



OCTOBER 2019



# SPARTAN SCOOP

*at Grundy Center Elementary*

LAUNCHING  LEADERSHIP

## Fall is Here!

Grundy Center Elementary is buzzing with the excitement of fall activities around the building!

We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of author/illustrator Joseph Kuefler on November 8! He will be here sharing his new book, Caveboy Crush!

Thank you to Arlington Place for donating classroom copies of our One Community, One Book selection, Potato Pants! It is such a fun story to read together as a family!



Principal book talks in September focused on learning about Washington, D.C. and the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. We book talked several books read about the memorial. This was a connecting activity to the Honor Flight I went on, with my father, shortly after Principal Book Talks. Photos of the trip with the veterans will be shared during the next meetings.

Did you know that Grundy Center Elementary has given the opportunity of leadership for making the daily morning announcements? Fourth grader, Riggs Yoder, has displayed strong leadership in beginning this daily opportunity! Thanks, Riggs!

We are beginning to seek donations for funding our Leader in Me implementation. If you are interested in donating and/or interested in possibly creating partnerships for student leadership, please see the donation request in this newsletter. Thanks!



| <i>Important Dates</i> |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Oct. 2                 | 12:45 Early Out              |
| Oct. 8                 | Fundraising Packets Due      |
| Oct. 8                 | 4th Grade Field Trip         |
| Oct. 15                | 12:45 Early Out/Conferences  |
| Oct. 17                | Picture Retakes              |
| Oct. 17                | 12:45 Early Out/Conferences  |
| Oct. 18                | No School                    |
| Oct. 28                | 3rd/4th to GBPAC @ UNI       |
| Oct. 30                | 12:45 Early Out              |
| Oct. 31                | Costume Parade @ 2:40 in Gym |

## HANDBOOK REMINDER

### Drop Off and Pick Up

When **dropping off** students, you may park on the road in front of steps. When **picking up**, you must park on either side of the street or in the parking spaces, but vehicles should NOT park in front of the steps. Students are not allowed to cross traffic on their own. Thank you for your cooperation in helping make for a safe transition.

Safety drills have been taking place during the first full month of school. We practice fire and tornado drills four times each year and intruder safety three times each year. Each practice drill is discussed on how to better improve the safety of students and staff.

A reminder about students who use crosswalks to get to and from school. Please remind your children to use the designated school crosswalks and always be sure to look both ways before crossing, especially if children are crossing G Avenue!

Testing at the elementary has just wrapped up!

At the elementary level all TK-4 students take the FAST reading and math assessments. In grades 1-4, students also take the MAPS reading, language, and math assessments. The FAST tests help us see gaps in learning and provide guidance for effective interventions.

Our first Kids Club of the year saw an introduction to The Leader in Me with MANY leaders from our community there to cheer us on! It was a FANTASTIC turn out! We learned about the Franklin Covey 8 Habits, which are the base of The Leader in Me implementation.

During small group Kids Club time, students learned about Habit 1 - Be Proactive! Each

group watched an animated video

from 7 Habits of Healthy Kids

about being proud of who they

were. Groups then worked on an

activity where students learned

about their own Circle of Control.

This activity teaches that

proactive people focus their time

and energy on their Circle of

Control - things they can directly

affect. Reactive people focus on

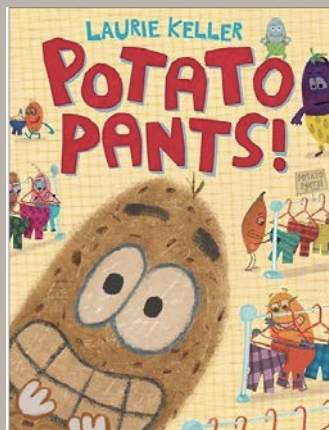
their Circle of NO Control - things

they may worry about, but have

no control.

## One Community, One Book

This month, reread Potato Pants! by Laurie Keller and talk about why this “one day” makes Potato feel excited. Why is it different from other days? Identify a time when you felt so excited about something you could barely control your happiness!



On a weekend in September, I was able to attend the Plum Creek Literacy Festival in Seward, Nebraska. I met a lot of great authors and illustrators and left with more children's book knowledge and ideas of which authors might make a great match to visit Grundy Center Elementary someday!

As always, thank you for your continued support of your child's education and the great staff we have at Grundy Center Elementary!

*Brian Sammons*  
Elementary Principal

## Meet the Third and Fourth Grade Leadership

### What makes Grundy Center Elementary unique?

*Mrs. Smith:* Grundy Center is unique because we collaborate as a team to make sure the best instruction/materials are available for all varieties of learners! It is important to all of us here to help students be successful! It is also unique by leading the way in teaching students how to be great leaders in and out of the classroom and school!

