

# Ohio Elementary School News



April 2009

Dear Parents,

How quickly the year is flying by! I cannot believe that we are looking forward to April Showers already!! (OK – I'm *really* looking forward to the May flowers – but some things just have to come first!)

This newsletter is a busy one...just as our year has been. Our April newsletter opens with an article intended to maintain our focus on **student safety**. With warmer weather and longer days, our children will be spending more time outdoors. I have included an article and some basic safety tips as a reminder to all of us that keeping safe requires us to remain vigilant within our daily lives. Please consider talking about these points with your children...keeping in mind that *some* of these tips and pointers are appropriate for *older* students, *but not for all*.

We also have some news about our upcoming **Field Day** – we are all excited to see this coming around again. Start doing your magic dance to be certain that we have sunshine and warm weather in June!

I have also included my next 'reading installment.' In the March newsletter, my article focused on beginning to use text gradients or reading levels within our classroom. During this month's article, I have focused on how we can help our children become better readers by making **connections**. Three critical connections help students to better understand the topics and ideas about which they are reading: text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world. Please read this article so that you can help your child make these connections when they are reading at home!

Be certain to check our **Strive-for-25** progress. Our students are reading well...and it is magic to watch this happen!

Have a wonderful, safe, happy April!

Sincerely,

Karen Cuddy-Miller

Principal



## Calendar at a glance:

### April 2009

1<sup>st</sup> O.H.I.O. meeting – 6:30 p.m.  
10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Spring Recess, No School  
28<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Pictures

### May 2009

6<sup>th</sup> O.H.I.O. Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> O.H.I.O. Mother's Day Plant Sale  
19<sup>th</sup> District Budget Vote  
29<sup>th</sup> Ohio Ice Cream Social  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### June 2009

2<sup>nd</sup> **Grade 4** Chorus Concert - 7:00 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> O.H.I.O. meeting – 6:30 p.m.  
10<sup>th</sup> **Grade 6** Spring Concert - 7:00 pm  
11<sup>th</sup> **Grade 5** Spring Concert - 7:00 pm  
17<sup>th</sup> Field Day  
23<sup>rd</sup> Field Day – *Rain date!*  
24<sup>th</sup> Last student day of school!  
29<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> **Kindergarten Screening**

## Important Note to Note:

\* Due to the NTOC Sponsored **Super Spontaneous Showdown** being held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, our fourth grade concert date has changed...AGAIN!

Please mark your calendars: **The fourth grade concert** is now scheduled for June 2, 2009!

\* **Kindergarten Screening** has been rescheduled within our district. Ohio Kindergarten Screening is now scheduled for June 29, 30, and July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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# Pennies for Patients...

Our Pennies for Patients drive has ended for 2009. Ohio school collected \$641.50. This amount has been sent to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for this drive. Mrs. Green's class was the first place class with a total of \$151.40 and Mrs. Daigler was close behind with a total of \$124.10.

We thank everyone who participated. Hopefully next year we can top this amount!

# Safe Today, Safe Tomorrow, Safe Always...

Through a variety of programs within our school, we often create the opportunity to talk with students about being safe, respectful, and responsible. Although we often connect these issues with character education and bully prevention programs, we also want to take the time to promote Stranger Danger Awareness with our students. As parents and as teachers, we should continue to have ongoing conversations with our children, emphasizing the importance of walking with friends, family members, or neighbors, whenever possible. This conversation should include walking to and from school, as well as to and from the bus stop.

We should also try to emphasize to our children the need to keep watch for each other and on their surroundings. In the past, we have talked about the need to watch our friends as they disembark from the bus and walk to their home. Keeping an eye on each other helps us to live safely within our community and support each other!

In addition to being safe, I try to emphasize the need for our children to be SMART. It is my hope that you can engage in a conversation with your children about the decisions they make each day. Being "smart" often includes working on a smart plan with each student's parents. As parent talk with their children, parents should review a variety of "What if..." scenarios. ("What if you are not home when I get there?" "What if I lose my key?"...) Reviewing such scenarios with your children will help our students to have an active plan in place if something unexpected happens on their way home from school.

