

Darby Creek Elementary School News

September-October 2011

It is time to greet a refreshing beginning to a fabulous school year! We **Welcome** you and your family to the Darby Creek community! All of the staff members are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with and learn from your children and from you this year. Together we will make great things happen for all of the students here at Darby Creek.

OAA RESULTS!!! I have some exciting news to share with you regarding not only our school, but the entire Hilliard City School District. For the fourth consecutive year, Hilliard City Schools earned the state's top rating of "Excellent with Distinction" on the 2010-11 Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Local Report Card (LRC). Only 15 school districts in Ohio have earned this same achievement including only four districts in Central Ohio. Of those four districts, Hilliard Schools has the lowest cost per pupil.

Our Superintendent Dale A. McVey said, "this data continues to confirm that our great schools are a great value. Our dedicated teachers and staff members work with all students to help them achieve at an incredibly high level and our administrators lead this effort at a cost that is less than our neighbors. That is a great benefit for our residents."

Each year, ODE rates every district in Ohio based upon four key measurements including

State Indicators, Performance Index (PI), Value-added and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Hilliard City Schools met all indicators, earned a PI of 103.5, achieved "above" growth status for value-added and met all AYP requirements.

To earn the "Excellent with Distinction" honor, districts must meet at least 94 percent of the indicators or have a PI score of at least 100 and have above expected growth for at least two consecutive years on the value-added calculation.

Not only is Hilliard City Schools an Excellent with Distinction school district, but Darby Creek Elementary School is an Excellent with Distinction school. As a school, we met all eight of our indicators, met all AYP requirements, earned a PI score of 102.7 and facilitated more than a year's worth of academic growth for students over the course of a single school year.

As your principal, I'm exceedingly proud of these accomplishments. I know that the hard work of our students, valuable instruction from our teachers, assistance from staff members and cooperation from our parents is what makes these kinds of results possible. Thank you for continuing to support our school and the Hilliard City School District.

LUNCH! Please note that lunch costs \$2.25 and milk is 50 cents per day. You can send money into school with your child for

your child's lunch account or you can add money at www.mealpay.com if you wish (a small fee is applied if you choose this route).

USER FEE! Please pay by October 3 your child's USER FEE (\$30 per child). Fees may be paid to the school office staff by check (made payable to Hilliard City Schools) by cash, or by visa or master card. For your convenience you may also pay online at www.mealpay.com. User Fees are for school materials such as workbooks, art supplies, and other instructional-related materials. Thank you for your cooperation.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are important! Sending in food to celebrate can exclude children who have food allergies. Also, sugary snacks do not contribute to our goal of healthy living. We ask that you incorporate an alternative to your child's fun. Consider a party favor for each student, read a book to the class, purchase a book or game for the room, or send in a t-shirt for classmates to sign. Thanks in advance for your support!

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

Please note that background checks (\$9 if you have lived in Ohio for 5 years, \$18 if you have not) are required for school volunteers (to supervise a field

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trip or to tutor students). Kindly go to Central Office (5323 Cemetery Road) between 9-11am and 1-3pm on Tues, Weds, or Thurs, or schedule an appointment by calling 921-7099

RESIDENCY NEWS

Please note that at the beginning of each new school year we need your updated proof of residency if you are renting, leasing, or if you have a shared residence agreement.: **if you are not on the lease where you live, or if you are living with someone**, we need an Affidavit for Shared Residence. These forms need to be completed each school year: if you lease an apartment or house please provide us with a copy of your lease EVERY time you move or every year; **if you have a month to month lease**, we need that in writing from the apartment complex (on letterhead) or landlord. If you have questions about residency, please call Carolyn Flowers at 921-7096.

