

Ohio Elementary School News

December 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to December at Ohio Elementary! We are now well into our school year. I hope all of you had the opportunity to attend the Basket Raffle on November 6th and the Family Dance the evening of November 13th. Thanks to everyone who helped to make these events a success.

During December, we will be having parent-teacher conferences. **Please keep in mind that students will be dismissed at 11:45 on December 4th, 11th, and 14th.** The buses leave at 12:00, so please be certain to make arrangements for your children on these early dismissal days. Your cooperation is certainly appreciated.

Parent-teacher conferences are a wonderful opportunity for you to celebrate your child's accomplishments and to develop a plan with your child's teacher to work on areas that require improvement. Many parents wonder what they can do to help their child be more successful in school. Parents that stay involved in their school send a message to their children that school is important. One simple way to remain involved is to show an interest in homework and projects. Check student agendas for assignments and monitor your child's progress when completing homework. In addition, keep the lines of communication open between home and school. Teachers do want to know what's going on in their students' lives. Chances are if you've noticed a problem, your child's teacher has probably seen it also.

Fortunately, most problems can be resolved when parents and schools work together. Perhaps the most important thing is to act quickly before the problem gets out of hand. Your support and involvement is both appreciated and critical for student success.

Sincerely,

Wendy Richards

Building our future together, one student at a time...

Calendar at a glance:



December

- 2nd OHIO Meeting
- 4th Parent Teacher Conferences
½ day students
- 10th Parent Teacher Conferences
Evening Conferences
- 11th Parent Teacher Conferences
½ day students
- 14th Parent Teacher Conferences
½ day students
- 17th Grade 4 Concert
7pm Spruce Auditorium
- 23rd Last day of classes

January 2010!!

- 6th OHIO Meeting
- 21st 6th grade concert
7pm Spruce Auditorium
- 28th Ohio Roller Skating Party



Reminder - Parent Teacher Conferences



December 4th, 11th, & 14th – 11:45 a.m. Dismissal December 10th Evening Conferences

During December, afternoon conferences are scheduled for **December 4th, 11th, & 14th**. On **December 10th** there will be evening conferences. Each of our teachers provided the opportunity to sign up for a conference during our Open House in September. These will be confirmed with you through your classroom teacher. If you have questions or a conflict, please contact your teacher in order to make accommodations.

"GIVE THE GIFT OF READING"

(Our annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair, has been moved to December.)

This year's fair is especially exciting and important because profits will be used to provide Ohio School with its' first online catalog in our library media center!!! This will give students better access to our books, and give them the chance to search the collection from their classroom computers as well!

Tuesday, December 8 through to December 14

Students will have the opportunity to browse and make purchases during their scheduled library classes. Flyers will be sent home. **CASH OR CHECKS ONLY.**

Thursday, December 10 - 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Come as a family to browse and make purchases.
CASH, CHECKS OR CREDIT WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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The Giving Tree

The foyer of Ohio is soon to be filled with a winter-like scene to host the presence of the Giving Tree. Ohio will be sponsoring a "Giving Tree" to benefit children within our community. Your gift of a **warm hat or a pair of mittens** will be used to brighten a child's holiday. These items will be donated to a local charity. So, please consider having your child donate one of the above items if you're able. We'll be depositing items under the tree in the lobby from during December and January!



... and Dressing for Success

As you are aware, it is an important value at Ohio to "**Dress for success.**" At Ohio Elementary, this means that we are **dressing with respect and safety** in mind. For our faculty and staff, this often means that we are dressing professionally, supporting our efforts to be positive role models for our children. Occasionally, "dressing for success" has a different meaning. **The Ohio faculty and staff are committed to supporting our community and modeling charity for others throughout the school year.** At Ohio, one way the faculty and staff are choosing to model this is to "Donate to Dress Down." During these days, teachers have identified a charity to which they would like to provide support and donate money for the opportunity to support their charity. During these days, our "success" will be measured in the money or gifts we are able to collect in order to help others.

During the recent months, many of our **local businesses and families have experienced hardships** associated with the recent changes in our economy. In the past, Ohio Elementary families have been recipients of charitable support from a local business that has reached out to provide **gifts to children during the holidays.** This year, this business will not be able to provide such support. In an effort, however, to continue to provide support to our families, the faculty and staff have decided that they will be using the Donate to Dress Down theme again. Our Giving Tree will be decorated with a number of "snowflakes." Each snowflake will represent a child in need and list the child's age, gender, and size or toy suggestion. Our faculty/staff members will be bringing in wrapped gifts for these children. In order to celebrate their generosity, we will be hosting additional "dress down" days for the gifts that have been collected.

Ohio families may support this effort as well. If you are interested, just select a snowflake and **return a wrapped gift by December 13th** to the **Main Office.** Be certain to **attach the tag** that you have selected to this gift - as this will ensure that the gift is given to the right child!

Thank you for your help and support of others!

