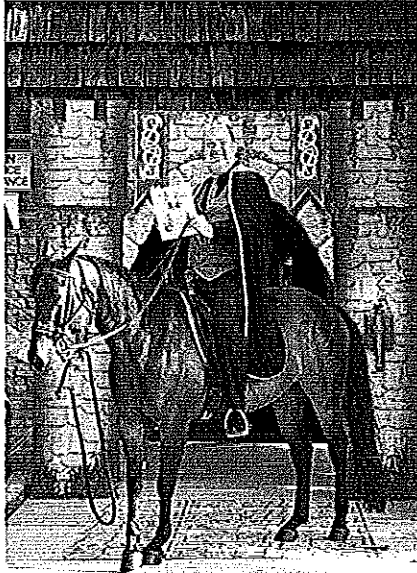




THE PRINCIPAL'S BUZZLINE

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

August 27, 2014
Edition 1



We're Fired Up About Reading!

Welcome Back To School! This year promises to be an exciting, challenging, and rewarding year for everyone in our community. A huge "Thank you" to Susan Schnittke of Coventree Farm for donating her time and her horse, Blue, so that I could greet the children in style on the first day of school. My hope is always to inspire and excite the children about reading and learning!

I encourage you to become actively involved in your child's school experience. Please call me at (440) 572-7150 if you ever have any questions or concerns. My e-mail is gstacho@strongnet.org. Be sure to use the "g" before "stacho" or I won't get your e-mail.

I will send home periodic newsletters regarding things happening at Drake. I am going to try to send them via e-mail and post it on our school website to conserve paper. Sometimes, however, we will send home paper notices to try to ensure that all parents get the information in a timely fashion. Please take a few moments to read the newsletters as they contain important information, including ways that parents can help at home with various student issues.

We will be distributing information regarding our year-long literacy initiative, "Fired Up About Reading" in the next week or so. The goal of this initiative is to get families reading together and motivate children to read, read, **READ**. Students who choose to participate will be recognized at our Recognition Assemblies at the end of each marking period. We are encouraging all families to participate together in this reading challenge.

To build on our "Fired Up About Reading" theme and support a collaborative spirit within the school, all students will receive a "Fired Up About Reading" t-shirt. These t-shirts will be distributed to students on picture day – September 4th - and students will be asked to wear them for our all-school panoramic picture that will be taken on that day. Students are encouraged to wear their "Fired Up About Reading" t-shirts throughout the year, and specifically on "spirit" days that will be announced throughout the year.

I look forward to meeting parents as the year progresses at the many school functions that will occur. It is a joy to greet your children each morning as they enter our school ready and excited to learn. I have met with all students in the first few days of school to talk about EXPECTATIONS. We discussed the importance of being well-behaved and appropriately dressed for the "job" of learning. We also talked about "RESPECT". Respect for self and others. The idea of answering to adults with the responses "Yes sir/ma'am" or "No sir/ma'am" as opposed to "yea" or a shrug of the shoulders was explained and modeled. Please practice and reinforce this model of courtesy at home. These are simple practices that make a HUGE difference when children are communicating with adults and peers. We also reviewed the expectations contained in the DRAKE way – our focus on character. D=Dependable, R=Respectful, A=Accountable, K=Kind, and E=Engaged.

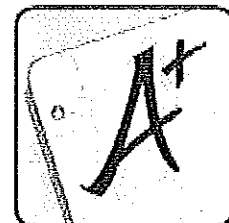
Again . . . it is such a joy to be working with your children! Thank you for supporting our efforts here at school

Your Partner In Education,

**Please check the Drake webpage regularly for up to date announcements!*

Glen L. Stacho,
Principal

PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ ON TO FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER EXCITING SCHOOL NEWS!



Achievement Test Scores: The State of Ohio has not yet released the “official” report cards for schools based on last year’s test results. However, I can share with you how wonderfully Drake Elementary students performed on the Ohio Achievement Assessments given in the Spring of 2014.

3rd Grade Reading: 93% of Drake students passed – 74% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

3rd Grade Math: 90% of Drake students passed – 51% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

4th Grade Reading: 93% of Drake students passed – 68% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

4th Grade Math: 97% of Drake students passed – 68% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

5th Grade Reading: 94% of Drake students passed – 35% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

5th Grade Math: 89% of Drake students passed – 60% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

5th Grade Science: 86% of Drake students passed – 73% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

6th Grade Reading: 91% of Drake students passed – 53% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

6th Grade Math: 91% of Drake students passed – 66% scored at the “Accelerated” or “Advanced” level.

