700, or via e-mail at jbeehler@spencer.k12.ia.us



Please plan to attend Spencer High School's
FUTURE FRESHMEN
REGISTRATION NIGHT
Preparing Our Students for High School

When and where will this be held?

- **Dates and Times:** Monday, February 8, 2010, at 6:00-7:15 p.m. (Recommended A-K)
OR
Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 6:00-7:15 p.m. (Recommended L-Z)
- **Place:** Spencer High School (800 E. 3rd St.)

In order to accommodate all students and their parents, we are holding **two sessions**. If possible, we would like the **students and their parents whose last names begin with A-K to attend on Monday**, and **students and their parents whose last names begin with L-Z to attend on Tuesday**. If this doesn't fit your schedule, please feel free to attend the other session. Also, we encourage everyone to arrive no later than the times listed above so we can begin and end on time. Educators will be on hand to greet you and help you register.

Please plan to stay for the entire session--we don't want you to miss out on helpful information that could have an impact on your student's high school years. Plan to attend whatever evening that your schedule is free from 6:00-7:15 p.m.

What will the session include?

Next year's freshmen and their parents will get information about the following:

- **How do I know what courses to take?**
A guidance counselor will explain about the courses required for graduation and the elective courses and options available to students.
- **What courses should I take next year?**
Counselors, faculty advisors, and administrators will work with students and parents in small groups to help students register for classes for 2010-2011. Faculty members will also be available to answer questions about the courses students will take as freshmen.

**We hope to see both students and parents on either February 8 or February 9.
If you have questions, please feel free to call 262-1700.**

Dear Prospective Kindergarten & KinderKids Parents,

You are invited to our annual “Welcome to Kindergarten” parent night on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:00p.m.** at the **Central Office Building** (23 East 7th Street). Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting from 7:00-7:30. Your child does not need to attend. Please bring your child’s birth certificate or hospital record to be copied at that time.

On this evening we have a brief presentation and will give you handouts that explain our Kindergarten programs. We will also answer any questions you may have. At the meeting you will sign up for a “Getting To Know Your Child” one hour visitation time to be held on **Thursday, May 13, 2010** at Johnson Elementary School. Students currently attending Kindergarten will not have school this day.

Spencer Schools are providing an optional Kindergarten program called **KinderKids**. Parents who feel their child would benefit from an extra year of Kindergarten now have KinderKids as an option. This program is designed specifically for young school-age children turning five after March 1 and before September 15. All “young” five-year-olds are welcome and will be accepted to the program. Additional information will be provided at the “Welcome to Kindergarten” meeting. If you would like more detailed information prior to the March 2nd meeting, feel free to call Principal Lucas Dewitt (262-4842).

It is important that we have the names of children who will begin school in the fall. To be eligible, a child must be five (5) years old on or before September 15, 2009. A current immunization record, dental record, and physical are required to attend Kindergarten. Bring these records to the school registration in the fall.

Please complete the following information and return it by Friday, February 5th to Fairview Elementary School, P.O. Box 200, Spencer, Iowa 51301 Attn: Jane

Name of Child _____

Child’s SSN _____ Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Male _____ Female _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Month/Day/Year _____ City/State _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mother’s Name _____ Home Phone _____

Mother’s Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Mother’s Employment _____ Work Phone _____

Father’s Name _____ Home Phone _____

Father’s Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Father’s Employment _____ Work Phone _____

Preschool your child is attending _____

Names of siblings in grades K-6 and the school they are attending:

1. _____ Grade _____ School _____

2. _____ Grade _____ School _____

3. _____ Grade _____ School _____

Preference of Building 1. _____ 2. _____

Preference of Kindergarten Program-

_____ **Regular Kindergarten Program** –appropriate for all students, regardless of age

_____ **KinderKids Program**-designed to provide parents a choice of two years of Kindergarten for their young school age child (those who turn five after March 1st & before September 15th)

Spencer Community School Foundation's Fun Night "Tiger Pa Olympics" and Meal Friday, February 5, 2010

The Spencer Community School Foundation is providing a great evening of food, fun and amazing entertainment you will not want to miss at the Spencer High School.

The night will begin with the Spencer Community School Foundation Tiger Pa's and SHS Strutters Dance Team Fundraiser Meal on February 5th to benefit students.

