



THE PRINCIPAL'S BUZZLINE

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

October 23, 2014
Edition 2

LOTS OF INFORMATION . . . PLEASE MAKE TIME TO READ! THANKS!



Red Ribbon Week: Red Ribbon Week is a nationally recognized week focused on reminding students to make good choices in regards to remaining drug and alcohol free. Please discuss with your children the importance of making healthy choices for their life! Red Ribbon Week this year is October 27th – October 31st. Make a commitment to live a drug and alcohol free life by participating in the fun activities we have planned for each day:

- Monday:** “Red Out Drugs” Day - Kick-Off of Red Ribbon Week-Wear Red
- Tuesday:** “Too Smart For Drugs” – Wear college or school apparel.
- Wednesday:** “Be a Jean-ius and Be Drug Free” – Wear Blue Jeans
- Thursday:** “Get Fired Up About Reading . . . Not Drugs!” – Wear Drake Reading t-shirt
- Friday:** “Say Boo to Drugs” – Wear Halloween Costumes

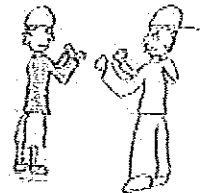
Halloween Parties: Once again this year we will have classroom Halloween parties. The parties will take place on **Friday, October 31st from 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.** in the classrooms. We want to encourage students to dress as characters from books they’ve read. Please remember that even costumes **MUST** adhere to Drake’s Dress Code (NO spaghetti straps, NO bare midriffs, NO inappropriate icons or graphics). Students may wear or bring their costumes, simple in nature, to school. On the day of the party, kindergarten students may come to school dressed in their costumes. We encourage creativity in costuming and **NON-VIOLENT and NON-RISQUE costumes**. Look-a-like weapons (including, but not limited to, swords, guns, and knives) are **NOT** permitted. This should be a positive experience by encouraging fun and originality that does not frighten our younger students. Masks will not be permitted to be worn throughout the school day, but may be worn at the party. Students who bring their costumes will be given time to change into their costumes before the parties begin at 2:15 p.m. Students must be able to dress and prepare themselves in their costumes independently at school.



I’m certain that we’ll have a “spook-tacular” time!

FUNDRAISER DISTRIBUTION: All Fall fundraiser orders **MUST** be picked up on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28th** from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the **ART ROOM**. Students who have smaller orders (1 or 2 items) will bring them home with them at dismissal on the 28th. Please be sure to stop by and pick up your orders. Thank you!

Don’t Hit Back!: Unfortunately during the school year there are altercations between students. Try as we may we are not always successful in preventing such incidents. Our policy is clear that if one student hits another, that student will have consequences. Similarly, if a student is hit and decides to hit back, that student will also have consequences. This policy is in place to avoid a single wrongful act from growing into a larger altercation. If a student is hit by another student, we want that student to walk away and immediately report the incident to a supervising adult, teacher, or administrator. Sometimes, we hear that students, when at home or in the neighborhood, are encouraged to hit back if they are struck. Please do not advise your child to respond in that manner in school, as there will be consequences issued for such a choice. It’s the age old adage that, “two wrongs don’t make a right.”



It's never too late to join PTA. Please consider being a member and help support all the great things PTA does for Drake students! Please be a part of all the great things that PTA does!

(continued on back of page)

B is for Bedtime: *Awww, Mom! Already?* Sound familiar? On average, children need 8-10 hours of sleep each night. Sleep is important for many reasons. Lack of sleep can cause kids to be hypersensitive, impatient, or cranky. It is more difficult for children to concentrate and learn when they are tired. (Some doctors even believe that during sleep the brain “files away” what is learned during the day.) Encouraging quiet activities – such as reading – just prior to bedtime offers a transition that helps children relax. Sweet dreams!

A B C S
Of Student Success

“Pizza With The Principal!”: As part of our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) program at school – focused on recognizing positive behaviors – several students enjoyed “Pizza with the Principal”. Throughout each month, staff members are recognizing students who display characteristics of following “The Drake Way”. If issued a “Drake Way” slip, students receive recognition from the staff member, a special treat from the office, and then are entered into our monthly drawing to have pizza with the Principal, provided by our wonderful PTA. September’s winners were: Jacob D., Autumn G., Elizabeth K., Austin T., Owen S., Trever J., Dean U., P.J. P., Olivia W., Angelina B., Lily B, Mina S., Avery S., Sidney W., Ben H., Jordan, S., Kevin S., Jaclyn K., and Nina W. Congratulations to all our students for following the Drake Way! Some of our winners are pictured below.




