

2-24-09

Beginning March 2 our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the state mandated Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). At 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be assessed in reading, math, and writing. Fourth graders will be assessed in the areas of reading, math, and science. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are assessed in reading, math, and writing. Scores for students are sent back to the district sometime between June and August, 2009. This data is used by the district and individual buildings as one source of information on how our students are achieving. We also use data from the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) given to 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the fall and spring to measure academic progress, as well as, district quarterly grade level assessments given throughout the year to assist us in planning for ongoing school improvement.

Our ISAT test data in reading for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade shows we scored well above the state average. Over the past 3 years our scores ranged from 81% to 88% to 82% of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders meeting/exceeding standards. In math 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has improved each year since 2006 scoring 87%, 94%, and most recently 95%. This will be the first year since 2005 that 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are required to take the writing test.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores in 2006 indicated 90% of our students met/exceeded reading standards. Last year that percentage climbed to 97.5%. The percentage of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders meeting/exceeding standards in math has ranged from 93% to 92% to last years 97.5%. Fourth graders also take a science test. Last year 95% of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders met/exceeded standards in science.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, students have consistently scored better each year since 2006. The percentage of students meeting/exceeding standards in reading has gone from 83% in 2006 to 94% in 2008. In math 5<sup>th</sup> graders meeting/exceeding standards has been 96% in 2006, 100% in 2007, and 94% in 2008. Writing scores for 5<sup>th</sup> grade have gone from 66% meeting/exceeding standards in 2007, the first year 5<sup>th</sup> grade started taking the writing portion of the ISAT again, to 88% meeting/exceeding standards in 2008.

Since the beginning of this school year Homestead's Building Leadership Team and grade level teams have been discussing ways to continue providing our students with the support they need to successfully meet the Illinois Learning

Standards. Activities at each grade level were developed to support students at a grade level and also to provide consistency of expectations and vocabulary from one grade level to the next.

The staff at Homestead is committed to providing exemplary educational experiences in a safe, caring, and responsive learning environment. Our growth in our ISAT scores is one measure of how we are doing. Along with the ongoing support of parents in encouraging their child to do his/her best on this test and making sure they get a good night's rest and a good breakfast, we will be able to meet our goal of achieving success for every student at Homestead. Thank you for your continued support in helping us be the best we can be for our students!

Have a wonderful week! And remember to take some time to read to or with your child every day and to have fun with math.

Mrs. Patti Decker

Principal, Homestead Elementary School