



# H.I.T Squad Happenings

October 12, 2009

## **The Underground Railroad Abby Disher**

Have you ever heard of the Underground Railroad? The Underground Railroad is not a railroad but a series of stops to get to the north and earn their freedom. This railroad is used by slaves as a path and hiding place along their journey during the 1800s.

The abolitionists helped runaway slaves escape to the north. Before they helped them escape they used freedom quilts to tell slaves to when and where to go. Freedom quilts were blankets abolitionists made with different patterns and messages that slaves understood. Abolitionists often built small hiding rooms for the runaways as well.

The slaves often escaped by using paths, stars, waterways, and wagons. When slave owners were close by the slaves used pepper to throw any animal's scent off track. Some walked up and down through lakes to wash themselves and prevent being tracked by their smell. They climbed or hid in the trees branches or vines to avoid detection.

Once they got to the north they made speeches about slavery and often made plans to save their families that were still in the south. Now free, they got jobs or became conductors on the Underground Railroad. This was very risky because slave owners could always be close by.

President Abe Lincoln quoted, "Slavery is a moral, social, and political evil." So, we should thank the people who contributed and worked for the Underground Railroad.

## **The Log Cabin Christopher Raiz**

The log cabin in the LRC was built by Denk and Roche Builders Seigle's Lumber back in the year 2002. We received the log cabin because the old librarian, Mrs. Wicks asked them to build it for us. The builders donated the wood and built it for us and it didn't cost anything to our school. It is located in the library at Homestead Elementary where the librarian Mrs. Archer works. The log cabin has been here for years and is very popular at Homestead. Students like to read in there because it has furniture and it is a comfortable place where they can relax.

Inside, the log cabin has two seats that are made out of wood that students sit on to read. There is also a furry moose like rug for decoration. There is an antler lamp in there to light up the cabin. Everyone has a different opinion on the cabin. "My favorite part of the log cabin is the benches and the antler lamp," Nikhil Mohanty said.

Every holiday we have a different theme at the log cabin. For example, right now it has a Halloween theme. We have gravestones, lights of cartoons, and a really big spider on top of the log cabin. These decorations will change each holiday. It will change to a Thanksgiving theme in November.

## **The new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Adams! By: Noelia Cielo-Salinas**

Mrs. Adams is a previous teacher. She has taught at East View Elementary in Oswego, Illinois. She has two children but is expecting a third. Her oldest child's name is Carter and he is three years old. Her other son's name is Chase and he is one and a half. She can't choose her favorite child.

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A collection of student-written articles documenting the events in and around Homestead Elementary School  
An After-School Enrichment Class sponsored by Mrs. Judy Beirne [jbeirne0103@oswego308.org](mailto:jbeirne0103@oswego308.org)

Though she teaches multiple subjects, math is her favorite. Mrs. Adams likes to get to know her students individually. Her and her students are currently working on aquariums and terrariums in science. This teaches the students how living things live in their own habitat. Mrs. Adams also livens up writing with jokes.

During Mrs. Adams free time, she likes to watch the show *Monk*. Her favorite snack is anything with chocolate. She also enjoys caramel popcorn. At the moment, Mrs. Adams favorite movie is *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* and her favorite color is pink. She has seven family members and soon to be eight in March.

### **The New Addition Sean Silva**

Homestead has added a new addition to its building. The new part of the school is near the library. There is more room in the new part of the school. The new addition has more room for teachers, students, and rooms for the teachers to do conferences.

To begin with, the teachers in the new addition are teaching their students. The teachers are teaching their students awesome education like first, second, reading, and speech. "I think the windows in my office are nice and the wide open education learning space is great," Mrs. Hebert said about the new wing.

To continue, the students enjoy the new addition and education. One student said, "I like the new addition because of the student teachers [that they did not have before]". Another student said "so all the classrooms are not all bunched up [on learning space]". One more student said "I think the new classrooms are nice."

