



Deerfield Elementary 411

Excellence and Equity in Education



September 2009

Important Dates

- 9/9 Early Release, 1:20pm
- 9/14 PTO meeting, 6:30pm
- 9/18 Friday Family Fitness Night
6:00-7:30pm
- 9/25 Early Release, Homecoming
- 9/28 5th Grade Band Meeting, 6:30pm
- 9/29 Picture Day
- 10/8 Parent/Teacher Conferences
3:30-8:30pm
- 10/9 Parent/Teacher Conferences
7:30-10:30am
- 10/16 Enrichment Presentation, 12:45pm

Principal's Corner

The school year is off to a great start. Thank you to all parents and students for your help in making the first week of school a success. A couple changes you may notice:

At the beginning of the day, students are saying the DES Character Pledge in their classroom:

Today I will try my best to be Honest, Helpful, Responsible, Respectful, and have a Positive Attitude.

As you enter school, you will notice our monthly multi-cultural display. This month's display is directly linked with Hispanic Heritage Month.

We have also made a concerted effort to keep our school a safe environment by creating school wide hallway and recess behavior expectations.

In addition, our staff is working hard on reviewing and improving our writing curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support in making our students school experience the best it can be. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Enjoy Labor Day weekend!

Mark Becker
Elementary Principal

From the Art Room

During the 2009-10 school year, the DES art program is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Picturing America grant. This grant provides an innovative way for school children to explore the history and character of America through some of our nation's great works of art. As part of this grant, our school received 40 FREE art reproductions and a resource book that will be utilized during art class and throughout the school during the year.

We will be having a Webquest contest based on some of these art reproductions. Each month, there will be a different visual displayed by the DES main office. There will be 3 posted trivia questions about the visual. These questions will also be displayed in the artroom, on the elem. art website, and in the school newsletter. To find the answers for the questions, go to <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov> and click on "Educators" at the bottom, then in the left column, click on "Resource Book." You can also click on this link through the elem art website. There are also other ways to

find the answers, like the library, encyclopedias, or other internet sites. Parental and sibling help IS ALLOWED AND ENCOURAGED, especially with the younger students. Write the answers to the 3 questions on a slip of paper--make sure the student's name is on it, and drop it in the box in the artroom. Answers are due on the last day of every month--NO EXCEPTIONS. All correct entries will be eligible for a grand prize drawing each month!!

5th Grade Band Meeting

5th Grade Beginning Band Informational Meeting for all parents and all 5th graders interested in joining beginning band will be held on Tuesday, September 28, at 6:30 PM in the DES cafeteria. Contact Mrs. Nancy Thomas for further information.

Friday Family Fitness Night

Are you looking for a fun Friday night activity for your whole family? What about a night out in Deerfield that gets your family active and gives you quality time together? Please join us for our first Friday Family Fitness Night on September 18 from 6:00-7:30pm. We will be having circuit style family workouts and family yoga activities followed by a healthy snack and open gym time. Friday Family Fitness Night's will be held every 3rd Friday of the month. Hope to see you there!

From the Reading Corner – Family Reading Activity

Choose a storybook the entire family will enjoy. Then, brainstorm 15 instructions with your child. The instructions will be used to determine whose turn it is to read. Examples: Pass to any other reader; sing a song while passing to your left; pass to your right while standing on one leg. Write each instruction on a slip of paper and put the slips in a bowl. Pick someone to read the first page aloud. Then, that person draws a slip and passes the book according to the

instructions. Continue drawing slips and passing the book until the story is finished.

Miscellaneous Information

Parents are asked not to have their students distribute birthday party invitations at school to avoid hurt feelings for those who may be left out. Thank you!

Parents, please make sure to follow any student absence with a note to the office. Doctor's appointments should have a doctor's note or appointment card from the doctor's office.

One life skill that our staff really works hard to instill in our students is a sense of personal independence. In order to promote independence with our students, we are asking parents not to escort their students down to the classrooms in the morning, but to stay behind in the cafeteria or lobby when students are dismissed to their classrooms. We feel that having our students take on more responsibility for their morning routines teaches them to be self-reliant and independent. In addition, decreasing the number of people in our hallways in the morning makes them less congested and creates a safer school environment.

Lastly, President Obama's address to our nation's youth regarding the importance of education may be aired by DES teachers if they choose to do so. Your child may also have a letter in their taken home folder if their teacher is planning on showing the presentation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Becker at 764-5442.



