



THE PRINCIPAL'S BUZZLINE

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

April 23, 2014
Edition 4

A Message From Mr. Stacho:

It's Testing Time!

Next week, many of our students will participate in the Ohio Achievement Assessments. The **first day of testing is Tuesday, April 29th**. Ohio Achievement Assessments are a federal mandate. **Grades 3-6 will take the READING test on Tuesday, April 29th and the MATH test on Thursday, May 1st. 5th grade students will take the SCIENCE test on Friday, May 2nd.** Standardized testing has become a fact of life for our nation's students. The following are some points of interest to help parents and students increase success and decrease stress:



- **Know the Test** – By this point in the year, the tests that your child will take should be very familiar to you and your child. One positive aspect of the testing is that the format of the test and the questioning is of no surprise because the State of Ohio makes available practice tests and previous tests. These materials are accessible from the Ohio Department of Education's website at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>. The Ohio Department of Education even has a website for students and families to get to know the test and even to practice online. This website is located at <http://ohio3-8.success-ode-state-oh-us.info>. I encourage you to visit the ODE websites and look at some of the former tests with your child. This familiarity can only help.
- **Encourage** – As testing approaches, the focus should be to encourage your child to do their best without pressure. Pressure tactics tend to produce negative results. This is the time to build your child up and to cheer them along! To that end, with the support of PTA, we will be providing some incentives for the children throughout testing week.
- **Health** – Sleep and eat! These two ingredients are essential for a child to perform their best on the test. Students should eat a *quality* breakfast the day of a test. Foods that are high in fat and sugar should be avoided. Most children need more sleep. Children between the ages of 5 and 12 are in need of 10-11 hours of sleep a night! Sleepy children experience difficulty focusing on tasks. Remember that quality test preparation includes good eating and sleeping habits.
- **Coach** – Remind your children of good test taking characteristics.
 - **Pay Attention:** Good test takers pay attention to oral and written directions and follow them exactly.
 - **Time is on Your Side:** Take your time! Students are given ample time to complete the test. Time is rarely a factor yet there are many students who speed through the test. Successful test takers take a deliberate and methodical approach to completing a test.
 - **Check Your Work:** Students should make sure that answers are complete and that there are no questions that were unintentionally overlooked/skipped.
 - **Skip and Come Back:** Teach your child to own the test instead of the test owning them. Some students tend to get bogged down by one question that stumps them. Students should avoid brooding over one question for too long. Tell them it is alright to skip a question and to come back to it at the end. Sometimes that elapsed time provides a new perspective.

Please avoid any unnecessary absences during testing and make sure your child is ON TIME. Students that arrive to school after a test has begun are not allowed to enter the classroom and will have to take the test on a make-up day.

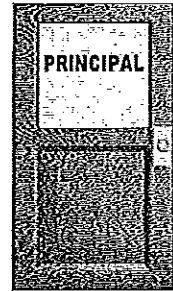
I am confident that the hard work of our staff and students will show during testing days.



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. Not only does the usage of these items and toys disrupt the learning process in the classroom, but many students have reported instances of having these items stolen. 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.

W is for Wisdom: Wisdom is learning born from experiences – both positive and negative. You can develop wisdom in your child by: 1) allowing him or her to make choices and know the consequences of those choices. 2) encouraging children to reflect on what they learn through their experiences. Would they do it again? Would they do it differently? 3) helping children recognize the effects their actions have on people and situations. 4) observing and pointing out the actions and consequences of others’ behaviors in similar situations.

A B C
Of Student Success

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS
DRAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
April/May 2014



28	29 OAA Test Grades 3-6 Reading “Be a Smart Cookie”	30	1 OAA Test Grades 3-6 Math “Be A Fin-Tastic Test Taker”	2 OAA Test Grade 5 Science “ Get A Burst of Energy for Your Test”
5 Fine Arts Week BOGO Book Fair thru Thursday	6 Fine Arts Week	7 Fine Arts Week Asian Art Festival 6 pm-8pm	8 Fine Arts Week 4 th grade musical 7:00 pm	9 Fine Arts Week PTA Installation Luncheon
12	13	14	15	16 Talent Show 9:15 am & 1:15 pm
19	20 Spelling Bee 9:50am- 11:20 am Market Day Pick-Up 4:30 pm-6 p.m.	21	22 Band & Orchestra concert 10:00 am	23
26 No School Memorial Day	27	28 Choir Show 10:00 am 5 th gr cast 2:00 pm 6 th gr cast	29 Jump Rope Extravaganza 10:00 am-11:30 am	30 Field Day 9:30 am-12:00 pm