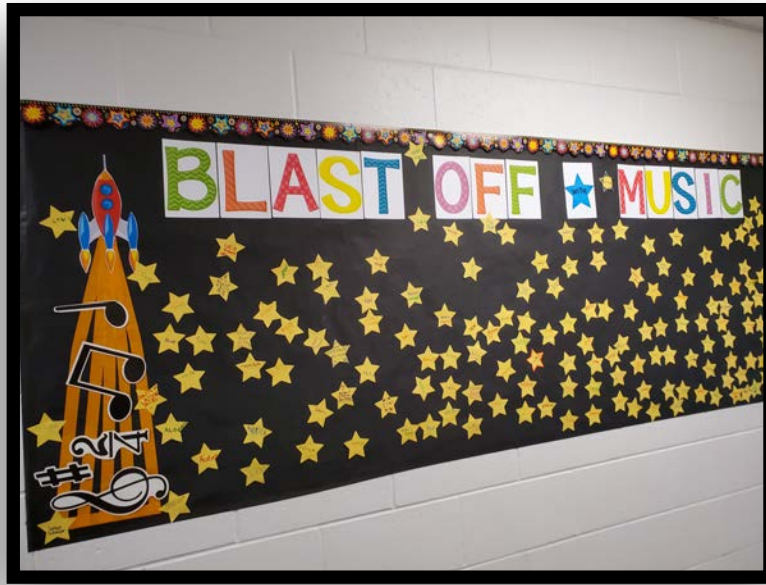
*Mrs. Walters:* Everyone is willing to help you out and works together as a team. We have amazing community involvement which has helped us do stuff that other people haven't been as lucky to have done! We are teaching kids those life skills so they are able to be good leaders and role models in the community as well as inside our walls.

*Mrs. Albright:* Grundy Center Elementary is unique because everyone is family. We all care for each other, help each other grow, and want each other to succeed in their passions.

*Mrs. Liston and Mrs. Rekers:* Grundy Center staff believes that the students are all OUR kids, and we all want to see them succeed.







Students helped create the mural outside of the music room.



First grade students show leadership by greeting classmates at the door.



Third grade students read with their kindergarten buddies!



School Resource Officer, Officer Loew, talked to first grade students about safety.





First grade students had special guest reader, Abbie Lindeman, read to their class during Homecoming Week!



First grade students are getting ready to publish their writings!



Third grade students found some GC Rocks around the school!

Fourth grade students practiced their math facts with a game.



Mr. Sammons met Kate DiCamillo and Matt Tavares!



The library got some new book signs!



# Meet the Teacher



*Kelli Jordan*

There are a thousand different languages in the world, but a smile speaks them all!

## *Contact Info*

E-mail:  
kjordan@spartanpride.net  
Phone: 319-830-6172

## *About Me*

I have been married for 11 years to my husband, Stuart, and together we have 3 girls; Briley 9, Lanie 7, and Rudi 3. We love cheering on the Hawkeyes, UNI Panthers, and Chicago Cubs. As a family, we enjoy all sports and being outdoors. I love a good joke that makes me laugh out loud, and I think harmless practical joking is so much fun. A fun fact about me is that my dad taught me to juggle when I was a kid. God is the center of my life, and I have a lot of faith and hope.

## *Favorites*

Colors: Yellow  
Candy: Reese's PB Cups  
Drink: Dr. Pepper  
Food: Tacos  
TV Show: AFV  
Sport: Baseball  
Animal: Buffalo or Elephants  
Hobbies: Sports/Outdoors



**Grundy Center Elementary  
DROP-OFF  
at 7:50-8:10 PM**

Students MAY be dropped off between the diagonal parking areas, due to less chance of traffic backup.

Grundy Center Elementary School

Students may NOT cross the street to get to the building. Please walk your child across the road.