We would also like to suggest that you work to create a plan to ensure that your child has a walking partner to and from school, and/or it not arriving home to an empty home. As working parents, we recognize that these efforts are not always the easiest to accomplish, but community or national events highlight the importance of such plans, I encourage families to revisit this issue with their children. If such plans are just not possible within your family, you may want to consider working together with other families, friends, or neighbors, so that we can ensure the safety of all of our community members.

It is also critical to remember that, although certain events may highlighted these concerns in our lives, it is important for each of us to have a good safety plan in place – ALWAYS. We can never anticipate when Stranger Danger will become a new threat until something has happened. Our best efforts, however, can be invested in preventing such an opportunity from ever arriving.

With these thoughts in mind, we have worked to put together a few safety points to keep in the forefront of your conversations with your children.

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## Stranger Danger

### **Safety and Awareness Suggestions for Student Walkers:**

- Encourage your children to walk with a buddy rather than alone whenever possible
- Emphasize to your children to be aware of their surroundings when walking
- Never accept rides from strangers
- Never talk to strangers while walking to school or at the bus stop
- If a vehicle pulls up to a child to ask a question, he/she should never get too close to the vehicle
- Keep communication lines open with your children to be apprised of potential safety problems
- Inform your children that if they think something are out of the ordinary, they should report it to a responsible adult
- Inform your children that if they are approached by anyone for any reason they should report the incident to a responsible adult
- Make sure you are aware of your children's whereabouts if they are not going straight home after school
- Keep alert and be aware of being followed
- Remain calm as you review and discuss safety procedures with your children



## Internet Safety

The internet can be a wonderful resource for children and it literally provides access to the world. It is important to keep in mind that the same access can also pose hazards. With this in mind we offer the following internet safety tips:

- Keep the computer in a common area, not in private rooms, where adults or parents can watch and monitor use
- Share an e-mail account with your child so that you can monitor messages
- Bookmark children's favorite sites for easy access
- Spend time online together to teach your children the appropriate online behavior
- Forbid your child to enter private chat rooms; block them with safety features or special filtering software
- Be aware that posting messages to chat rooms reveals the users e-mail address to others
- Take your child seriously if they report an uncomfortable online exchange
- Set up some simple rules for your children to use when using the internet
- Never trade personal photographs electronically
- Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location
- Use only a screen name. Never agree to meet anyone from a chat room
- Never respond to a threatening e-mail or message
- Always tell parents about any conversations or communications that are scary

\*Call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 if you're aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography online. Contact your local law enforcement agency or the FBI if your child has received child pornography via the internet.

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## “Monitoring Software”

Although we have often been warned that “spy ware” is a danger which can potentially compromise the safety and security of the private and financial information on our personal computers, software designed to monitor computer use can be a tool for parents to consider. “Spy ware software” when purchased or downloaded from specific sites, can be used by parents as a tool to help parents monitor their children’s online activity. Although there are a various software packages which can be purchased and loaded onto your home computer, a number of monitoring software options are available free through the searching the web.

This monitoring software is often set up to record and relay keystrokes that are entered by a user. Such keystrokes are they transmitted to a previously determined account – perhaps a parent’s home e-mail address. Once this transmission has been forwarded, parents can review the information they receive and note the locations, language, and communications in which their children are engaging on the computer. This venue can assure or alert parents about the online practices of their children when they join the World Wide Web.

# Field Day - coming soon!

**We are so excited to be planning and preparing for our second annual Ohio Field Day event! As you know, our Field Day is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please be certain to mark your calendars – especially if we can count on you to volunteer for fun on this day!**

**We are hoping to make this year’s events even better than last years. Our plan includes sunshine and more games. In an effort to intermix the high physical activities with some calmer times for students to rest, we are looking to include a craft table in our events. If you would like to help volunteer for this craft table, please contact Mrs. Carla Kuhn or Mrs. Mary Marra to make arrangements or find out more information.**

### A few things to remember:

- 1. Volunteers** – please remember to wear a solid red shirt so that students and adults can easily identify a volunteer!
- 2. Our volunteers** need to have the *Smarter Adults - Safer Kids* training.
- 3. We will be organizing a Hot dog/Hamburger lunch again for this day.** As we would like the students to enjoy the experience without worrying about ordering or paying, please look for the opportunity to order & pay in advance. This will be coming soon!
- 4. Our contact parents for this event include:** Mrs. Carla Kuhn @ 694-3599 or Mrs. Mary Marra @ 693-3176.

