

DOWDS SCHOOL



January '09 NEWSLETTER

Well as I begin to write this newsletter, I can only imagine how many times I am going to write 08 instead of 09. Did this sentence just make you look above to see if I wrote 09 ☺? There is a saying I am sure many of you are familiar with, "Well begun is only half done..." This is the message I try to stress to our students as we move into the second half of the year. The first semester ends on January 16th. Grade cards will be sent home on January 23rd.

Also, this month our students will be tested on AIMSweb reading assessment. AIMSweb is a Curriculum-Based Measurement (CBM) used to monitor student progress through direct, continuous assessment of basic skills. Three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring), all students here are assessed to determine their reading fluency. Because every student is assessed three times a year, AIMSWEB affords ample opportunity for intervention. Teachers tailor interventions, such as small group instruction, for every grade level on an ongoing basis.

Thanks for all you do to help make Dowds Elementary a great place to learn!!!

Yours in Education,

Mr. Walker

Have a question? Email me at walker.paul@shelbyk12.org

Dowds Raises \$1500 for Help Line

This past month our students raised \$1500 dollars to purchase groceries during our school wide community Christmas shopping trip. We want to thank all of the chaperones who were able to take the time to accompany our students on the trip. Also, thanks to our staff committee who worked diligently behind the scenes to help make this a success. This helped out many of the families in need during this holiday season.

Grade Cards
go home
January 23rd

MLK Day
No School on
Monday January 19th

PTO Meeting: January 13th at 6:30

Attention Students: If your parent attends the PTO meeting and brings in this coupon, you will receive an extra 15 min. recess on Friday, Jan. 16th.

Student's Name: _____ Principal's Signature _____

3rd Grade Reading Results

This past month we received the results of the Fall 2008 3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test. As a school 67% of our students met or exceeded the state standard. The state average for the Reading Achievement Test was 61%. To meet the state indicator (that is reported on the Local Report Card in August) we must score at least 75% when we take the test in April.

There are five performance levels: Advanced, Accelerated, Proficient, Basic, Limited. Below is how Dowds performed in each of the five levels.

Performance Levels		Dowds %
Advanced	432-518	30%
Accelerated	415-431	27%
Proficient	400-414	10%
Basic	385-399	21%
Limited	252-384	11%

Over the next four months we will continue to provide intervention and monitor student progress to meet or exceed the 75% benchmark. Find out more information about the Ohio Achievement Tests at:
<http://ohio3-8.success-ode-state-oh-us.info/>

Cafeteria News!!!

We want to help if your income status changes and you need help with school meals.

Parents may apply for meal benefits at any time. Pick up an application from your school office, fill it out, and send it to school with your student.

We will respond within a few days.

If you have any questions please feel free to call our Food Service Director at 419.342.6581 option 8.

SAVE, SAVE, & SAVE

PTO Meeting
January 13th
@ 6:00

Please continue to save those Campbell Soup bar codes as well as Box Tops. DeeDee Paulo is coordinating both of those and she will be sending home information about classroom contests. We are also still collecting the Nestle "Go Play" water bottler labels. All three of these are "free" ways for the school to get additional items to be used in our classrooms. Judy Fisher has made new collection containers for all the classrooms and the "Go Play" labels can be placed in the large canister outside the office. Karen Davis takes care of collecting and counting these labels.