



# GS Bulletin board

**December 5, 2008**

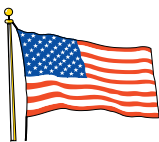
Internal Weekly Announcements  
for Grant Wood Area Education  
Agency Staff and Board

## Mark Your Calendars

- Dec. 8** Flexible Spending Plan Election Forms for Year 2009 due into the Business Office
- Dec. 8** United Way Pledges due into the Communications Office
- Dec. 10** Agency Potluck-Coralville Facility 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 17** Agency Breakfast Potluck 33rd Avenue, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

## Announcements

- You will find the EAP Employee Newsletter attached to this issue.



## Data Resources Abound for GWAEA Staff

Staff working in the schools have an amazing array of data available to them all located in one place on the Grant Wood AEA Web site. Anne Taylor has worked with Public Information Specialist Valerie Taylor Hill and Trace Pickering, Excel and data expert, to put together an extensive array of data for use by agency staff.

In regard to developing the site, Anne says the site helps "GWAEA staff benchmark progress, as we address barriers to learning (i.e. decrease dropout rates, decrease suspension/expulsion rates, increase attendance rates, decrease office referrals, connect families with needed resources, and ultimately, increase student achievement). As we effectively address barriers to learning at the core level, all students will have a better opportunity to be successful in school and in their communities."

To get to this wealth of data, click on the word "Services" located on the teal-colored bar on the Grant Wood AEA Web site. Click on the letter D, and then select "[Data Sources](#)." All of these data are available to anyone using the site:

### Links to websites with data:

- Great Schools** - [http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/cs\\_where/IA](http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/cs_where/IA)  
The Great Schools website has information such as ITBS scores, students per teacher, student ethnicity, percent of students on Free/Reduced meals
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation's **KIDS COUNT 2008 Data Book Online** - <http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/databook.jsp>  
The Regional Capacity Analysis Program website (<http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/>) has data for Iowa counties and school districts in PDF format.
- Iowa School District Profiles** - [http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/school\\_district/](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/school_district/)

### Profiles of Child Well-Being - <http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/>

- Benton County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_19011.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_19011.pdf)
- Cedar County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_19031.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_19031.pdf)
- Iowa County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_19095.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_19095.pdf)
- Johnson County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_19103.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_19103.pdf)
- Jones County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_19105.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_19105.pdf)

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**(Data Resources-Continued)**

- Linn County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_199113.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_199113.pdf)
- Washington County:  
[http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06\\_19183.pdf](http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/child/files/cwb06_19183.pdf)

**Population Trends:** <http://www.recap.iastate.edu/local/population/>  
**County Data Fact Sheets**, compiled by the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development:

- Benton County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Benton\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Benton_06FS.pdf)
- Cedar County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Cedar\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Cedar_06FS.pdf)
- Iowa County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Iowa\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Iowa_06FS.pdf)
- Johnson County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Johnson\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Johnson_06FS.pdf)
- Jones County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Jones\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Jones_06FS.pdf)
- Linn County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Linn\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Linn_06FS.pdf)
- Washington County:  
[http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Washington\\_06FS.pdf](http://www.icyd.org/images/stories/Data/Washington_06FS.pdf)

**Excel files of Pertinent Data.** The following Excel files allow schools to filter for their specific information and view trends over time.

- AEA 10 Free and Reduced Price Lunch by Schools
- AEA 10 Graduation & Drop Out Trends
- AEA 10 Graduate Intentions
- AEA 10 Suspension/Expulsion Trends
- AEA 10 Trends in Grade, Race, and Gender Enrollments

January, 2008 **Community-wide Report Card** for Cedar Rapids, College Community, Linn-Mar, Marion, and Metro Catholic Schools

**Iowa Department of Education School Profiles**  
**AEA 10 Trend Reports** for 1999, 2002, & 2005  
**AEA 10 Iowa Youth Survey Report** for 2005

**School District Iowa Youth Survey Trend Reports** are not available online, but may be obtained from district superintendents.