- **Time & Location:** 5-7:30 / SHS Student Center
 - **Meal:** BBQ chicken sandwich, baked beans, homemade chips, bars and drink
 - Cost:** \$6 tickets in advance/ \$7 at the door / \$3 pre-K and under
(additional donations welcome)
 - **Tickets:** available at Central Office, Mowery's Bar & Grill, Foundation Board Members and from the SHS Dance Team
- Sponsored & Prepared by Mowery's Bar & Grill** (other donors for the meal include Martin Brothers, Coke, Foundation, Strutters & their parents)

The Tiger Pa Entertainment Group (junior and senior fathers/guardians) would like to invite you to witness their talents during half time of the girls and boys Spencer/Storm Lake basketball game. This year the theme is "**TIGER PA OLYMPICS**". They will be in rare form again as they have been in training for the Olympics. You will not only see the Tiger Pa's perform but you will witness an intense competition as these athletic Pa's challenge the SHS Strutters to go for the Olympic Gold.

Immediately following the performances the trained professionals will be canvassing the crowd to generate funds that go to the Spencer Community School Foundation. For the second year we have a special treat: **The Farmers Bank of Spencer** has offered to match any funds (up to \$500) generated from the Tiger Pa's collection process. Therefore, as Farmers Bank motto says, "It's All About You"!!! Bring a check made out to the Foundation or bring some loose cash and join in on the celebration to make a difference for students.

The Tiger Pas have performed 5 different years at the Spencer Field House. (If you've seen them-you won't forget them AND if you haven't-you won't want to miss them.) The Tiger Pa's have the record night of participation for the Spencer Field House and the goal is to smash the record and bring home the gold.

Spencer Community School Foundation Tiger Pa & SHS Strutters Fundraiser



Friday, February 5, 2010
5:00 - 7:30 pm - SHS Student Center
Dinner - Drink - Dessert



Ticket # 1200

\$6 - Advance / \$7 at Door
\$3 - Pre K & Under



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:

February 6th 7-9PM

Free bowling party for students in grades 7-8, at Spencer Bowl. Bowling, Wii games, pool, pizza and soda! Adult chaperones needed. Interested persons please call 580-SAFE.

February 16th : 7pm

Monthly PSY Meeting

Spencer Hospital's Cedar Conference Room (lower level)

OUR MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

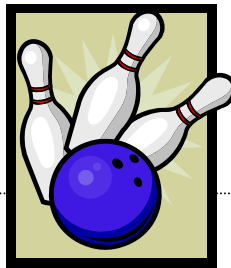
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To reach PSY:

580-SAFE

info@positivelyyouth.org



Attention...

Join PSY for **FREE** bowling parties at Spencer Bowl!

- Bowling
- Wii Games
- Pool / billiards
- Pizza and soda

ALL FREE!

Grades 7-8:
February 6th & March 6th from 7-9PM

Grades 9-12:
March 5th from 9PM - midnight

Adult chaperones needed - call 580-SAFE to help.

PSY is working to update volunteer contact information...

If you have previously volunteered for PSY or would like to help in the future, please contact the PSY office by calling 580-SAFE or by emailing info@positivelyyouth.org.

Thank you!!



Spencer High School - District Calendar Info

February, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30pm Pre-School Family Night @ JO Gym	2	3 NWIA District Jazz Festival	4 4:00pm Thursday Night Live @ Multiple locations	5	6 State Large Group Speech
7	8 6:00pm Future Freshmen Night A - K @ High School	9 6:00pm Future Freshman Night L-Z @ High School	10 2:30 Dismissal 3:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences	11 2:30 Dismissal 3:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences	12 NO SCHOOL	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENT'S DAY	16 7:00pm SHS Pops Concert @ Old MS Auditorium	17	18	19 3:30pm All-State Large Group Speech	20 All-State Large Group Speech Large Group Speech - Super State
21	22	23 3:30pm Grade 6-8 Solo Festival @ Middle School 5:30pm School Board Meeting @ CO Board Room 7:00pm HS Spring Play Tryouts @ HS Little Theater	24 12:30pm 12:30 Dismissal/Teacher Inservice	25 7:00pm HS Spring Play Tryouts @ HS Little Theater	26	27 District Individual Speech
28						