**NO PARKING**  
on  
crosswalks.

**NO PARKING** in  
front of fire  
hydrants nor  
driveways.



**Grundy Center Elementary  
PICK-UP  
at 3:15 PM**

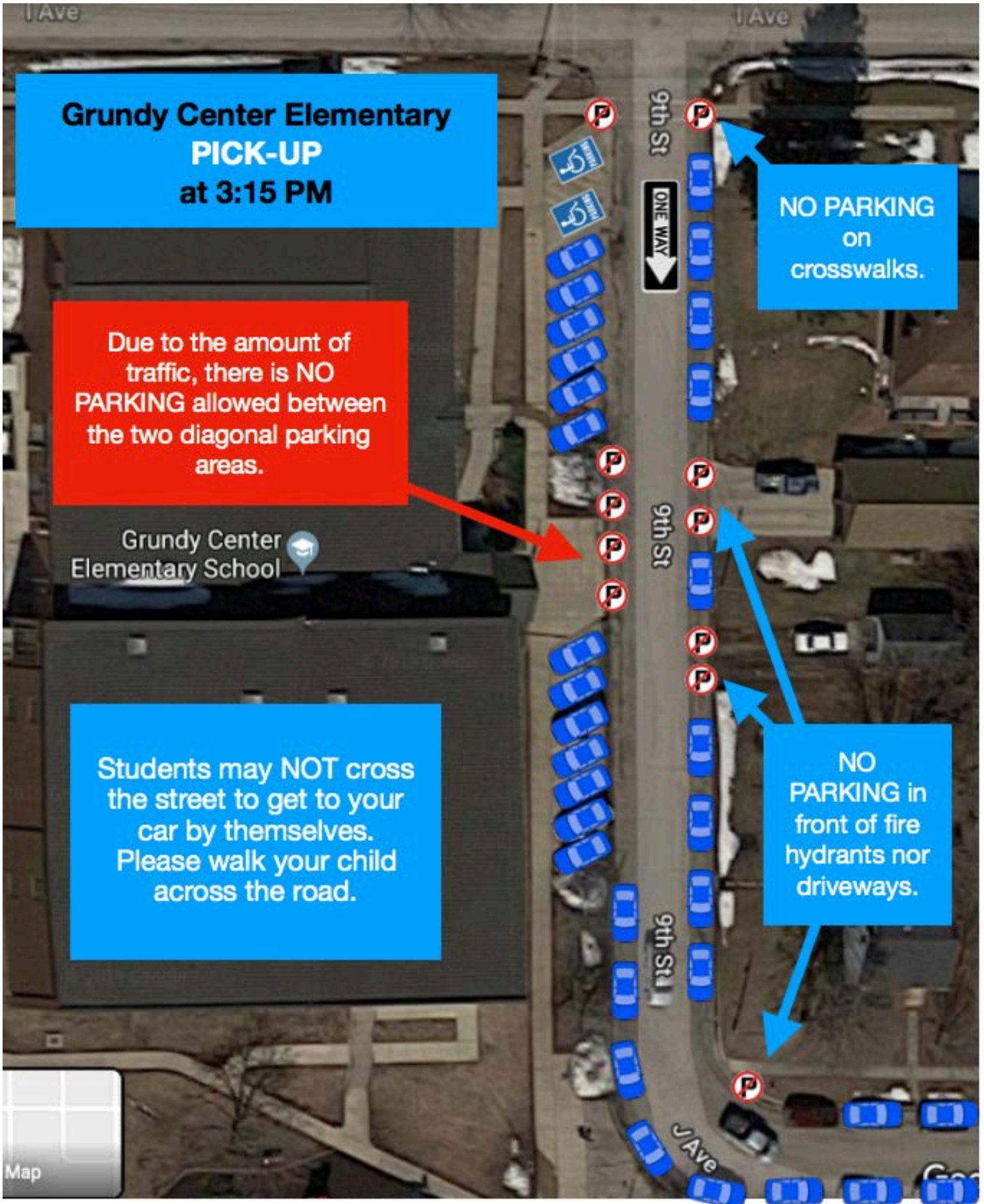
Due to the amount of traffic, there is **NO PARKING** allowed between the two diagonal parking areas.

Grundy Center Elementary School

Students may **NOT** cross the street to get to your car by themselves. Please walk your child across the road.

**NO PARKING** on crosswalks.

**NO PARKING** in front of fire hydrants nor driveways.





## WHY PARTNER WITH US?

We believe fostering leadership extends beyond classroom walls. Our goal is to find the genius in every student and foster leadership by matching them with community partners. The leadership skills learned throughout The Leader in Me are valuable employment skills every business would admire in their future employees.

## OUR GOAL

Our goal is to raise enough funds to fully implement Franklin Covey's: The Leader in Me work during a four year process. The funds provide materials, on-site coaching, online resources, and implementation support. Our financial goal is to raise \$68,000. Big numbers don't scare us! We believe the students and local partnerships are worth it!