**Iowa Youth Survey Toolkits:**

- Alcohol and Youth
- Tobacco and Youth
- School Climate and Connection
- Risky Behaviors and Bullying
- Community Connection

Below is a portion of the Grant Wood AEA 2008-09 calendar.

Please note the upcoming pay dates and holidays.

DECEMBER 08				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
1	2	3	4	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				

JANUARY 09				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	F
			1	2
3	4	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	

Pay Dates: ● Holidays: ###

**Podcasts on Statewide AEA Site Provide Information to Parents**

The AEA Public Relations Committee has released its latest podcasts, "How is ADHD diagnosed?" and "What are the treatment options for ADHD?"

The podcasts are available through the statewide Iowa AEA Website located at [www.iowaaea.org](http://www.iowaaea.org) and click on "Resources" and "Podcasts."

These new podcasts continue a feature for parents about the topic of ADHD, which began in October.



**Blanket Drive**

*We have collected 11 blankets so far!*

Blankets for the homeless can be sent to Karen Michalec, Communications Office at 33rd Avenue or you can drop them off in the yellow collection box at 33rd Avenue's West Entrance next to the stair well.

Blankets will be collected until Monday, December 22.

**Our Sympathy...**

•to **Cheryl Mills Kelly, Speech/Language Pathologist.** Cheryl's father, John M. Mills, passed away Nov. 10 in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

### Professional Development Opportunities

- 12/8/08** Schools Where Everyone Belongs
- 12/9/08** iLife 08 in the Classroom
- 12/9/08** Sexual Harassment
- 12/15/08** CISM Group Crisis Intervention
- 12/15/08** Fundamentals of Applied Behavior Analysis
- 12/16/08** Counselor Academy – “Building A Comprehensive School Counseling Program”

For location, more information, or to register, go to the Professional Development web page.

### Thank You...

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the kind expressions of sympathy, support and prayers during the recent deaths of my father and my mother-in-law.

*Julie Barnd, School Social Worker*

### Stress Reducer!

Chair massages are being offered to staff. Fifteen minutes of "Ahhhhh" costs just \$10. Tuesday, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15 at 33rd Avenue. (Gift certificates available.)

To schedule, contact Karen Michalec at kmichalec@gwaea.org or Ext. 6415.

### Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Offers Free Admission Dec. 6-21

The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art (CRMA) is offering FREE admission for everyone for two weeks, December 6-21.

Take advantage of this opportunity to visit the CRMA to see Mary GrandPré: Harry Potter and Beyond, an exhibition by the illustrator of the Harry Potter books. The Year of the River: Flood Photography from The Gazette will be on display as well.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for Harry Potter Day, Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. where kids of all ages are encouraged to dress as their favorite Harry Potter characters. Visitors on this day will be able to explore the galleries and participate in art-making activities. There will also be Harry Potter trivia!

The two free weeks are sponsored by Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative and Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO).

Museum hours are as follows:

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday - 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information about the two free weeks and other exciting events and exhibitions at the CRMA, please visit [www.crma.org](http://www.crma.org) or call 366-7503.

### Notice to Staff at 33rd Avenue

Recyclings bins for colored paper and white paper are now located in the room off the VAST hallway inside the double doors.

### December Blood Drives

Give the gift of life by donating blood. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit [www.givebloodgivelife.org](http://www.givebloodgivelife.org) for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome at the following blood drives:

- December 6:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 8:** First Presbyterian Church, 12:30-6 p.m., 115 6th Ave NW, Independence
- December 8:** New Song Episcopal Church, 1-6 p.m., 912 20th Ave, Coralville
- December 8:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 13:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 15:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 16:** Wilson Ave. Hy-Vee, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 20 Wilson Ave SW, Cedar Rapids
- December 18:** Cedar Rapids Marriott – Holiday Drive, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 19:** Delaware County Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 200 East Acres, Manchester
- December 20:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 22:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 27:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids
- December 29:** Grant Wood Area Chapter, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids

