

## *Principal's Korner*

Dear Parents:

Your student took the Iowa test of basic Skills in September and the results have been delivered to us. The teachers will refer to the skills during conference time.

The ITBS is a standardized achievement test, meaning that scores are compared to a norm group that took the exact test the same time of the year. Because we take the test in September, it is a diagnostic tool for the teachers. The test covers many of the fundamental skills your child is learning and has learned in school. The main purposes of the test are: 1) to obtain information for supporting instructional decisions 2) to report individual progress to students and parents 3) to evaluate the progress of students and groups from year to year.

It is always important to caution parents in looking at Grade Equivalent Scores. When looking at the Grade Equivalents (GE) keep in mind that this does not reflect the level at which your child performed on this test. A GE score of 8.5 for a current 3<sup>rd</sup> grader indicates that the student performed as well as an eighth grader in the fifth month would have performed in taking the same test. The actual 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level test does not include items introduced at an eighth grade level.

The area on the student profile that gives an indication of how your child is progressing is the national Percentile Rank. (NPR) This score shows how your child performed in comparison to other students in the nation in the same grade level. A NPR of 50% is average and indicates that the student performed better than 50% of students at the same grade. It is important to remember that the NPR scores are not like test percentages in the classroom where 50% would communicate a failing grade.

Following are the NPR's for each grade for 2006:

<b>Grade Reading total (Vocabulary &amp; Comprehension)</b>		<b>Language Total</b>	<b>Math Total</b>	<b>Core Total</b>
2	81	78	69	76
3	76	86	76	82
4	80	83	75	80
5	62	69	65	65
6	75	72	76	75
7	79	77	79	79
8	70	75	75	74
<b>Grade Social studies</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Composite (Sources of information, maps &amp; Diagrams, reference)</b>		
2	76	65	70	
3	76	73	65	
4	75	79	77	
5	64	72	68	
6	76	71	74	
7	76	77	77	
8	65	69	62	