In each instance, our students performed better than the state average! A huge thank you to everyone for your tireless efforts. Our students are successful on these tests not due to “teaching to a test,” but rather engaging students in standards-based, meaningful learning experiences each and every day of the school year.

Congratulations everyone!

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES – Please remember that the bus loop in front of the school is **NOT** to be used by parents for drop off or pick up. If you are dropping off or picking up students, you must use the designated parking lot loop at the side of the building. Students can then walk independently on the sidewalks to the entrance of the building. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

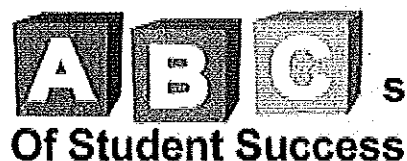


Great news! You can still join PTA. PTA supports many programs and activities at our school that benefit all children in our school community. If you haven’t already done so, PLEASE join our PTA. Your membership and participation means a lot to our children. As families join our PTA, those families will be recognized on a display by our gym/cafeteria. Our first PTA meeting is September 12th at 9:15 a.m. in the staff lounge.

PTA Ice Cream Social: Friday, September 12th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Drake gym. Hope to see you there!



A is for Attendance – Attendance is a critical factor in any child’s school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child’s future depends on it!



Calendar Error! Please note the change!: Unfortunately, there was an error on the school calendar that was distributed during the first few days of school. Please note the following on the calendar you received:

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON: Friday, September 12, 2014

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Friday, December 19, 2014

These days are Professional Development days for staff. School will not be in session for students.

Home & School

CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Drake Elementary

Mr. Glen Stacho, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Internet safety

Here are two important tips to keep your youngsters safe on the Internet. Tell them to open e-mails only from people they know. Also, they should never give out information about themselves on the Web. *Examples:* their school, age, or address; friends' or family members' names.

Homework help

Do your children expect your help with their homework? Let them know you're around if they need you—but their schoolwork is their job. The benefit? They'll learn how to find the answers themselves, as well as boost their skills.

Math measures up!

Encourage your youngster to practice measuring at home. Look for ways he can use a tape measure, a thermometer, or scales. *Example:* "Why don't you help me measure the window? Will the new curtains fit?"

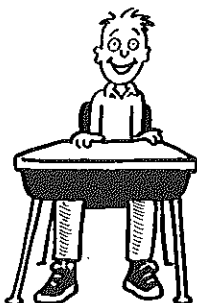
Worth quoting

"When you come to a roadblock, take a detour." *Mary Kay Ash*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What do you have to pay when you go to school?

A: Attention!



Making school a priority

With spring right around the corner, it can be hard to keep children focused on learning. What can you do to make school a top priority for your kids? Keep these simple ideas in mind—they're useful at any time of the year.

Make attendance job #1. Let your youngsters know that unless they're sick, they must go to school. Try to schedule routine dentist and doctor appointments after school hours. If possible, take family vacations during school breaks. *Tip:* Give awards for perfect attendance each month. Try a "Job Well Done" certificate or a coupon good for a night of bowling or a movie.

Show you care.

Want your children to know that you're interested in their learning? Talk about their school activities and projects. Attend as many school events as you can. If homework and after-school activities conflict, speak up: "I know you have baseball practice this evening, but homework comes first. After you finish, I'll take you to practice."

Keep it upbeat.

Try to set a positive example for your children, even when



your own day has been difficult. Instead of saying, "I had a hard day at work. I'll never get my project done," try, "Work was hard today, but I made some progress on my project." If you show a positive attitude about your work, your youngsters may feel better about their own. ♥

Mealtime magic

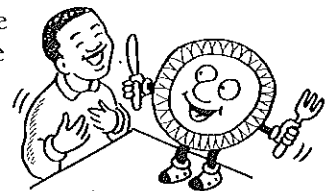
Mealtime is a great time for your family to talk and enjoy each other's company. Get the most out of mealtime with this M-E-A-L approach:

Make the atmosphere pleasant. Focus on the positive—try not to bring up criticisms or complaints.

Entertain each other. *Examples:* Tell jokes. Make up a story and ask each person to add a line.