The Future of Drake Elementary School: As I’m sure most of you have heard or read, there is a recommendation before the Board of Education to close Drake Elementary School at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. I want to take this opportunity to address a few things regarding this recommendation. At this point in time, this is still a recommendation that has NOT yet been acted upon by the Board of Education, so it is still uncertain as to whether or not Drake will close and when that might be.

Most importantly – no matter what the outcome, we still have a job to do at Drake to provide the best school experience for over 400 students. The staff and I will continue to do our absolute best for our kids! The PTA will continue to support our efforts to make Drake a great place for students to learn and grow. To that end, we need your continued support of our programs, fundraising efforts, and special events. The kids are still here and we are going to focus on making every day spent at Drake the best it possibly can be . . . whether that’s for one more year, two more years, or decades. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts here at school.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS
DRAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 OCTOBER 2014



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Red Ribbon Week Wear Red!	28 Red Ribbon Week Wear College/School Apparel! Fall Fundraiser Pick-Up in Art Room 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	29 Red Ribbon Week Wear Jeans!	30 Red Ribbon Week Wear your “Fired Up About Reading” t-shirt	31 Red Ribbon Week Wear costumes! Halloween Parties 2:15 – 3:15 
3	4 * No School for Students on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 – Election Day PLEASE VOTE!	5	6	7

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

Dexter Frank Drake Elementary School
Mr. Glen Stacho, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I memorized my times tables") on a slip of paper and put it in the container. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

Excellent attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he asks to stay home "just because," remind him of what he'll miss, such as his reading group or art class. Explain that he can be absent only if he's sick or if there's a family emergency.

Eat meals together

You may have heard that it's important for families to eat dinner together. But other meals count, too. If you work in the evenings, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. On a weekend, try a picnic lunch! Research shows that children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior.

Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"
Mark Twain

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What's yellow and smells just like green paint?

A: Yellow paint.



Homework solutions that work

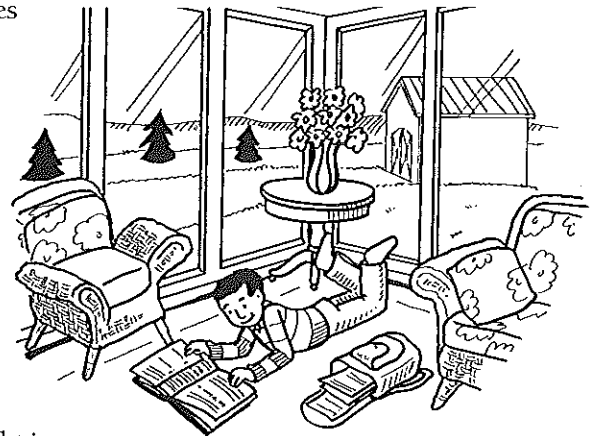
Like an actor rehearsing his lines or a batter working on his swing, your child does homework to practice what he learns in school. And if he's like most youngsters, homework brings occasional challenges. Here are solutions to common problems he might face.

Getting started

When your child gets home from school or after-school care, he might want to relax for a little while, or he may want to jump right in and work. Have him try each method for one week and keep track of how it goes. He could write notes in each day's calendar square. ("Went great!" or "Hard time getting started.") After two weeks, he can review the notes to see which routine worked best.

Staying motivated

Does your youngster ever feel restless when he's doing homework? Suggest that he get up and move to a new spot. For example, he might finish his vocabulary assignment at the kitchen table and then read his science chapter on the



porch. A planned break (say, to have a snack or take a walk) can also give him a second wind.

Solving problems

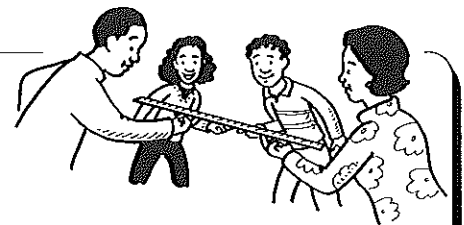
Help your child make a list of strategies he can use when he gets stuck. For a math assignment, he might try tools like a number line or find sample problems in his book. When he's reading, he could look up words in a dictionary or reread a paragraph. *Tip:* If he's still stumped, he might call a friend or write down his question to ask his teacher the next day.♥

Family teamwork

Whether your youngsters are doing a group project or playing Hacky Sack, a team effort is needed. Everyone's a winner with these games that will show them teamwork in action.

