

The Tiger Times



February, 2010

Charles E. Riley Elementary School • 315-341-2800 • Check us out at www.oswego.org

Principal Notes



Bullying! As I have often written about this topic, I felt it timely to update every one of our efforts to combat this pervasive issue at Riley Elementary.

First, we recently had several rather severe bullying and harassment issues at grade 2, 5, & 6. After the incidents were investigated and discipline administered, I met with both the School Psychologist and Counselor and

discussed the issues. We agreed that a presentation on the topic and reminder of the district's Code of Conduct was necessary for all of our grade 5 & 6 students. Thus, classrooms were visited and the topics of bullying and harassment, what it is, Cyber-Bullying, School Dress Code, and most importantly how to react when bullied or harassed, were all discussed.

Students were given this simple three step strategy to use when confronted by a bully or when they are being harassed.

1. Say "please stop" to the perpetrator and get away from them.
2. Tell a Teacher or Staff Member
3. If the issue is still not settled and persists, then inform the principal.

In addition, students were reminded that not only do they have personal responsibility to respond to bullying but also a group responsibility to help decrease bullying in school by telling others to "please stop" when they observe someone else being bullied. In this manner, we strengthen our school culture against bullying behaviors.

If your child complains to you that they are being bullied or harassed at school, please remind them of the three steps listed above. As I've stated in the past, bullying is a complex issue and the suggestions listed above are not offered as absolutes. Rather, they are suggestions to help deal with this important issue. I encourage you to have frank and hearty conversations with your child concerning this topic.

Our school is busy planning our next Positive Behavior Instructional System (PBIS) celebration which will support the issue mentioned above. Early indications are that a 60's peace theme will be used with a focus on the issues of respect and peace. More details will follow at a later date. Next, you may have noticed that the lobby of Riley Elementary is undergoing a few changes. First a bench, along the wall outside the faculty room was removed. Eventually a book shelf, currently under construction, will be installed there. In addition, two large sections of bulletin board have been mounted on the wall between the doors to the faculty room and the all purpose room. The board is for the display of student work, other posters, informational sheets, etc. should be approved by the Main Office and posted on other available bulletin boards.

Also, a large monitor is being installed at a location presently occupied



Spotlight February Events



- Feb 3 Home & School meeting 6 pm Library
- Feb 11 ½ day early release dismissal at 11:55
- Feb 12-16 Winter break
- Feb. 22-26 Kindergarten registration

by a glass case, directly across from the main entrance to the school. Thus, very soon when you walk into the front door you'll be able to read scrolling messages and updates. We'll also feature student and faculty achievement(s) and pictures. This is another way to strengthen communication and keep you informed.

Finally, we continue our emphasis on preparing students for the New York State ELA and Math assessments which are being administered in May, 2010– much later than has been normal. We have administered practice exams to our grade 3-6 students, and will use the results to change or shape instruction as needed.

In closing, you can see that the beginning of the New Year has been very busy for our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself if I can be of assistance.

Randy C. Richards

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be held the week of February 22 – 26. In order to enter Kindergarten, your child must be at least five years old on or before December 1, 2010. If you have not received a letter from the school by February 15, please call us at 341-2800. If you know of any children in our district who are eligible to attend school in September and who did not receive registration material, that you advise the parents to contact the school.



Sportsmanship Award

Mr. & Mrs. Scholla

The following boys and girls have earned the outstanding sportsmanship award for this week. They have done an excellent job demonstrating courtesy, respect, and self-control towards their fellow classmates.

Week of January 4

- Gr. 3 Mattie Wallace & Cody Murray
- Gr. 4 Lindsey White & Brendan Davies
- Gr. 5 Trent Grimshaw & Makayla Meaney
- Gr. 6 Benjamin Thompson & Naliene Bartlett

Week of January 11

- Gr. 3 Marina Regan & Raymond Caron
- Gr. 4 Megan Lagoie & Kevin Blum
- Gr. 5 Justin Woodmancy & Alissa Alfano
- Gr. 6 Daijah Hoskins & Dakota Trumble

Week of January 19

- Gr. 3 Travis Sova & Paige Hammond
- Gr. 4 Alicia Fuentes & Nicholas Hanna
- Gr. 5 Alexander Munger & Hanna Kozel
- Gr. 6 Natasha Mezza

Week of January 25

- Gr. 3 Julianne Verceles & Jarreau Hoskins
- Gr. 4 Grace Hibbert & Laurel Plunkett
- Gr. 5 Hailey Giocondo & Dylan MacIsaac
- Gr. 6 Joseph Cogswell & Leann Rowe



Literacy Department

Read about it, talk about it, and think about it! Find ways for your child to build understanding, the ultimate goal of learning how to read. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ Make books special.

Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.

■ Get them to read another one.

Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a series like *The Boxcar Children* or *Harry Potter*, or to a second book by a favorite author, or ask the librarian for additional suggestions.