Lastly, the classrooms in the new addition are all different sizes. The classrooms are really nice and spacious. The small rooms are for speech and free time.

To conclude, the new addition is close to the library. It is a big help to students and

teachers at Homestead. What do you think about the new addition of Homestead?

### **New Assistant Principal, Miss Phillips By: Jake McEneaney**

Homestead Elementary School has a new Assistant Principal. Miss Tara Phillips used to be the Academically Talented (AT) teacher, she is now the Assistant Principal at Homestead Elementary as well as Grande Park Elementary. She received her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University and her Masters Degree for Educational Leadership from the University of St. Francis.

Miss Phillips taught third grade for six years and AT for four years this will be her 11<sup>th</sup> year teaching in District 308. She taught AT reading and math to students from second to fifth grade. She had one to three classes per grade. She said she had her third grade classes make family trees as far back as possible.

This year she took the challenge of being assistant principal. This happened in may of 2009.

Phillips said "I was called to the office by Mrs. Decker and she offered me the job and days after I accepted. Just after the nil biting interview.

This happened because she wanted to know more kids and be involved in more kids learning. That is all about Miss Phillips.

### **Homestead welcomes a new teacher! By: Alyssa Filicicchia**

Did you hear about Homestead's new teacher? Her name is Miss. Fondriest and she works in the new edition!

Miss. Fondriest has been teaching for 2 years. She has taught at Boulder Hill and Churchill . She has taught many grades! They are second, third, fourth, and fifth grade! Her favorite subject to teach is Reading.

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She went to grade school at Annunciation! Her favorite subject was reading. Her least favorite subject was Social Studies. Her favorite special was P.E. !

She enjoys the new edition. Miss. Fondriest quotes "the best thing about Homestead is everyone is so nice and helpful!"

Miss. Fondriest loves working at homestead and hopes to stay!

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### **Mrs. Hunt**

**Written by: Mackenzie Mollohan & Morgan Boardwine**

Mrs. Hunt is the schools social worker. She has been working here at homestead for about 5 years. She works with students that come to her room and students in classes. She also works with teachers and parents to talk about student's problems that are happening at school or at home. She does activities such as games, worksheets and role play to help practice or help with problems. She wanted to be a social worker so she can work with kids and help them solve problems and help them to be people of good character. Mrs. Hunt also helps plan assemblies about bullying and character counts. She also helps teach kids the pillars.

In kindergarten she teaches them the 6 character counts pillars with Tom the turtle. The 1<sup>st</sup> rule was treat others the way you want to be treated. The other rules were just about all the pillars. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade she uses I care cat and teaches the kids about friendship and reviews the pillars and how to be a person full of good character. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade she teaches a

couple lessons about friendship and reviews good character rules.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade she does one or two lessons again about good character and how you can be a good person. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade she does the bully program that teaches kids about bullying. The 3 rules that we learn are stop, walk, and talk. The 1<sup>st</sup> one is when you tell the person to stop whatever they are doing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> rule is to walk away or ignore the person and whatever they are doing. If they don't stop you should do the 3<sup>rd</sup> rule which is tell a teacher or parent what is going on. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mrs. Hunt does a couple of lessons on good character because she wants them to be a person of good character when they go on to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

As you may know she does the character counts shuffle on Friday. Also she says at the end and what is her motto: "Treat others the way you want to be treated and show that good character counts at homestead". Now that is all you need to know about Mrs. Hunt.

### **A 5th grader named Maya John By: Valentina Tabares**

Maya John is a fifth grader in Mrs. Adams class. This week at Mrs. Adams class they agreed to do a project in science ecosystems they have to make an animal, or plants such as fish, crickets, bugs in a BIG bottle of soda [ect.]. They have to do the project in school not at home. This happens to all fifth graders. This might take a long time. Did you do this project on fifth grade? Well I didn't because I am NOT in fifth grade! Well for you who are in fifth grade try to do your best! HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!

Maya John is in a group with two big bottles of soda. One is an aquarium and the other is a terrarium.

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