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Roundy School holds Positive Behavior Assembly

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Roundy Elementary School in Columbus Junction is working very hard to promote positive behavior and trying to stop all bullying of students. To reinforce these concepts, the school held a Kickoff Assembly on Thursday, October 13th in the school gym.

The assembly opened with Mrs. Sonya Stanerson, guidance counselor, asking students if they knew what OLWEUS was. They knew it was an antibullying program; what they did not know is that it is named after Professor Dan Olweus who started this program of positive behavior. She then reminded the students that Wednesday, the day before, had been designated Unity Day, and everyone had worn orange to designate the day. In this case, unity meant, "Unite Against Bullying," which led into Thursday's assembly.

Then Mrs. Stanerson read the nursery rhyme story of Jack and Jill while a skit was happening. Jack was played by Mr. Shane Rosenberg, elementary principal, and Jill was played by Mrs. Cindy Conrad, elementary student administrative manager. In the first skit, as per usual, Jack fell down, but Jill was extremely angry with him, yelled at him, and told him he was weak and had ruined her day. In the second skit, the same story was read; however this time, Jill was understanding to Jack and even helped him.

The students were asked questions about the skits. The students knew right away what the difference was and how the second skit was the



Jack and Jill as played by Mr. Shane Rosenberg and Mrs. Cindy Conrad

right way to act. Then some fifth and sixth graders held up posters and the whole gym clapped and read the posters in unison to a rhythm. The posters said: We will, we will/ Cheer you up/ Help you out/ Tell you nice job/ Scream and shout! Mrs. Sorenson then explained that Mr. Rosenberg would be coming to classes and reading the book HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET TODAY? by Carol McCloud. A "bucket filler" is some-

one who helps others and helps them feel good about him/herself as opposed to a "bucket dipper" who takes away from the self esteem of others and makes them feel bad.

As students left the assembly, each class was given a colored bucket. Teachers are to watch for when a student does something positive, whether it is academic or showing another student he/she cares. When this happens, the teacher will

put the student's name in the bucket. Students, too, are to watch for the same behavior in others, and they can put the name of another student in the bucket.

Teachers and administrators at Roundy Elementary are dedicated to helping students know how to act in a positive way. It is hoped that after this lesson, the buckets will be filled to the brim.

Spring bidding for city water projects likely

By Jim Rudisil

A spring bid letting for both the water plant relocation and levee upgrade projects appear likely, engineers told the Columbus Junction City Council during its regular October 12 meeting.

Matt Walker, project engineer for French-Reneker Associates, Fairfield, told officials the levee project appeared to be the farthest along in the planning process, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) apparently ready to public a public notice on the project. Walker said once the notice is published, a 30-day comment period will begin. If there are no major comments that delay the project, the federal agency generally issues a construction permit within 60 days after the comment period expires, he explained.

Although the COE will be publishing the notice, it apparently still has some questions over parts of the project. Walker said one area the COE is seeking more details concerns the project's proposed wetland mitigation plan. A portion of the area where the levee upgrade is planned

lies within a designated wetland and the project must provide mitigation for the loss of that wetland. "We're disturbing about one-half acre of habitat, but we are replacing it with about one and one-half acres," he said. Walker said most of the details the COE is seeking involve the number of trees and pounds of seed that will be planted as part of the mitigation. In addition to the mitigation details, Walker also said the COE is concerned over the project impact on any endangered massasauga rattlesnakes that may be located in the area. Walker said the mitigation details would be updated; and planners would talk to local conservation officials to gather information on the likelihood of finding the rattlesnake on the project site.

If those issues are resolved in a short time, Walker said a bid letting could be scheduled for February or March, with construction beginning later in the spring. "Hopefully we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel," he said about the levee project.

City officials said they were especially anxious to see the levee

project begin before potential high water becomes a problem.

Meanwhile, the water plant relocation project, which includes construction of a new water plant, drilling a new water well and installing water lines, is also progressing.

However, Walker sounded more cautious about that project's schedule. He said plans for the new water plant have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other regulatory agencies.

Walker said the DNR would likely take the longest time to review the plans, since many of the department's engineers have taken early retirement and their replacements are not as experienced. He said if the review can be completed in eight weeks the bid letting for the water plant could also be in February or March. "Ideally we will get the levee done first (because) we won't want to start construction of (the new well) until the levee is constructed," Walker said.

Once construction on the water plant begins, Walker said he did not expect the city would need to close

Collins Road for any extended period. He said the road might need to be closed for one to two days when the new water lines are run to the plant.

In other action, officials reported on progress with the city's new sidewalk construction program. Public works employee Jeff Carey said around 1500 feet of sidewalk had been constructed in the last several weeks. Most of the work has been on the sidewalk running south from the school grounds towards Columbus City. "It's gone better than I had expected," council member Hal Prior, who had helped develop the city's new sidewalk program, said.

