

DOWDS SCHOOL



September '09 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2009-10 Dowds School year! We are off to a great start for a wonderful year ahead. Dowds Elementary enters this year with high expectations for our school community following last year's performance on the 2008-09 State Report Card. Dowds school received an "Excellent" Rating on the State Report Card. Congratulations to our students, staff, and families for all of their hard work. Our students met all of the indicators and we challenge this year's students to surpass those benchmarks.

We have some staff changes this year. We welcome Kelly Greenwood to our kindergarten team and Jami Thompson to our second grade team. Miranda Bores will be subbing for Mrs. Ream while she is out on leave and Katie Getz will be subbing for Mrs. Secriskey while she is out on leave. Sue Gilbert will be teaching music this year and Cheryl Gies has joined our cafeteria team. Not new to the building, but, a change in job roles include: Kate Hlad as a kindergarten teacher and Cheylin Yetzer as a first grade teacher. We have been very fortunate to find some excellent teachers to fill these positions. Together, we are committed to making this year filled with positive learning experiences for our Dowds children!

Also, this month, our PTO kicks off their annual Fall Fundraiser drive on September 1st. 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.

Finally, I want to extend an invitation to our families to get involved with our school! Join us and be apart of our Dowds School Family and find out for yourself what a special learning place we have at Dowds School!

Yours in Education,
Mr. Walker

**PTO Fundraiser Kickoff
September 1st @ 2:00**

SAVE THE DATE:

**Picture Day
September 8th**

SAVE THE DATE:

DOWDS PTO MEETING

**September 8th at 6:30 in the
music/art room**

Childcare provided

Information from Gifted Department

Our kitchen crew, Linda Schroeder, Judy Hoover, and Cheryl Gies are terrific ladies! Here are some items that they felt might be helpful as our new year unfolds. Prepaying for a single student can be done during the breakfast line or lunch line (checks can be made payable to Dowds School or Shelby City Schools). If you have more than one child enrolled at Dowds School and wish to prepay, it is better to have one of the children bring the check or cash to the kitchen after the breakfast line at 8:45. Be sure your child knows to give all of the names of the children in your family being paid for and exactly how many breakfasts/lunches they are paying for.

The cafeteria does sell extras each day as time permits. The items vary from day to day.

Every Friday ice cream is sold. Grades 3 & 4 may purchase it the other 4 days as well.

Most extra items cost \$.75. Extra items may be paid for from the prepaid accounts. Students may not charge extras.

Let the cafeteria know if you have a child with special dietary needs. We do need a doctor's slip if a student is allergic to a certain food/drink item. Students are permitted to request preferences, if they have them. For example, no gravy, no cheese sauce, etc.

Due to state mandates, students must take all the items served on a particular day. They are encouraged to try everything. They are never forced to eat an item they do not care for. However, if a student wants extras on a particular day, he/she will need to eat almost all of their food. He/she is allowed to leave one food or drink item on the tray and still buy extras.



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.

We need your help!!!!

We are always on the lookout for adult friends to help here at school. There is never enough time to get everything done or to work as much as we would like to with every child. Sometimes there are specific projects like our school Book Nook. We need reading volunteers this year--hopefully to begin some time in October. This is a minimum commitment of one 30 minute per week period to read one-on-one with a student. The schedule is worked out with the volunteers and the teachers. This one-on-one time is so important for our children. During open house, there were sign-up sheets for volunteers for PTO projects throughout the year. If you didn't get to sign-up and are interested, just call the school office and we will forward your name. We also need classroom volunteers who are willing to help on a regular basis or even occasionally. Let us know what spare time you may have and we will gladly use your assistance. Spread the word for us. Not only moms and dads, but, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and favorite special adult friends all make wonderful volunteers. So send a note or call the school at 419-342-4641.