■ Crack open the dictionary.

Let your child see you use a dictionary. Say, "Hmm, I'm not sure what that word means... I think I'll look it up."

■ Talk about what you see and do.

Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. For example, chat while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.

■ Different strokes for different folks.

Read different types of books to expose your child to different types of writing. Some kids

prefer nonfiction books.

■ Teach your child some "mind tricks."

Show your child how to summarize a story in a few sentences or how to make predictions about what might happen next. Both strategies help a child comprehend and remember.

■ "Are we there yet?"

Use the time spent in the car or bus for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of?

When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/14073>



As many of you know the yearbook club is raising money so that this year the yearbook can be in color. As part of our fundraising, we would like to sell candy bars (\$1.00 each) for the next couple of weeks. PLEASE support our yearbook club by purchasing a bar or two. The yearbook members appreciate your support.

H&S News

We want to start off by saying January was a very busy month and we hope everyone adjusted well to being back from our Christmas Vacation, as well as trying to remember writing 2010. Look for the flyers for the family fun coming up in February.

- Box top Contest is in full swing so please send in all your saved box tops.
- Family Picture Night is February 18
- PARP- Jennifer Hanna has agreed to run PARP again this year, let me say this is a wonderful program for you and your child/children to read together. Information will be coming home for that as well.
- A Bookfair will be held the week of March 22 and will be open the evening of Open House.
- Our Next Home and School meeting is February 3rd at 6pm in our school library. We look forward to seeing you.

We also wanted to mention that we have open slots that need to be filled for the following positions.

- Fundraising Chair- Review fundraising material and present ideas at Home and School meetings.
- Vice President- Steve Quesnell's term will end in June.
- Parent Volunteers are always needed; even an hour of your time is greatly appreciated. It would help make a difference in the success of the event.
- Child Safe ID cards will be available at Open house if you're interested.
- Candy O'Grams will be on sale February 8th and delivered on February 12th.
- Year Books are on sale now!!!!

If you would like more information or are interested in any positions that will be open please contact Sherry Babcock Sherryw70@yahoo.com.

Winter Festival

sponsored by Oswego City-County Youth Bureau

On Tuesday, February 16, 2010 Camp Hollis will be holding its annual "Winter Festival." This free "family fun day" will feature games and outdoor activities from 10 am until 3 pm including sports, snow shoe hikes, snow sculpturing, iced penny hunt and arts and crafts. Many activities will be held outside so participants should dress accordingly. There will be an indoor space where visitors can enjoy lunch and refreshments and craft projects. Youth ages 12 and under must have an adult attending the event with them. Registration is not required. Donations to support future "Family Fun Days" are welcome. For more information, contact the Youth Bureau at 349-3451 or email jim@oswegocounty.com.

Help Your Child Develop A Positive Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is a child's sense of worth and belonging. Every day, children face new challenges at home with their families and at school with their friends and teachers. It is normal for self-esteem to rise and fall in cycles from day to day as a child builds and rebuilds his or her self concept. To help strengthen and support healthy self-esteem in your child:

- Teach your child the social skills needed to meet friends.
- Encourage your children to talk about their concerns and problems making friends.
- Model healthy relationships with your spouse, significant other, relatives and friends.
- Reassure your child that you accept him or her no matter what others think.
- Respond positively to your child's efforts and interests.
- Involve your children in household chores and activities.
- Treat your child with respect.
- Make sure you convey that your love is unconditional, regardless of whether your child has made a mistake.
- Encourage communication and actively listen to what your child says.
- Instill good habits by serving healthy meals and making regular exercise part of your family's routine.

Congratulations

Amanda Cali and Ariana Noel for having their art selected to be part of the 20th Annual New York State Art Teachers Legislative Student Art Exhibit. This exhibit is held annually to showcase art programs and to give our young artists an opportunity to receive statewide recognition. The work will be on display from Feb 22-26 in the "Well" of the Legislative Office Building on State Street in Albany, New York. Congratulations Amanda and Ariana.

PBIS Rewards for Sharing and Caring

Starting in February and going to the end of the year, every student will have the opportunity to earn a positive PBIS reward ticket by donating a canned or boxed food item to The Human Concern Center. Cans of soup, boxes of macaroni, or any staple is greatly appreciated. Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Sullivan will be at their doors each morning before the bell to collect

the items and hand out the rewards. Knowing that others need us and we can help is an essential part of positive behavior. As always, this is only one way to earn a reward. Being respectful, responsible, problem solving, and in self control may also earn an award. Thank you!

Change in School Calendar

There has been a change in the instructional calendar for the months of March and May. The Supt. Conference Day originally scheduled for March 19 has now been rescheduled to May 10. School will be open for all students, faculty and staff on March 19.

School will be closed for students on May 10. If you need any additional informational, please feel free to contact the school.