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PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

During the month of January, our students will be participating in the Pennies for Patients drive. It's not too late for the students to start saving their pennies and/or any loose coins they may have. A reminder will be sent home regarding this drive. All money raised is donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. These funds help support lifesaving research and services for patients.



We will have containers for children to deposit their money. This is strictly done on a voluntary basis. We thank you for any help you may give for this drive.

Bus Transportation Notification



Bus behavior reminder....

As the school year progresses and students become excited about snow on the ground, holidays and special school events, we commonly notice an increase in “offensive” behaviors on our busses. Please take the time to remind your children about the importance of demonstrating respectful behavior on the bus. This type of reminder is very important and supports our efforts to create a safer, more student friendly environment on the bus.

Please also remember that disrespectful behavior will be taken very seriously. Students using vulgar language, inappropriate gestures, and/or demonstrating other misbehavior on the bus are likely to lose bus privileges.

BASE Reminder:

Parents of BASE students, please remember to notify the school through written notice of any changes in your daycare plans. We are working to make certain that we are providing each of our students with appropriate supervision to ensure their safety during school hours and upon dismissal. In order to do so, we need to know of any changes that may effect your child(ren)'s after school destination, each time there is a change!



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From the Nurse...

in 2009

It is that time of the year when children get sick with colds and flu symptoms. It is hard sometimes to know whether or not to send a child to school. Here are some guidelines for parents when you are unsure whether or not you should send your child to school on any given day. Please make sure that we have an adult on file who is able to pick up your child should they become sick at school.

1. Children should be fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) before coming back to school. If a child is still running a fever in the afternoon on one day, he should not be sent to school the next day.
2. Children who are experiencing vomiting and diarrhea should be kept at home until they have been over it for at least 24 hours. Children may appear better in the morning but I find that they run out of steam by early afternoon.
3. Coughing is hard to determine. A child with excessive coughing should be kept at home. If your child has been up coughing in the night, chances are that coughing will continue during the day. The child will also not be rested enough to concentrate and do well in school. If a child has had a good night's sleep and is well rested, as long as the coughing is minimal, they may be okay for school. Keep in mind that coughing can spread germs. You would not appreciate it if other children were sent to school with bad coughs and exposed your child to cold and flu symptoms. Please also remember that cough drops are considered medication and require a doctor's order to be given in school.
4. Remember, as the parent, you decide whether or not to send your child to school. You know your child best. You know their behavior and how they react when sick. You are the best judge - your child should not be the one making the decision.



Sincerely,

Beth Galas RN
Ohio School Nurse

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Let's Keep Safety On Our Minds...

We all know that following afternoon dismissal, we are excited and distracted. Students want to get home and parents have things to do! We are all busy and want to get to the next place we need to be. We would ask, however, that you keep safety on the top of your "To Do" list. Our Crossing Guards are charged with the most precious responsibility – keeping our students safe. As you are picking up your children or traveling by our schools, please be certain to take the time to:



- **Drive slowly**
- **Drop off students on the right side of the street.**
- **Watch for children** in the area
- Honor the responsibilities of the crossing guards – and follow his/her directions
 - Please do NOT creep into the intersection when the guard is guiding children to cross
 - Please **remind your children to travel directly home** – discourage them from stopping to play in the snow or snow hills – as this only adds to potential safety concerns

If you are picking up your children, please be certain that you keep the students off of the snow mounds – especially around the parking lot! Safety is our first priority and we sometimes need to be certain that **we are thinking** ahead – especially when our children want to “run ahead.”

Vocal Music – Mrs. Strong

Congratulations to our fantastic 5th grade chorus for sharing their talents with us by presenting “American Every Day”. It was a wonderful look at the struggle our country has gone through and how proud we are to be Americans.

We look forward to our 4th graders and their December program about winter holidays around the world. Using sign language and also singing a song in Spanish the children will give us a look at the many facets of various celebrations. We know you'll want to join us at Spruce School on December 17th for their show.

Congratulations also go out to Rachael Braun, Kaeli McGinnis, Aveonna Southern and Tayler Wadosky. These 4 talented young ladies were chosen to represent Ohio School at the Elementary All-County Festival in February.



Instrumental Music News.....from Mrs. Wright



5th and 6th band and string students have been working hard since September!! I've been thrilled with all the progress that has been made. 5th graders will be starting their full band and orchestra rehearsals next month!! More information will follow about what specific day and time. I'm looking forward to hearing everyone perform together!!

4th grade students have brought home Part 1 of their instrumental music packet. I will be coming into the classrooms in the next few weeks to show and demonstrate all the instruments. Please watch for more information that will be coming home soon!!

UP-COMING CONCERT DATES (mark your calendars ☺)

6th Grade Band, Orchestra, and Chorus Concert is Thursday, January 21st, 2010

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Nutrition News

FREE BREAKFAST WEEK is January 11th-January 15th for all students in grades K-8. The menu includes pancakes on a stick, warm cinnamon rolls and english muffin pizza.

New breakfast item-UBR-Ultimate Breakfast Round. These are a 100% whole grain nutritional powerhouse. Each round contains 6 grams of fiber and 4 grams of protein. This is equal to four granola bars or two bowls of cheerios. UBR's are on the menu January 25th.

Students can enjoy our "Super Bowl" cereal bar on January 29th. Students will combine different cereals and toppings to create their own designer bowl of cereal.

A new promotion for Breakfast and Lunch is the Produce of the Month. We will be featuring a particular fruit or vegetable each month, highlighting its many benefits and incorporating the produce into school menus. This program is designed to reinforce the many benefits of eating fruits and vegetables. The produce of the month for January is oranges.

January lunch promotion is Use Your Noodle-Think Wheat Pasta. Students will be offered wheat spaghetti, wheat penne and wheat rotini as part of the lunch menu. Eating wheat pasta is a great way to add whole grains into your diet.

Our always popular combo lunch is on the menu January 15th. Mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers and a snowman pretzel all together in one lunch. New desserts in January include Italian ice, Fruit Snack Delight (a fruit filled cake) and Cinnamon Churro.

It's never too late....

You can apply for a free or reduced priced meal any time during the school year. All students that are eligible for a free or reduced price breakfast may also receive a free or reduced price breakfast. A family of four with an annual income of less than \$41,000 may be eligible for this benefit. Applications are available in the school office.



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Improving Your Study Skills

- ✓ It is best to review the material right after class when it's still fresh in your memory.
- ✓ Don't try to do all of your studying the night before a test. Instead space out your studying, review class materials several times a week, focusing on one topic at a time.
- ✓ Have all of your study materials in front of you: class notes, textbooks, study guides and any other important materials.
- ✓ Find a comfortable and quiet place to study with good lighting and little distractions. Try avoiding your own bed, because it is very tempting to just lie down and take a nap.
- ✓ Start out by studying the most important information first.
- ✓ Write down a summary of the important ideas as you read through your study materials.
- ✓ Take short breaks frequently. Your memory retains the information that you study at the beginning and the end better than what you study in the middle.
- ✓ Space out your studying, you'll learn more by studying a little every day instead of waiting to cram at the last minute. By studying every day, the material will stay in your long-term memory but if you try to study at the last moment, the material will only reside in your short-term memory that you'll easily forget.
- ✓ Make sure that you understand the material well, don't just read through the material and try to memorize everything.
- ✓ If you choose to study in a group, only study with others who are serious about the test.
- ✓ Test yourself or have someone test you on the material to find out what your strengths and weaknesses are. You can use the review questions at the end of each chapter or practice tests the teacher may give out as well as other materials.
- ✓ Don't study later than the time you usually go to sleep, you may fall asleep or be tempted to go to sleep. Instead try studying in the afternoon or early evening. If you are a morning person, try studying in the morning.



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NEW YORK STATE'S "NEW" CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

Child Passenger Restraints Are Not An Option, They Are The Law!

Effective November 24, 2009



All children must be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system until they reach their 8th birthday, while riding in a motor vehicle.

An appropriate child restraint system is one that meets the child's size and weight recommended by the manufacturer.

The safety belt in your vehicle is not designed for children. A booster seat raises your child up so that the safety belt fits your child correctly and provides the proper protection.

"A booster seat changed my view"

For more information: www.safeny.com



NEW LAW

*I need a boost ,
so I can see.
It can save my life,
& prevent injury.*

**Up to 8
Years Old.**

Always buckled in for a detachable booster.

www.safeny.com

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Strive for 25:

Both teachers and children around Ohio School are going bananas for books and working on becoming better readers. Check out the vine in the main foyer that is filled with bananas and a few monkeys of children who have already met the goal of reading *at least 25 books!*

Parents, do you see your child reading at home? Be sure to check in with your child to see how far he/she has come with meeting this goal. The upcoming holiday breaks are a great time for you to get in some quality reading time with your child. Happy reading!

The monkeys below have **ALREADY met the goal of reading at least 25 books during the month of November:**

Grade 1:

Ethan D, Lindsey P, Emily M, John Paul B, Cameron M, Seth F, Abigail C, Marissa M, Adam S, Marina B

Grade 2:

Devin M, Amelia O, Aiden M, Tyler W, Brooke N, Fawn O, Julia W, Gianna Soulier

Grade 3:

Connor D, Maleah S, Jack T

Grade 4:

Erin S, Paige K, Karma R

Grade 5:

Theresa B, Shannon M, Caitlin P, Nicholas R

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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>December 3 - 9:00 am</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	<i>Conference Room</i>
<i>January 20 - 1:30 pm</i>	<i>Drake</i>	<i>Library</i>
<i>February 11 - 6:00 pm</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>March 3 - 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>Library</i>
<i>May TBD</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>June 1 - 9:00 am</i>	<i>NTHS</i>	<i>Guidance Office</i>

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/. Please also remember that the New York State web site is 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.

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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