

DOWDS SCHOOL

October '08 NEWSLETTER



Fall is here and we are definitely into the full swing of school. October is a busy month for our 3rd Graders as they will have their first opportunity to take the Third Grade Reading Achievement Test on October 6th. Also, that week we will be taking a practice Reading and Math Achievement Test in fourth and third grade. The test results will give our teacher's valuable data to provide focused instruction and intervention.

Also, this month, our PTO kicks off their annual Fall Fundraiser Drive on October 9th. This fundraiser provides many of the extras like field trips, family events, field day etc. We need everyone to help support this. Last year the school had 60% participation and this year we would like to see at least 80% participation.

Also, on October 23rd, I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend Dowds annual Souper Wrapper Supper. This will take place in the cafeteria from 4:00-6:30. This is a great way to get out and enjoy a fun family event at the school.

Yours in Education,
Mr. Walker

RECYCLING

Dowds School is involved in two recycling projects. We ask our families to send in their empty computer ink cartridges from home or work to recycle. Also, on the last Tuesday of each month the "SCRAPMOBILE" recycling trailer is at Dowds School from 2:30 - 4:30 to pick up any #1 or #2 plastic bottles, aluminum cans, metal cans, and newspapers. Come early because they do leave before 4:30, if the trailers are filled.

SAVE THE DATE:

DOWDS PTO MEETING

**October 14th at 6:30 in the
music/art room**

Childcare provided

Information from Gifted Department

Twice each year the opportunity to test your child for possible identification as gifted is offered. Now is the time for referrals and testing. One or more of these four areas can be assessed:

Superior Cognitive Ability

Specific Academic Ability

Creative Thinking

Visual/Performing Arts

If your child demonstrates advanced learning abilities, you may want to consider referring him/her for testing. If your child was tested within the past year, there is no need to request testing again at this time. We generally offer testing in the fall and spring of each school year. Referral packets are available through your building secretary. Once we receive the referral, you will be notified of the testing procedures.

Call Sheri Mitchell, Supervisor for Gifted, at 419-347-5457 with any questions.



ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL SAFETY REMINDER

Our children's safety is certainly one of our highest priorities. One area at school where sometimes there are safety concerns is our parking lot--especially during arrival and dismissal times. To help keep our children as safe as possible, we ask that the following procedure be followed. In the morning, students who are car riders may be dropped off by the sidewalk that leads to our flagpole in the front of the building where students will line up with their class. Students enter the building at 8:30, unless inclement weather occurs and then we come in and line up in the gym until 8:30. After 8:30 students may be dropped off by the sidewalk that leads into the hall by our office. At our 3:15 dismissal time, we ask our families to park their cars after entering the lot. Be sure to enter the parking lot on the west side to park and leave using the east side of the lot. Students need to be met by older siblings (high school) or an adult family member at the sidewalk area by the office exit. And, as I am sure you are doing already--use extreme caution at all times during our arrival and dismissal.

Take a practice OAT Test @
<http://portal.success-ode-state-oh-us.info/>

Dowds Teachers Take Advantage of Local Grants

Dowds Elementary teachers Katy Rinehart and Anne Finn both took time over the summer to write grant proposals to two local foundations. First grade teacher Miss Rinehart is "Centered on Learning." Richland County Foundation is helping Miss Rinehart's students with hands on learning centers. First graders in her class now have over \$800 worth of games and activities to help reinforce and practice literacy skills.

Anne Finn also sought grant money from Richland County Foundation. Mrs. Finn's kindergarteners will be "Celebrating Our Differences." With \$1000 provided by RCF, Mrs. Finn has purchased materials that will allow students to "travel" to other countries to be introduced to different cultures. Also purchased with the funds was a brightly colored area rug of the world map to allow students to visualize as we read stories about the different countries and their traditions.

Shelby Foundation granted Mrs. Finn \$1500 to "Bridge the Gap." This program allowed Mrs. Finn to purchase age appropriate literacy and math games for the students' and their families to borrow. These games will allow families the tools to spend quality fun time together, as parents help reinforce kindergarten skills