Mayor Dan Wilson agreed the program was moving along well. "(The new sidewalk) looks good and it's being well received by the public," he said, explaining requests from other residents for assistance were continuing.

Wilson also reported the city's annual Columbus Day celebration had gone well and praised city staff and others who had helped with the celebration. "I haven't heard of any problems," he said.

School Board deals with personnel and facility issues

By John Carpenter

The Columbus School Board faced a mixed bag of issues at their monthly meeting last night. A local parent addressed the Board requesting an answer as to how his daughter could be protected in the locker room after she participated in physical education classes. The parent informed the Board that his daughter had been physically and verbally attacked, and asked for some action to be taken. He suggested that a female school employee be in the locker room to supervise after physical education classes. The Board agreed to look into the situation and come up with possible solutions.

Elementary Principal Shane Rosenberg and High School/Middle School Principal Jeff Maeder informed the Board that test results should be available by the next board meeting, but preliminary indications appear that the school's overall results may show improvements.

Both Principals Rosenberg and Maeder discussed the school's SIOP programs. Although SIOP principles are still being implemented, teachers are very receptive to the features, and are dedicated to its success. "SIOP is a good thing with the staff, and is being used as a lesson plan developmental tool. It allows various learning methods to reach more students" said Maeder. Both Maeder and Rosenberg informed the Board that their staffs are 100% compliant with SIOP, and are taking advantage

of the tools available. Maeder informed the Board that at a recent SIOP regional meeting Columbus Schools scored very high in safety and security issues.

Facilities and Athletic Director Dan Vogeler reported that he is now working on spring and summer sports schedules. He also said that the wrestling scales are scheduled to be recertified.

Vogeler told the Board that a recent visit by the fire marshal revealed minimal issues. Some exit signs need to be installed, and batteries on exit lights need to be placed on a regular testing schedule. "All of the issues found were minimal, and easily corrected," said Vogeler. Vogeler also indicated that all of the bus inspections and recalls have been completed.

Superintendent Rich Bridenstine requested that the budget workshop be moved to December 5th so as not to conflict with the Winter Concert. The Board agreed.

Board member Sandra Martin brought up the matter that there did not appear to be many guidelines for the formation of student organizations. She requested that a committee be formed to institute policies for these organizations. The Board agreed and stated that they would discuss the issue with the school's legal counsel to help in formulating these policies.

In other business the Board discussed the upcoming building plans

which includes the Community College building. Bridenstine told the Board that it was important to consider what could be done, what could be paid for, and how much of the sales tax revenue did the Board feel comfortable in committing.

Facilities committee member Al Bohling was present to discuss possible alternatives in the plan. The plan included constructing the Community College facility, building a wrestling room, adding an additional gymnasium, re-arranging the softball field and creating an additional road to Roundy Elementary. "Many of these ideas will help solve some of the congestion at Roundy, make drop off and pick up of students safer, but will require additional studies" said Bohling.

When asked about the possible cost of these projects, Bohling responded that the best approach would be for the Board to determine how much of the sales tax proceeds they would be comfortable borrowing against, and he would then make adjustments to see what could be completed within this budget. Bridenstine said that if the Board committed six million dollars to these projects, it would allow an additional \$200,000 annually for other improvements. Board member Dave Duncan cautioned the board to keep prepared for other major maintenance issues that could arise. Maeder informed the board about the pressure that is now being placed on the school's gymna-

siums with the number of classes being held, and suggested that a new gym to be built in conjunction with the wrestling room would be of great help.

The Board decided to pursue all of the projects if possible with a cap of \$6.2 million dollars borrowed. Outside experts will also be called upon for suggestions. The Board approved Shive Hattery as the architectural firm to handle these projects.

In personnel matters the Board accepted the resignation of Deb Carlson as 7th Grade volleyball coach, Allison McCarty as 8th Grade volleyball coach, Mike Jay as cross country coach, Dan Vogeler as Athletic Director, Facilities Manager and Transportation Director effective December of 2011 and Rich Bridenstine as Superintendent effective June of 2012. The Board also hired Lori Bean and Jennifer Lowe as special education associates.

The Board was informed that enrollment numbers have declined by 43 students this year compared to 59 last year, and that open enrollment out of the district is higher than last year. However Bridenstine explained that some of these numbers are students whose parents have moved into the district because of employment opportunities, but have chosen to allow their children to remain in their original school districts. "Although it may look like we've lost these students, we really never had them in our school," explained Bridenstine.

Briefly -

Trick or Treat Night set

Please note that Trick or Treat night in Columbus Junction has been set for Monday, Oct 31st from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center.

Benefit for Susie Staats

A benefit for Susie Staats will be held on Saturday, October 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at the Columbus Junction Fairgrounds. Contact Rick Stroud at 319-530-5346 to help in any way.

