



# THE PRINCIPAL'S BUZZLINE

Drake Elementary School  
Glen L. Stacho, Principal  
Mary Marconi, Secretary

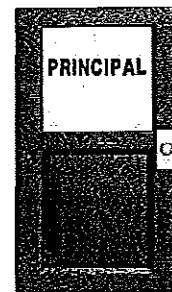
March 2015  
Edition 5

*A Message From Mr. Stacho:* It's hard to believe that we have less than 40 days left in our school year. We have so much to accomplish in those days! I wanted to take a moment to wish you all a wonderful, safe, and happy "Spring Break"! Spring is a time of rejuvenation and renewal. I hope we can all take a deep breath, slow down, and enjoy the people in our lives.



**Help us to plan for next year:** If you are planning to move or withdraw your child from Drake Elementary School for any reason, please let us know **immediately**. There are some papers that need to be filled out and we also need to know in creating class lists for next year. Additionally, if you know of a neighbor or friend who might be enrolling their student at Drake for next school year, please ask them to contact the school office for details about enrolling. The more information we have and the sooner we get it, the better prepared we are to plan for next year. Thanks a bunch.

**School Rules Reminder!** It seems that Spring Fever has hit some of our students early this year. Please remind your child/children that certain things are **NOT** to be brought to school. Some of the items that have been showing up at school are: cell phones, i-pods, electronic games, Pokemon cards, Tech Decks, etc. The usage of these items and toys disrupts the learning process in the classroom. Please be reminded that we do not have lockers at Drake and the coat hook area is not supervised during the day. Students should not leave any valuables in their coats or backpacks.



**Would you ever have "talked back" to your teacher or Principal when you were in school?** Recently we have been addressing many students for being disrespectful by talking back or challenging the adults in the building. I believe much of this comes from television and movies where talking back or attempting to "pull one over" on the adults is glorified and portrayed as funny. Please speak with your child about showing proper respect for ALL students and staff. Disrespect and insubordination are violations of our school code of conduct and will be addressed accordingly with detentions and possibly suspensions.

## **A B C** S **Of Student Success**

**G is for Grace:** Grace means giving children what they need, not what they deserve. It means accepting kids as they are, and understanding their feelings and obstacles. It also means that we provide the unconditional support our children need to make positive changes. Grace, however, must be balanced with accountability or we risk enabling children to excuse unacceptable behavior or failure to achieve reasonable goals. If we balance grace with accountability, we let children know that we expect them to grow and

learn. **H is for Homework:** Homework provides practice, and it enables parents to know when a child is having difficulty with schoolwork. Parents can support a school's homework policy by . . . A) providing a "homework area" that is well lit and free of distractions; B) setting a daily "homework time;" and C) offering a snack or play break before homework or using it as a homework completion incentive.



**"Pizza With The Principal"** – Our January lunch winners were: Storm M., Amrin P., Matthew O., Alex H., Jillian W., Annalisa C., Logan L., Stephen S., Caeden E., Owen G., Adrian P., Maggie M., Amanda S., Deborah W., Cristian C., George P., Angelina V., and Adam H. Our February lunch winners were: Lindsay M., Dylan S., Michael I., Mackenzie Z., Logan L., Joadalis P., Jade M., Victor S., Sean N., Tommy M., Hope S.,

Evan B., Faith L., Maddie B., Ivianna L., Sarah E., Ty'Rell H., and Zach Z. Our March lunch winners were: Rei W., Jordan D., Lauren B., Rhami I., Max C., Shwetan V., Morgan S., Kadin K., Kriti P., Austin G., Taylor D., Renee L., Jordan E., Grace D., Alex S., Eli M., and Abby L. These students are examples to all in their displays of following the Drake Way!

# Math+Science Connection

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

Dexter Frank Drake Elementary School  
Mr. Glen Stacho, Principal

## INFO BITS



### Open-door angles

Doors in your house are the perfect place for hands-on practice with angles. Take turns opening or closing a door and asking, "Acute, right, or obtuse?" Partially open a door, and it's an acute angle. Open it straight out, and it's a right angle. Open it wider, and it's obtuse.

### Habitat for rent

Help your child think about what animals need to survive (shelter, food, water). Then, have her choose an animal (monkey) and write a classified ad for a home that will meet its needs. *Example:* "Tall tree in a tropical rain forest. Large river nearby for drinking. Plenty of leaves, fruit, and insects to eat."

### Book picks

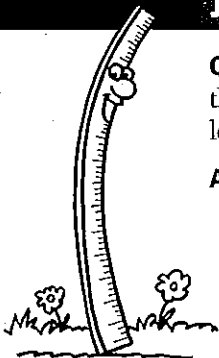
▣ *The Man Who Counted: A Collection of Mathematical Adventures* (Malba Tahan) combines an adventure story with interesting math puzzles.

▣ Learning about the solar system is fun when planets tell the story themselves. Dan Green's *Astronomy: Out of This World!* contains fascinating facts and details along with cartoon illustrations your youngster is sure to love.