Lower the yardstick. Together, hold a yardstick horizontally so that everyone has one finger underneath. Then, lower the yardstick to the ground—but if anyone's finger drops away, you have to start over. See how many tries it takes to get the yardstick to the floor.

Pass the ball. Sit in a circle with your feet out toward the center. Pass a ball around the circle—using only your feet. How many times can the ball go around before it drops on the ground?♥



Good consequences

Behaving well and working hard pay off! Help your child see the results of her efforts—you'll find yourself scolding her less often as she learns self-discipline.

Tie good behavior to nice outcomes.

If your youngster is quiet when you're on the phone, you might say, "You were so patient while I made that call. Would you like to play a game now?" Or when she goes to bed without a struggle, point out how energetic she seems the next morning.

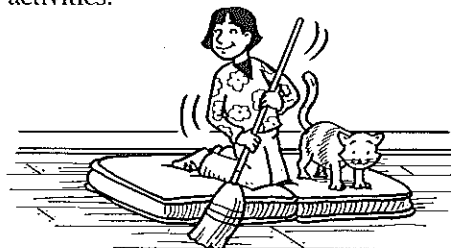


Recognize success. Maybe you'd like your child's room to be neater. Tell her that if she keeps it clean for a month, you'll help her rearrange or redecorate it. By that time, picking up will probably be a habit. And she'll enjoy her room so much that she'll be motivated to keep it that way.

Tip: Try not to use rewards like toys or food. You'll train your youngster to expect something in exchange for behaving well. Plus, offering food as a reward can lead to unhealthy eating habits.♥

Ready, set, pretend!

No matter how old your youngster is, pretending can boost her creativity and teach her to think abstractly. Try these activities:



- Ask your child to close her eyes and imagine she's a person she has studied (explorer, inventor) or that she's visiting a place she has learned about (White House, rain forest). Encourage her to describe what she sees, hears, and smells. In the rain forest, for example, she might see colorful birds, hear monkeys howling, and smell damp leaves.

- Pick a random object (sponge). Have each family member list creative uses for it (pincushion, hamster tumbling mat, ice pack). After three minutes, compare your lists. The person with the most ideas gets to pick the next item.♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

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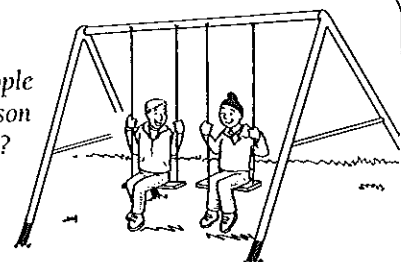
Respect differences

Q: We recently moved to an area where people speak several different languages, and our son has a lot of questions. How should we answer him?

A: It's great that your son is being exposed to a variety of cultures. You can use his curiosity to help him learn about respecting differences.

Explain that in many parts of the United States, people speak different languages, eat different foods, and wear different clothing than your family does. At the same time, they do many of the same things (play at the park, watch movies).

To help him understand, ask him to name one classmate who speaks English and one who speaks another language. Have him tell you something he has in common with each child (skateboarding, wearing sneakers) and one thing that they don't share (number of siblings, language spoken at home). He'll discover that language is just one of the many things that makes a person similar to or different from him.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Talking to kids about money

My children were always asking to buy things such as dress-up shoes or new games. They didn't seem to understand that these items weren't in our budget.

I wanted them to learn about how we spend our money—and that it is limited. So I got a spiral notebook and labeled it "Family Spending Journal." I explained that for two weeks, everyone would keep a record of what they spent money on. I listed items like my subway

fare, the electric bill, and the taxes taken out of my paycheck. The children wrote down expenses such as school lunch, soccer cleats, and field trip fees.

After a few days, they were surprised by how many things we needed money for. Our kids had no idea, for example, that we paid for taxes on our income, several types of insurance, and membership in our homeowners' association. Sometimes they still ask to buy too many things at the store, but when I say no, at least they understand why.♥