Firemen's Halloween Ball

The annual CJ Fire Department Halloween Ball will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the fire station from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Dress up in your best Halloween costume. Cash prizes for first 3 places. \$5 donation at the door. Live band is Cruisin' - can beer \$2.

Conesville Post Office meeting

A community meeting will be held to explain the discontinuance feasibility study of the Conesville Post Office into the Lone Tree Post Office. The meeting will explain the process and address community concerns. Postal representatives will be at the Conesville Community Building on Thursday, October 20, 2011, from 6-7 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about our service. You may wish to discuss and submit your questionnaire at that time. Written comments may be hand-delivered to the Conesville Post Office.

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa Early Childhood Area Board will be meeting at the ISU Extension Office, 317 Van Buren, Wapello, IA, today, Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

FCCLA Can Drive

The FCCLA Canned Food Drive was rescheduled for today, Wednesday, October 19 because of last week's rain. All canned foods will be donated to the local Community Action Program.

Fruitland Park Board soup supper

The Fruitland Park Board will hold a soup supper fundraiser today, Wednesday, October 19, 4:00-7:00 p.m., 104 Sand Run Road, Fruitland. We will be serving homemade potato, chili and chicken noodle soups, desserts and drinks for \$5.00. Proceeds from the supper will help support plans for Drake Park playground improvements.

Benefit for Jordyn Gourley

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, an Octoberfest craft show and benefit will be held at the Wapello High School Gym from 9-2 to support Jordyn Gourley and her family to help with ongoing medical bills. There will be a raffle and silent auction. There is over \$5,000.00 in raffle items to be given away. You do not need to be present to win. Be sure to get your raffle tickets at the door and sign up to win some of these great prizes: Signed Iowa Hawkeye football, tickets to Newton Speedway, children's bikes, hotel packages, toolboxes, grills and so much more. There will be over 70 craft vendors there displaying and selling their one of a kind unique items. This is one craft show you do not want to miss. You are guaranteed to find that perfect something for that special someone. Come help us support a wonderful cause.

St. Joseph's Harvest Breakfast

There will be a Harvest Breakfast sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on Sunday, November 6, 2011. Serving is from 7-10 a.m. The menu includes: Sausage gravy and biscuits, breakfast burritos, ham, scrambled eggs, assorted rolls and breads, milk, juice and coffee. There will also be a country store and bake sale. Adults \$7, in advance - \$6. Children 5-12 - \$3. Advance tickets available at the Columbus Gazette, Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank.

Minute It to Win It

We will hold our second annual Minute It to Win It on Friday, November 4th at the Columbus School. Teams of up to 4 people can sign up in the high school office or with Lori Beenen. Cost is \$20 per team. You are guaranteed 4 games. Admission to watch is \$1. Competition begins at 6:30 pm.

Ruffled Wings dinner set

Calling All Ladies - the Ruffled Wings Ladies Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will be hosting a dinner at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at 6 p.m. There will also be an auction at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Niki at 319-759-9179.

Senior Center Halloween meal

Local senior meal sites, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, will be hosting a Halloween theme meal, Monday, October 31. The meal is open to any person over 60 (and their spouse of any age) on a contribution basis, regardless of income or residency. Reservations by noon the Friday before are required. Call your local senior meal location: Autumn Heights in Burlington at 753-2675, Salem at 258-4111, Winfield at 257-6921, Donnellson at 835-5115, Fort Madison at 372-3147, Keokuk at 524-5464, Columbus Junction at 728-3148, or Wapello at 523-8455. For the Mt. Pleasant area, new senior meal participants are to call 1-800-292-1268.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, October 20 at 11:30 a.m. at John's Shamrock BBQ in Ainsworth. Please bring your shoebox with you that day if you have made one. Remember the 100th anniversary celebration will be held at the home of Mary Wilson in Columbus Junction on November 3 from 2 p.m. - ?

Trick or Treat at Colonial Manor

Don't forget to stop by for some treats on Monday, October 31st from 5:30-7:00. The residents will be ready with candy and they look forward to seeing you in your costumes!

Trunk 'O Treat at CJUMC

Trunk 'O Treat Night on October 31st from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm the CJ United Methodist Youth Group will be hosting Trunk 'O Treat Night in the CJ UMC parking lot. The youth will be giving out great treats from their decorated car trunks. All children are invited to join the fun!

Trick or Treat for Unicef at UP Church

The United Presbyterian Church of Columbus Junction will hold Trick or Treat for UNICEF on Sunday, October 30, 2011 from 4-6 p.m.

Wine Tasting at Two Rivers Lodge

Let the Wining begin! Two Rivers Lodge is hosting a wine and microbeer tasting on Saturday, October 22 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, which gets you several wine and beer samples plus food and fun. Our guest speaker will be Mel Hineman. The Two Rivers Lodge is located at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, south of Conesville on Highway 70.