### Just for fun

**Q:** What has three feet but no legs or arms?

**A:** A yard.



## Fractions of fun

Understanding fractions is much easier when your child can visualize them. Here are ideas to help her see—and use—fractions.

**Keep a diary.** Show her that fractions are a part of everyday life. For a week, have her record and illustrate each one she notices. For instance, she might write, "We had a half day of school today," or "Mom asked for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of turkey at the store." How many examples can she find and draw?

**Play a game.** Have each player cut a sheet of construction paper into six horizontal strips. She should leave the first one whole and then cut the second one in half (fold it, and cut along the fold), and the others into thirds, fourths, sixths, and eighths. With bits of masking tape, label a die:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ , and "wild." To play, roll the die, and lay the matching



piece of paper on your whole strip (for "wild," choose any piece). The goal is to be the first one to fill your strip without overlapping any pieces (*example:*  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$  whole strip).

**Put in order.** Together, make a set of fraction cards, with one fraction per index card ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 1,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , 2). Shuffle the cards, and see how quickly your youngster can put them in order. Then, while she closes her eyes, lay the cards in order but leave out a few. Give her the missing cards, and have her put them where they go. 🎲

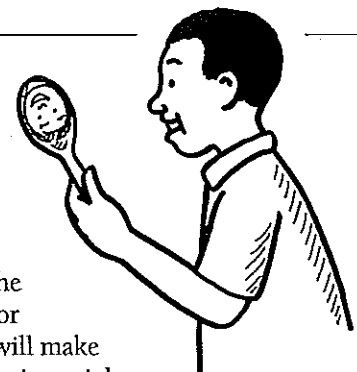
### Look at me!

Help your youngster learn about the science of optics with this mealtime activity.

Have him look at himself in a clean spoon. What happens if he looks in the bowl of the spoon? (He's upside down.) What happens on the other side? (He's right side up.)

Next, have him bring his finger toward the spoon and watch what happens on each side. The bowl (the *concave* side) will magnify his finger, or make it look larger. The back (the *convex* side) will make his finger look smaller. Ask your child how scientists might use this information to make eyeglasses, cameras, or telescopes.

**Tip:** He can remember which side is which by thinking of concave as "caves in." 🎲



# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

March 2015

Drake Elementary School  
Glen L. Stacho, Principal



## SHORT NOTES

### That's a record!

Suggest that your youngster start a notebook of personal records to keep track of her accomplishments. For instance, maybe she did five pull-ups in PE or got 100 on her spelling test two weeks in a row. Challenge her to beat her own records, and she'll learn to set and work toward goals.

### Backpack safety

To avoid straining his back, encourage your child to bend his knees (not his waist) when he picks up his backpack. Also, the weight of his backpack should be less than 15 percent of his body weight. *Hint:* Have him pack items so the weight is evenly distributed.

### Celebrate spring

Spring begins March 20. As a family, plan a mini celebration to ring in the new season. Your youngster could make invitations ("Meet in the living room on Friday after dinner") and check out library books of spring crafts to do together. You might bake cookies or cupcakes that family members can decorate with flowers or raindrops.

### Worth quoting

"Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be a very silent place if no birds sang except the best."

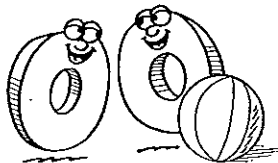
Henry van Dyke

## JUST FOR FUN

**Tyler:** I can tell you the score of tonight's big game before it starts.

**Dad:** Really? What is it?

**Tyler:** Zero to zero!



## Respect at home, respect at school

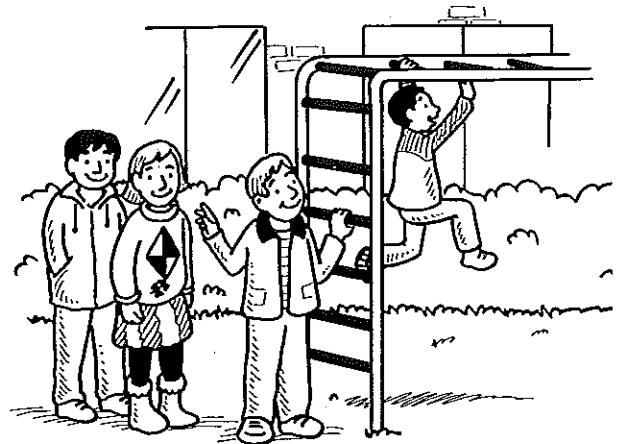
A child who treats people with respect at home is more likely to be respectful in school. These tips can help your youngster learn what respect is and inspire him to show it.

### Define

Explain that respect includes valuing others' needs and wishes, showing consideration for people, being tolerant of differences, and using good manners. Then, have your youngster write his own recipe for respect. *Example:* "Mix together  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup caring,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup good manners,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup self-control, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup tolerance. Makes as many servings as you need—and stays good forever!"

