

# DOWDS SCHOOL



## December 2011 NEWSLETTER

Well the first dusting of snow has fallen and already the kids are asking about snow days!!! The last few years there seems to be a question about calamity/snow days. This year the Ohio Department of Education will grant us 5 calamity days that will not have to be made up. In addition, the Shelby City Schools has adopted the alternative calamity day plan which will give us three extra days where students must make up the work by accessing lessons posted online or students bringing home a blizzard bag.

Dowds Elementary will be using "Blizzard Bags" to make up calamity days (snow days) 6, 7, and 8 if necessary. If we miss calamity days (snow days) 6, 7, or 8 your child will bring home a "blizzard bag" (folder) with work equivalent to one school day on their first day back in session. All students are required to complete the work in the "blizzard bag" within a 2 week window. The assignments in the blizzard bag will also be on our district website. This only applies to calamity days (snow days) 6, 7, and 8; days 1-5 are the same as they have always been. By taking part in this calamity day option offered by the State of Ohio our students will not have to make up snow days at the end of the year unless we go past 8 missed days this school year. Hopefully I was able to explain this well enough. If you have any questions, please give me a buzz. Also, we will be talking to the students about this if we start to get close to day 6.

This past month we received the results of the fall 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Achievement Test. As a school 69% of our students met or exceeded the state standard. The state average for the Fall Reading Achievement Test was 59%. 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. Last year we scored 90% in the spring. We are going to continue to work and work here to have this year's group exceed last year's score.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe and Happy New Year. During the year if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (419) 342-4641 or email at [walker.paul@shelbyk12.org](mailto:walker.paul@shelbyk12.org)

Yours in Education,  
Mr. Walker

### Dowds Raises \$1300 for Helpline!!!

This past month our students raised \$1300 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 will help out many of the families in need during the holiday season.

### Next PTO Meeting

January 10<sup>th</sup> @  
6:30  
Childcare provided

## Dowds students R.A.H. and earn PAW Awards



Dowds Elementary students are working like dogs to earn their PAW Awards. The PAWS TO READ program is a school wide reading initiative to increase the amount of independent reading time for our students. Each week students are required to meet their grade level reading goal to earn a paw sticker. (Every week, parents will be required to sign off that the child has done their independent reading at home). After four weeks of earning paw stickers, students receive a PAWS Charm Award to wear on their backpack. At the end of the year school assembly, students who earned 7 out of 9 possible PAWS, will receive a Top Reader Dog Tag. We want everyone to be a TOP DAWG Reader!!!!

## Winter Music Program

On December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00, our third and fourth graders will be performing in our winter music program at the Shelby Middle School.



## Closing and Delay Info!!!

Tune in to the following stations about school delays and closings:  
• WMAN 1400, WVNO 106,  
OR WYHT 105.3

Reminder:  
EARLY RELEASE  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 1:30

Winter Break  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
School Resumes Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>

**SAVE, SAVE, & SAVE**

Please continue to save those Campbell Soup bar codes as well as Box Tops. Both of these are "free" ways for the school to earn additional items to be used in our classrooms.