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# Making Connections!

Within our March newsletter, I dedicated an article to help begin to describe our evolving reading program focus and text gradient levels to parents. As I continue to bring attention to our reading goals, I would like to introduce parents to the concept of connections. Within a balanced literacy program, our instructional goals include a focus that teaches students to make connections: *Text-to-Self*, *Text-to-Text*, and *Text-to-World*.

When students make *Text-to-Self* connections, they are reading a book and making a connection to their own life and their own experiences. Students may read a book about farm animals, noting the effort that a farming family makes to feed and care for their family's animals such as a horse or dairy cows. In a text-to-self connection, the student reading this book may be able to make a connection to a family pet – noting that he or she needs to feed their pet every day or be careful to be certain that the pet has a good shelter – be it in the house or within the yard. Such a connection helps the student to understand their reading with greater depth. By making a text-to-self connection, a student is better able to think like a character, understand the character's motivations or actions, and generalize their reading/learning to other settings.

When we teach students to make *Text-to-Text* connections, we are teaching students to recognize similarities or differences between or among text readings. While reading, we are sometimes reminded of other things that we have read other books by the same author, stories from a similar genre, or perhaps on the same topic. Readers gain insight during reading by thinking about how the information they are reading connects to other familiar text.

A student, may for example, read a story about the Civil War and then read a story about the Revolutionary War. As the second story is being read, the student may be able to recall that a character in the first story struggled with leaving his family to fight in a war that he believed to be important. The reader may find a similar personal battle being described in the second book. Once a student can make a text-to-text connection, they can begin to pull information that they have learned in one story to help understand a second story. Students can make comparisons (how are these books the same), as well as note contradictions, (how characters may make different choices under similar circumstances). Connections between two war stories may be more obvious than other text-to-text connections, but when students learn to read, recall, and apply reading experiences to other books, the power of the reading becomes exponential!

The third connection that we strive to bring to our students is the *Text-to-World* connections. Within this focus, we want our students to begin to recognize events about which they may be reading as they relate to events in our world. These are larger connections that exceed our personal experiences. Students often learn about their world through television, movies, magazines, and now, the internet. Often it is the text-to-world connections that teachers are trying to enhance when they teach lessons in science, social studies, and literature. A reader might comment, "I saw a program on television that talked about... (i.e.: sharks)." In doing so, the reader is able to bring in other knowledge that supports his learning.

When reading with your children – please keep these connections in mind. Modeling and encouraging our children to think about their reading is a powerful tool for everyone!

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# Attention Parents--We need your help!

We have recently experienced a flurry of reports regarding student behavior within our building. We appreciate any support you can offer from home, to reinforce our efforts to create and maintain a safe, respectful, and inviting learning environment.



- ❖ Please talk with your children regarding their choices in the cafeteria. We ask that students remain seated, use a “12 inch voice,” and keep their hand and feet to themselves. Our young students are very good at this – but our older students, especially our 6<sup>th</sup> graders, are struggling with respectful behavior in this location.
- ❖ Bus behavior has also been a challenge during recent weeks. Our expectations are very similar – that our students remain seated, use a “6 inch voice,” and keep their hand and feet to themselves. Students on busses L, Q, and R continue to struggle with these expectations. If your child rides any of our buses, please take a few minutes to remind them of how important their cooperation is to bus safety!



## *Remember the lost and found...*

Please remember that we have a Lost & Found cabinet tucked in the corner opposite the entrance to our cafeteria. We are filling up quickly with a lot of wonderful – albeit – lost, clothing. If your son or daughter is missing any clothing, glasses, jackets, sweatshirts, etc., please be certain to check this location. It is always wonderful to have something be *FOUND!*

## *From the Nurse...*

*A reminder to Fifth Grade parents: New York State has mandated all students (born on or after 1/1/94) and entering 6th grade (or the equivalent of 6th grade) be immunized with Tdap. Please make your child's appointment to be in compliance with New York State mandates by September 1, 2009. A physician's written verification is required.*