### Spot

"I spy...respect." Together, look and listen for people showing respect. Your child may notice students listening quietly as the media specialist reads a book or classmates speaking politely to each other. Have him name someone he respects at



school, like a teacher or classmate—why does he respect that person? Also, as he reads or watches movies, he could be on the lookout for characters he thinks are worthy of respect.

### Show

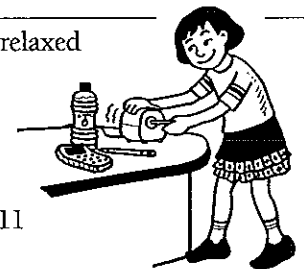
Can your youngster think of instances where he was or wasn't respectful this week? Encourage him to come up with three ways he will behave respectfully at home and at school next week. For example, he could ask his sister before touching her guitar or wait patiently for smaller kids who need more time to cross the playground monkey bars. ♥

## Test-week success

How can you help your youngster stay focused yet relaxed during standardized test week? Share these strategies:

- Suggest that she pack a "test kit" the night before each day of testing. She should put in everything that she'll need, such as sharpened pencils, a calculator, a water bottle, and a snack. *Tip:* Make sure she gets 10–11 hours of sleep so she'll be alert.

- Let your child plan enjoyable activities for after school. She may not have homework during test week, so she could use that time to unwind by playing board games, reading comic books, or visiting a park. ♥



# When I grow up...

Help your youngster see the connection between what she's learning in school and the future career she dreams of with these ideas.

**Think about jobs.** How could your child use reading, math, or science in a future career? Ask her to name a job she might enjoy and match it with a skill she learned in class. For example, reading with expression will come in handy if she becomes a TV news anchor



someday. Or if she'd like to be a fashion designer, the measurement unit she's doing in math can help her measure fabric correctly.

**Talk to workers.** Let your youngster interview people about their jobs. Maybe your neighbor is an electrician or your sister is an orthopedist. Encourage her to ask how they use school subjects at work.

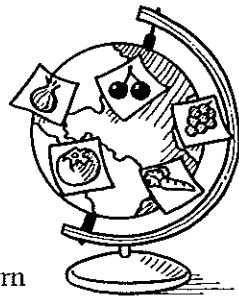
She may discover that electricians read manuals and diagrams and that orthopedists need science to understand patients' bones and to diagnose and treat injuries.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Put salad on the map

What does your child's dinner salad have to do with geography? Make one together, and he can find out.

1. Ask your youngster to write a shopping list for salad ingredients.



2. At the grocery store, have him read stickers to learn where each ingredient comes from (tomatoes from Mexico, cucumbers from California). Can he find anything grown in your area?

3. At home, encourage him to look at a world map and locate the state or country where each ingredient was grown. He could sketch each food on a sticky note and place it where it belongs on a globe, an atlas, or a map.

4. Let your child help you wash the vegetables, slice them, and toss with his favorite dressing. Now it's time to eat!

*Idea:* Next time, let him make and map a fruit salad.♥



### Q & A Keeping track of papers

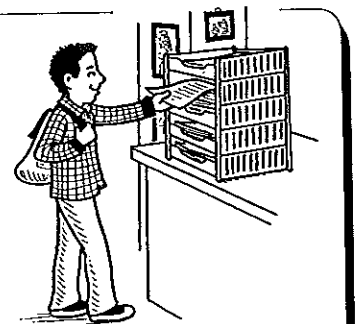
**Q:** My son's room is a mess—which wasn't a big problem until he started losing schoolwork and getting frustrated when he couldn't find things. How can I help?

**A:** The good news is that even if your son's room is cluttered, he won't lose papers if he keeps them in his backpack.

He should take homework assignments out of his bag when he's ready to work on them and put them right back in after he's finished. If he has a graded test or a permission slip for you to sign, have him hand it directly to you instead of putting it in a pile where it may get overlooked.

You could also help your son develop a system for organizing work that he needs to keep. He might use stacked plastic trays or file folders—one for each subject.

Once he sees how much easier it is to find papers, he just may be ready to tackle the rest of his room so it's organized, too!♥



### A co-parenting team

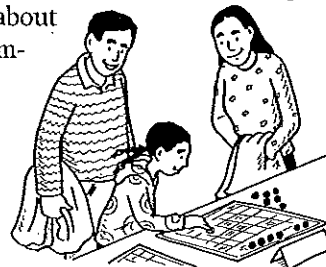
If you're divorced, you may worry about how the situation will affect your child's schoolwork. Youngsters tend to adjust better if they see their parents working as a team, so try these suggestions for building a good co-parenting relationship:

- Attend school events. Your child will probably want to hang out with both of you during a math night or an art fair. Focus on her, and avoid bringing up difficult subjects (finances, custody).

- Be sure to both look over report cards and other important papers that come home. You might

make a copy for the other parent or ask if the school will send home duplicates. Try to agree on a plan for handling grades.♥

- Find a way to communicate about your child's schooling. For example, some parents feel email works best. *Tip:* Mention your conversations to your youngster. ("I told your dad about your citizenship award. We're both proud of you!")



#### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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