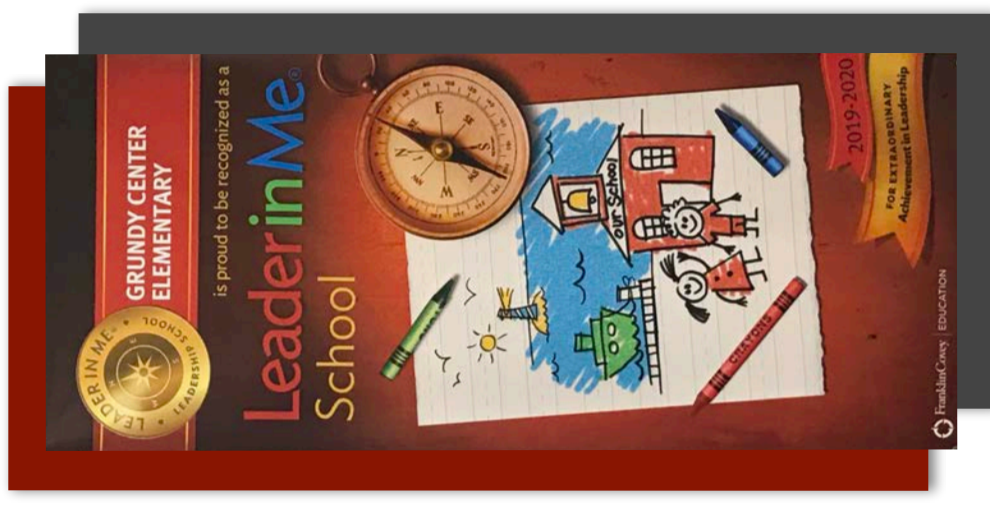
## WHAT DOES THE LEADER IN ME IMPLEMENTATION LOOK LIKE?

- School staff identify a new vision of the outcomes they want for our school
- School staff learn *Leader in Me* principles and tools and begin incorporating leadership principles.
- School staff model the behaviors to their students.
- Teachers are taught how to incorporate the leadership principles and tools into school culture and curriculums.
- Key elements of the leadership model are implemented into the school, including:
  - Teaching students how to set, track, and achieve their goals in a Leadership Notebook.
  - Reinventing the physical environment to reinforce the vision and outcomes for the school.
  - Holding Student-Led Conferences, giving students ownership for their learning.
  - Giving each student a leadership role within the school.
  - Holding student-led Leadership Events.
  - Using a common language of leadership.
  - School staff, students, and parents utilize a number of resources (lesson plans, videos, student activity guides, posters, books, and *Leader in Me* Online) to help them implement and reinforce the process.

# Leader in Me®

at

## Grundy Center Elementary



# The 7 Habits



## Habit 1: Be Proactive

Being proactive means you are in charge of your attitude and actions. You do the right thing even if it's not your responsibility or when no one is looking.



## Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind

This is when you look at a goal. You know what you want to accomplish, such as, get good grades, not get your folder marked, play the video game at home, and you do what you need to in order to accomplish that goal. You might take your time on a grade, listen instead of talk, or get all your chores done.



## Habit 3: Put First Things First

This is all about work first, then play.

Students know they have to complete all their centers before they can go to a free center. Sometimes, we have them do their homework before they go outside. This is putting first things first.



## Habit 4: Think Win-Win

When a problem comes up, students should look for a compromise that makes both people happy. If he wants to play outside and his friend wants to stay in. Try 10 minutes outside and 10 minutes inside. This would make both of you happy!



## Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood

Listen to what others are trying to say before you start talking. Think about what you want to say.



## Habit 6: Synergize

When students synergize, they work with others to get ideas and collaborate. When they don't understand something, they seek someone for help.



## Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

To sharpen the saw is to balance work and play. Students need time to play! We work on these other habits to help get their work done on time, so they do have time to play. Just like at home, students should complete the chores or homework before playing what they want to!



# Leader in Me<sup>®</sup>

*at Grundy Center Elementary!*  
**2019-2020**

## WILL YOU CONSIDER JOINING OUR LEADER IN ME JOURNEY?

We believe fostering leadership extends beyond classroom walls. The leadership skills learned throughout The Leader in Me are valuable employment skills every business would admire in their future employees. Our goal is to raise enough funds to fully implement Franklin Covey's: The Leader in Me work during a four year implementation process. The funds provide materials, on-site coaching, online resources, and implementation support so the program is sustainable beyond four years. Our financial goal is to raise \$68,000. Big numbers don't scare us! We believe the students and local partnerships are worth it! We hope you will join us!