## *From Music – Mrs. Strong...*

*Spring is here! One of the best ways for a young child to help develop the muscles for singing and instrument use is to use a bubble wand and blow some bubbles! That's it...blow bubbles. The only catch is that the bubbles need to be large ones. This requires a slow steady stream of air through the bubble wand which will make those breathing and singing muscles work even better. ...So, if it's a nice day, please send your child outside with some bubbles. They'll have fun and grow stronger as well.*

*Check out this website:* [www.paycheckcity.com/NetPayCalc/netpaycalculator.asp](http://www.paycheckcity.com/NetPayCalc/netpaycalculator.asp)

Concerned about recent paycheck changes? This website allows you to “change” your deductions in order to calculate the resulting net pay.

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## Strive for 25 Experience the Magic of Reading



Ohio School has been working hard to meet the goal of reading 25 books. Look for these new names to be seen in the courtyard as well as on our knight's scroll of children who have met the goal in February and March. All students who meet the goal of reading 25 books by the beginning of June will be taken on a magical journey soon to be announced. Keep reading!

### **Kindergarten:**

Zachary Roeser, Stevyn Thomas, Thomas Klamut, Tobias Cruz, Walter Wisniewski, Samantha Guercio, Victoria Panasyuk, Owen Kuster, Sean Graves, Timothy Neal, Kailey Gendron, Marina Barbopoulos, John Paul Barone, Michael Ziano, Arianna Taylor, Emily McNeil, Damon Corgliano, James Johnson III, Allyson Keleher, Alexia Southern, Aidan Carrier, Benjamin Nicholas

### **Grade 1:**

Fawn Ott, Malachi Printup, Brooke Normandin, Lauren Schreck, Matthew Gardiner, Cody Scruggs, Bradley Williams, Alexis Marshall, Julie Myers, Camara Maye, Cade Dewey, Jenna Manganello, Alyssa Koronowski, Brianna Cox, Selena Couto, Sebastian Soffritti, Ethan Mellenthine

### **Grade 2:**

Katelyn Miller, Victoria Kalita, Jack Tollar, Alexander Gorcheck, Mackenzie Sledziewski, Anthony Sims, Krysta Robinson, Megan Persico, Colin Beach, Nicholas Casterline, Kaila Marazita, Jaret Lynch, James Wekenmann, Emily Caple, Josephine Wetzel

### **Grade 3:**

Marisa Smith, Samantha McCready, Daniel Gipp, Aaron Courtemanche, Lauren Behr, Madison MacNeil, Kyle McNeill, Jewel Hewett, Joseph Hoffman, Samuel Greene

### **Grade 4:**

Irene Johnson, Morgan Barone, Nathan DeLong, Caitlin Persico, Daniel Piazza, Joseph Roeser, Alexander Schreck, Tyler Cosentino, Shannon Martin, Nicole Decker, Ronald Kuntz, Joseph Roeser, Engolica Van Hoff, Leah Warren, Daniel Weglarski

### **Grade 5:**

Allie Smyth, Breezy Greenert, Curtis Vivian, Emily Simmeth, Sean Lapham, Amber Hewitt, Mariah Coleman, Joe Guagliardo, Connor Essenburg, Bailey Franusiak, Maria LaVerdi, Tayler Wadosky

### **Grade 6:**

Devin Donohue, Jessica Robins, Kayla Barone, Sarah Cornell, Clayton Keleher, Sean Raines, Griffin Kent, Kyle Behr, Leeanna Cracknell, Gregory DeLong, Jamilee Galmbacher, Andrew Rossi, Kristina Tran

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**Mrs. Daigler's Class has written stories based on Ohio School's Strive for 25 medieval reading theme. The students have written stories about the Knight that travels our school. Each month we will select one story to publish. Enjoy!**

The Mystery Knight  
By: Riley Tollar

During the school year at Ohio School there was a knight. At night he would roam the halls sneaking and peeking in classrooms. Where will he be now? While he stands and reads, the children watch him. No one knows where he will be next?

My friend Cayla and I wanted to find out. We went to school during the night. We saw the knight's shadow creeping down the hall. We saw him in our classroom. We freaked out and screamed! Ahhhh!!!! He heard us and turned around.