CHILD FIND

Hilliard Schools is responsible for locating any child birth through age 21 with a suspected disability who resides within the Hilliard School District. The school district provides special education services to any child who qualifies as disabled according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education improvement Act (IDEIA) or

section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ages 3 through 21 years of age. Suspected disabilities include: multiple disabilities, deaf-blind, hearing impairment, speech/language disability, orthopedic impairment, emotional disturbance, mental retardation, specific learning disability, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impaired, and developmental delay (preschool only). If you know of a child who is suspected to have a disability, please call Vicky Clark, Director of Pupil Services, at 614-921-7000 for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

Please continue to use the "student pick up signs" when picking up students in your car at the back of the building. Place signs in your dashboard, or hold it up when your car is stopped. Signs allow for a quicker and more organized pick up, allowing staff members to call out student names and prepare them for approaching cars.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR DARBY CREEK eNews? Go to www.hboe.org to receive important and ongoing communication from the principal.

UP COMING CALENDAR DATES

9/5—No School Labor Day
9/7—School Picture Day

9/8—6:00-6:30pm ELL information Night
6:30-7:30pm Gr. 3-5 Curriculum Night
9/12—7:00pm PTO meeting
9/13—7:00pm Community Levy Forum
9/15—6:00-6:30 Reading Intervention Info Night
6:30-7:30 K-2 Curriculum Night
9/28—Texas Roadhouse Spirit night (PTO will send out more information)
10/4—3rd Gr. Reading OAA
10/10—7:00pm PTO meeting
10/12—Walk-A-Thon
10/14—Picture Make Up Day
6:00pm Movie Night and Flyers Spirit Night (PTO will send more information)

Mrs. B's Art Corner Welcome

Back!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here is what your child is up to in Art class this month. First Grade First graders are learning about author/illustrator Eric Carle. We will be painting with acrylics and designing our own Eric Carle paper. We are going to use sponges, forks, scrappers and more to design our paper. Then your child will create an Eric Carle animal based on the book, "Brown Bear Brown Bear What do you see." Ask your child what animal they will

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make. Have them sing you the smock song. Next up: Clay pinch pot turtles.

Second Grade Second graders are learning all about artist; Vincent Van Gogh. We just finished drawing our version of Van Gogh's Sunflowers. They look incredible. We are getting ready to paint. Next up: Butterflies and symmetry.

Third Grade Third graders are learning all about French artist; Henri Matisse. They are creating a masterpiece. We just finished drawing and now we are getting ready to begin painting our version of Matisse's Goldfish painting. Next up: Three-dimensional clay fish.

Fourth Grade Fourth graders are learning about French Impressionist; Claude Monet. He is one of my favorite artists of all time. We are drawing the Japanese bridge and lilies that still exist at his home in Giverny France. We will paint next using short choppy brush strokes like the artist did. Ask your child what impressionism means. Next up: ceramic frogs

Fifth Grade Fifth graders are also learning about Post Impressionist; Vincent Van Gogh. They are choosing what work of art they would like to study and try to draw. Some students are creating a self-portrait; others are drawing Starry Night, or Sunflowers. Ask your child what they are studying and

drawing. Next up: We will begin painting our Van Gogh drawings.

The art room is always in need of newspaper. If you are able to donate newspaper, that would be great. Stay tuned for information to come home explaining an awesome art fundraiser called; Art to Remember. Art is a messy job; remember to dress your child accordingly on their art day. I have smocks and we do our best to protect clothes. Thank you. It is wonderful to be back at Darby Creek. I am enjoying your children so much. I have the best job in the world. Please feel free to stop by the art room and introduce yourself if you are new to the school or have a first grader☺

Guidance

Laurie Hawley

Guidance Counselor

Laurie_hawley@hboe.org

Students will have guidance classes throughout the year according to the following schedule:

Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade

Weeks of :

Aug. 29-Sept. 19

Nov. 7-Dec. 5

Jan. 30-Feb. 20

Apr. 9-Apr. 30

Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade

Weeks Of:

Oct. 3-Oct 24

Jan. 2-Jan. 23

March 5-Apr. 2

May 7- May 28

The first group of lessons in all grade levels will focus on being successful at school. Students will learn important study habits that will help them throughout their school years. Look for notes to come home at the beginning of each cycle with information about our topics. It is important that you reinforce the things taught in Guidance.

Visit us on the Web at:

www.hilliardschools.org/dcr/