Always give everyone a turn to talk. Try asking a different question each week. *Examples:* "What's your all-time favorite book?" "What's the funniest thing that happened today?"

Loosen up. Think of ways to make mealtime an adventure. *Examples:* Spread a blanket on the floor and have an indoor picnic. Have a backward dinner—start with dessert! ♥



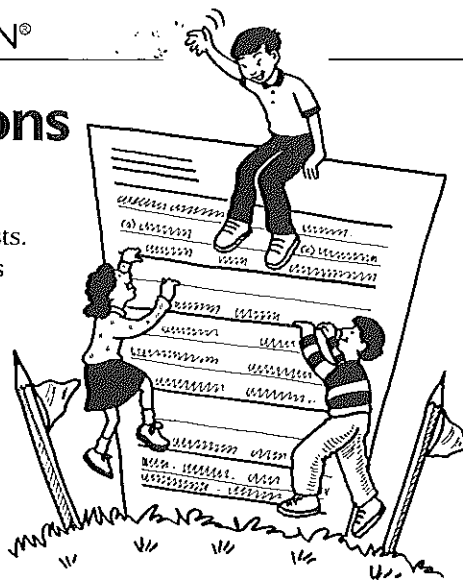
Tackling test questions

Hints for standardized tests

If it's spring, it's usually time for standardized tests. To help your youngster be prepared, share these tips about the types of questions that often appear.

Multiple choice: Read all the answers before marking your choice. Remember, your first instinct is usually best—so don't change your answer unless you're sure.

True/false: Look for words such as *never*, *always*, *all*, and *none*. They're usually in false answers. Words like *may* or *often* are generally found in true answers.



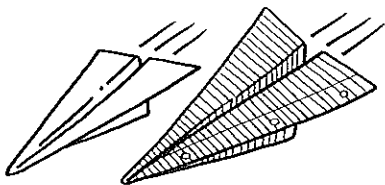
Essay: Read essay questions at least twice. Then, make a list of important thoughts, or key points, about each question before writing your essay. Read through the finished essay to be sure you've included all your key points. Check spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Tip: Your child may feel more comfortable if she's familiar with the test format. Ask your youngster's teacher for a sample test or look at the public library. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER Go fly a plane

Your children can use this activity to find out which materials make a paper airplane fly the farthest.

Materials: loose-leaf notebook paper, magazine page, cardboard or file folder, poster board, tape measure



First, make four airplanes, one from each type of paper. (*Tip:* For instructions, look for books at the library or on Web sites, such as www.paperplane.org.) Next, mark a starting point on the ground. Standing at this point, toss each plane in the air. Then, measure the distance from the starting point to where they land.

The firmer the paper is, the longer the plane will stay in the air. But very heavy paper will cause the airplane to fall faster. Which airplane flies the farthest? ♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

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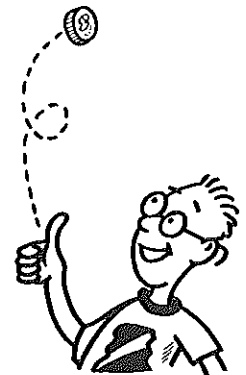
PARENT TO PARENT

Peaceful solutions

My kids used to fight over everything. They'd squabble about which television show to watch and who would take a shower first. I knew it was time to step in when I caught Beth and Matt swinging at each other.

I figured out a system to handle their arguments. To start, I asked each of my kids to write down their favorite television shows, how much time they wanted on the computer, etc. Then, I told them when I would want to use the TV or the computer. When there was a conflict, we flipped a coin to decide who had first choice. Finally, we agreed on a schedule and pinned it to the bulletin board in the kitchen.

The kids still bicker sometimes. But they know that when I say, "Take a look at the schedule," the arguing is over. ♥



Q & A

Handling peer pressure

Q: My son recently decided to stop being friends with a classmate because other kids said, "We don't like him." How can I teach my youngster to think for himself?

A: It's important to give your child the tools he needs to stand up for himself—especially now, before he faces peer pressure about things like drugs and alcohol.

Talk to your youngster about choosing friends who share his interests and values. Kids often give in to peer pressure because they want other kids to like them. If your son has good friends on his side, he won't be as likely to go along with the crowd.

Also, teach him to walk away from uncomfortable situations. For example, if the boys playing basketball are being mean to others, your child could go to another part of the playground to play. ♥