We ran down the hall. That's when he ran after us. He finally grabbed us and tied us up. "What are you going to do with us?" I screamed.

"I wanted to ask why you were running from me?" said the knight.

"Are you going to take us away?" we asked.

"No!" he said.

"What aren't you bad?"

"No, I'm a nice knight."

"Why do you roam the school then?" we wanted to know.

"After reading all day I like to move around at night," answered the knight.

"Why at night?" we asked.

"I don't want people to know I'm real, so please don't tell them!"

"Ok," we said. So then we went home. After that weird night we went right to bed. We were exhausted from our adventure.

The next day when we went to school the knight was in our classroom. Everyone was excited! The knight winked at me and Cayla when we walked in and took our seats.

That was Cayla, the knight and my little secret about that weird night!



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# The Ohio Clothing Closet!



During the month of January, Ohio Elementary School has worked to open a Community Clothing Closet. In order to “stock” this closet, we have and will continue to warmly accept any gently used clothing – shirts, sweaters, pants, coats, boots, etc. that families may have outgrown. **All sizes are welcome!!**

As our clothing closet is filled, we would like to make these clothing items available to any family in need. If you or your family is in need of any item, we are happy to provide these to you!

Donations may be dropped off to the main office. Any requests for clothing may be made by using the Clothing Closet Request Form below.

If you are interested in receiving some of the clothing that has been donated – please fill out the Closet Request Form below and forward this to the main office.

**Please mark the envelope: Attention: Mrs. Dawn Lowry**

Cut here: -----

## Clothing Closet Request Form

Please describe the clothing items you need:

1.) Clothing item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female / Child Adult

2.) Clothing item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female / Child Adult

3.) Clothing item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female / Child Adult

Please return to the Ohio Main Office – Attention: Mrs. Dawn Lowry

**Contact Information:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Attention Parents: Notes to Note

## *Smarter Adults - Safer Kids District Training Dates:*

<u>Date - Time</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>April 21 - 9:30 am</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Room 163</i>

### **Substitute Support Staff – North Tonawanda is always looking for interested people!**

The North Tonawanda City School District always accepts applications for the following substitute support staff positions:



Teacher Aides (\$8.90 per hour)  
Typist (\$8.90 per hour)  
School Monitor (\$8.25 per hour)  
Child Care Worker/BASE (\$8.25 per hour)  
School Bus Attendant (\$8.25 per hour)  
Nurse (\$15.15 per hour)

Applications are available at the Administration Building, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 175 Humphrey Street, N. Tonawanda.

### **Central Registration**

As of July 1, 2008, all new students to the North Tonawanda City School District must register at the Administration Building at 175 Humphrey Street. Additionally, all address changes must be completed and approved. The district requires certain documentation in order to register your child and/or make an address change. These forms can be obtained at the 175 Humphrey Street Building or by calling to make an appointment at 807-3535.

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## SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

The North Tonawanda Police Department has informed the school district that we will no longer be receiving written notification of level 2 and 3 sex offenders through the mail as we have in the past. The Niagara County Sheriff's Department created a web site listing all the level 2 and 3 sex offenders in their jurisdiction and the NT Police Department has teamed up with them. Level 2 and 3 sex offenders residing in North Tonawanda are now on that web site.

Additionally, the web site will allow users to sign up for a notification service that will automatically notify you via e-mail every time a level 2 or 3 sex offender moves into or from place to place within Niagara County.

The Niagara County Sheriff's Department web site is [www.ncsd.com/SOR/](http://www.ncsd.com/SOR/). Please also remember that the New York State web site is [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/sor/](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/sor/). The state web site allows you to search by name, county, or zip code throughout New York. The state's toll free number is 1-800-262-3257.

The District will continue with notifications using the District newsletter and District web site [www.ntcityschools.wnyric.org](http://www.ntcityschools.wnyric.org).

## Attention Families: Has your contact information changed?



### Emergency Contact Information

Attention Ohio Elementary School - Please note these changes in our contact information:

Student Name(s) and Grade levels \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Our new home phone number \_\_\_\_\_
- Our new cell number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Our new address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional persons with permission to pick my child(ren) up from school:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Other contact information changes: (i.e.: Grandparent phone number changes if they are listed as emergency contacts)  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

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