**NAME OF PERSON FILLING OUT FORM:** \_\_\_\_\_

### THIS DONATION IS FROM:

- AN INDIVIDUAL (NAME)** \_\_\_\_\_
- A BUSINESS (NAME)** \_\_\_\_\_
- AN ORGANIZATION (NAME)** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT OF DONATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE MAKE CHECKS TO GRUNDY CENTER SCHOOLS)**

### CAN WE SEND A RECEIPT OF DONATION FOR TAX PURPOSES?

- YES**    **NO**

**IF YES, YOU ADDRESS IS:** \_\_\_\_\_

### MAY WE THANK YOU BY SHARING YOUR NAME, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION ON OUR:

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**    **YES**    **NO**

**SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA**    **YES**    **NO**

**WITHIN OUR SCHOOL**    **YES**    **NO**

### WOULD YOU, YOUR BUSINESS, OR ORGANIZATION CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH STUDENTS FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

- YES**    **NO**

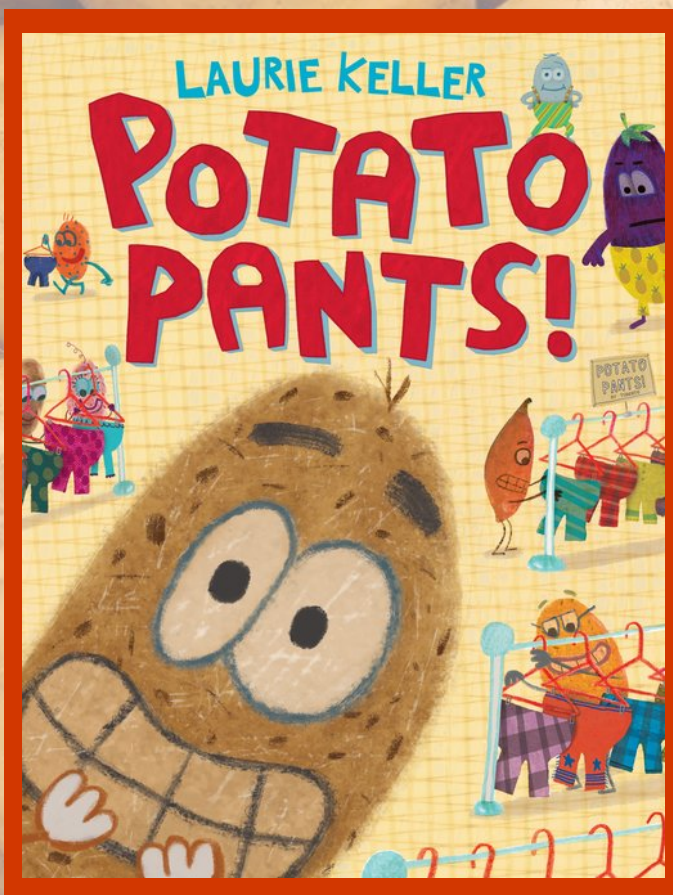
**PLEASE RETURN IN PERSON OR BY MAIL TO GRUNDY CENTER ELEMENTARY  
903 9TH STREET GRUNDY CENTER IA 50638**

# One Community, One Book

**Please join Grundy Center Elementary and Kling Memorial Library with a community-wide book read!**

**Our goals are to build community through literacy and promote reading and book discussions with a common book everyone can enjoy! Check out the book at our libraries and sign the poster once you have read it!**

**The 2019-2020 selection is...**



*Laurie Keller*

**A potato and his eggplant nemesis struggle to find the perfect pants in this hilarious, heartwarming tale of forgiveness by bestselling Geisel-Award winning creator Laurie Keller.**





## Getting Involved at School

Volunteering is a great way to show your kids that you take an interest in their education. Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for the school community while showing their kids the importance of participating in the larger community. Even if you haven't been involved in the past, start now!

Four questions to consider:

1. What does the ideal volunteer experience look like to you?
2. What are your strengths and interests?
3. How many hours can you volunteer?
4. Is it better to actually be in the school or take things home to work on?

Consider some suggestions:

- Help in your child's classroom
- Have goal setting talks with child/teacher
- Mentor or tutor students,
- Use weekly data-sharing folders
- Help organize, cater, or work at fundraising activities
- Help to plan and chaperone field trips
- Organize or assist with a specific club or interest group
- Have regular personalized communication with teacher/school
- Sew costumes or build sets for theatrical and musical productions
- Volunteer to speak in the classroom or at a career day
- Supervise or judge experiments at a science fair
- Be at parent training events
- Invite school visits to your home
- Be involved in interactive homework, tips, and tools for home learning

Volunteering not only benefits your children; you also benefit by making the school a more positive place. Through your modeling, relationship building and support, you will be helping in ways that will reap benefits for everyone.

**Get ready for the annual YMCA**

# **HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL**



**October 26, 2019**

**Upper Elementary Gym from 5:00-8:00 PM**

**Games, Haunted  
Hallway & Raffles**

**Open to all Pre-K, Elementary &  
Middle School Students and families**

**Admission: \$2/child 3 years and older**

