CHRISTA McAULIFFE MESSENGER

September 2009

Character Counts!

The month of September kicks off a focus on the pillars of RESPONSIBILITY. Remember, the development of character is a process. You are building character a day at a time and often the path is two steps forward and one back. The ongoing efforts you make will be rewarded as your child becomes a person of good character!

IDEAS FOR TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY AT HOME

One of the most important challenges parents face is to help our children develop strong characters based on good values. Here are a few simple ideas to start with:

1. Use the word *responsibility* as you do each activity page with your child. This way your child will become familiar with the concept and will absorb the word into his or her vocabulary. Talk often about being responsible, using examples from your own life and the news.
2. Tell your child that you want him or her to be responsible. You expect it. Reward responsible behavior and discourage irresponsible behavior with fair, consistent consequences. If you notice your child, yourself, or others acting responsibly or irresponsibly, point this out to your child. Talk about who's being responsible. Talk about the consequences of the behavior, both good and bad.
3. Be careful and conscious about setting a good example of being responsible in everything you do and say. What you do and don't do sends a message to your child.
4. Give your child the opportunity to act responsibly. Set goals for responsible behavior at home – take care of toys, show self-control when angry, and so on. Help your child take responsibility for one or two chores. Make a simple job chart and let your child mark it each time he or she completes the chores.

Picture Day

Practice your smile! School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 23rd. More information will be sent home at a later date.

Reminder!

School will be closed on Monday, September 7th for the Labor Day holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 8th.

PTO NEWS

Reminder – Hot Lunch order forms were due on Tuesday, September 1st – No late orders will be accepted, no exceptions. Volunteers are always needed, if interested contact Jennifer Thomas at 429-4742 or Jennifer Drucker at 614-6724 or Danielle Silzer at 614-1827.

We would like to thank Home Run Inn pizza and the McAuliffe P.T.O. for their generous donations, last May, to our 5th grade Celebration.

Also, Entertainment books and ordering information will be sent home with the students on Friday, September 4th. The books will be on sale until September 23rd. Watch for this information.

Nurse's Note

Students new to the district or in Kindergarten must have their physical form completed and returned to the school nurse. The State of Illinois requires physicals to be on file with the school by October 15th or the student can be excluded from school. To avoid exclusion please turn in the form by that time. Also, just a reminder to Kindergarten parents the State of Illinois now requires a vision examination. Please turn in the form as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Mrs. Richardson at 429-4565.

Arrival and Dismissal

Children should arrive at school between 7:45 and 7:55 a.m. If your student arrives at 8:00 or later, they are tardy and need to be brought into the office and signed in. Please remember to send a written note to school if your child is being dismissed early or taking a different means of transportation home. Older students must meet younger ones outside of the building. Please have your children decide on a place to meet near the younger child's exit. Thank you for your cooperation.