



# TIGER TIDBITS

Shawnee Elementary School  
October / November 2011



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

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Dear Shawnee Families,

The Huron City Schools have adopted the Rachel's Challenge school programs as a way to break down barriers and promote compassion via action in our schools. The programs are inspired by the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shootings. In the elementary program we don't focus on the events of Columbine High School or Rachel's death; in fact we don't even mention them. Instead the program is based on Rachel's life and her belief that small, deliberate acts of kindness could have a profound and lasting effect on those around us.

I believe that this program is a perfect complement to

the positive student support programs that we already have in place at Shawnee. One of the programs that we use to recognize students who are making strong, positive choices at school each day is our "Happy Face Award." Staff members select students who are demonstrating positive behavior or thoughtful actions without being asked to do so. Students never know when they may get "caught," as we want them to make strong choices all of the time. As you know, behavior that receives attention is more likely to reoccur and should not be taken for granted.

When a student receives a yellow happy face certificate, he/she comes to my office to exchange it for a

special pencil and a smiley face sticker. Then, the certificate is placed in a smiley face covered box. At the end of the week, I randomly pick one certificate and I eat lunch with that student in my office. All certificates are then sent home for children to share with their parents. Weekly, I post the names of the students who earned an award on our main bulletin board for all to see.

If your child comes home and says that he/she is being good, but has not received a "Happy Face Award," please encourage your child to continue to make good choices at school and at home.

Happy autumn,  
Ms. Vonthron ☺



**NEWS:** **Just a Reminder:**

**PARENTS —**

If your child visits the doctor during an illness or misses school due to a doctor or dentist appointment, please send any note(s) from the doctor's office with your child when he/she returns to school. They will be filed with their attendance records.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 3-21	Jump Rope for Heart	November 4	Report cards go home
October 7	Harvest Happenings	November 10	5:15-8:30 Parent/Teacher Conf.
October 13	Last Day to wear shorts	November 14	4:00-7:15 Parent/Teacher Conf.
October 14	Inservice Day—NO SCHOOL	November 17	First Grade Thanksgiving Feast
October 20	Grandparents Day	November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break—NO SCHOOL
October 28	End of 1st Quarter		

# HURON CARES!

Again during the holidays, area churches and civic organizations are providing food baskets and gifts for children attending Huron City Schools. If your family has had a difficult year financially and you are in need of assistance, please stop by the Shawnee Office any school day between 9am and 3pm to request a 'Care and Share Form'. No late forms will be accepted!!

Due to the limited number of applications being accepted, once again the following criteria will apply:

- ◆ Families will have a two year limit of assistance, followed by two additional years with no assistance from us, then an application will once again be considered.
- ◆ Families need only apply with one agency, as lists are compared.
- ◆ Please complete and return your form to Shawnee Elementary by October 28, 2011.
- ◆ All forms need to be in by this date to allow organizations time to organize their various food, gift and boot/shoe drives.

- ◆ Please call 419-433-1234 ext. 5511 to speak with our school nurse, Mrs. Wallace, if you have any questions.
- ◆ **NO LATE FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!**



## IMPORTANT GRADE CARD INFORMATION

Grade Cards will be held if your children have missing library books or outstanding lunch fees.

Contact Sue Whitaker (419-433-1234 ext 5007) for cafeteria balances due. Fees may also be paid on-line. Go to [www.huronhs.com](http://www.huronhs.com) then use the EZPay link.



## SECOND GRADE HAS STARTED OFF WITH A



In Reading, we have been working on spelling, vocabulary and writing. The tic-tac-toe homework is a new activity that we added this year and the children seem to be responding well. The weekly reading packet is also working out well. We encourage you to complete the packet with your child. The purpose of the packet is to increase fluency and comprehension. As for vocabulary, please have your child practice using the words in a sentence. Make sure that your child is writing complete sentences with correct punctuation. We have been busy in science class learning about many different types of habitats. We are focusing on six:

pond, forest, desert, rain forest, ocean and arctic. Our culminating activity will be a habitat diorama. *Start saving your shoe boxes!* Second grade social studies classes have been learning cardinal directions, using symbols, learning how to read and make a map key and working on grid maps. Our classes have been practicing creating bedroom and classroom maps. Next time you're planning a trip, invite your child to help plan and map out the route. Our math classes have been exploring with base-ten blocks, learning the value of the blocks and how they relate to the place value of

numbers. We also have been working on comparing numbers, while creating and recognizing patterns. Please continue to work on addition facts 0-18. Students must be able to complete 50 problems in 4 minutes. We celebrate October with our Pumpkin Investigation! It incorporates math and fun at the same time!



Also, in October we will be celebrating Grandparents Day. As always, we look forward to having grandparents visit our classrooms so that we can show them how much we are learning.

# KEEPING CREATIVITY ALIVE:

## The Importance of Free Play

Amanda Arthur, Gifted Intervention Specialist

### cre-a-tiv-i-ty

*The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.; originality, progressiveness, or imagination.*

*This article is a compilation of my research and thinking about how creativity is nurtured and protected in children. My hope is that you will find some inspiration on how to ignite (and preserve) the creative potential in your child.*

"Creativity and innovation are important keys to success in today's rapidly changing world" (Wheelihan). Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development. "Despite the numerous benefits derived from play, time for free play has been markedly reduced for some children" (Ginsburg).

Experts say children are too busy and it is making them anxious and stunting their development. "Tiredness, anxiety disorders leading to depression and eating disorders, obesity and a lack of initiative and creativity are the downsides to an over-scheduled life" (Hennessy and Schefe).

Although many highly scheduled children are thriving, some are reacting to the associated pressures with anxiety and other signs of increased stress. In this regard, highly scheduled children have less time for free, child-driven, creative play, which offers benefits that may be protective against the effects of pressure and stress. It is left to parents to judge appropriate levels of involvement, but many parents seem to feel as though they are running on a treadmill to keep up yet dare not slow down the pace for fear their children will fall behind.

"Pediatricians support children having an academic schedule that is appropriately challenging and extracurricular exposures that offer appropriate

balance" (American Academy of Pediatrics). What is appropriate has to be determined individually for each child on the basis of their unique needs, skills, and temperament. Play is a cherished part of childhood that offers children important developmental benefits. As parents and educators we must do our part to keep creativity alive!

### Some Valuable Resources I've found:

- ♦ *Busy Kids Need Free Play. Warn Experts* by Carl Hennessy and Yolande Schefe
- ♦ *The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds* by Kenneth R. Ginsburg, MD, MEd
- ♦ *Importance of Creative Play* by American Academy of Pediatrics
- ♦ *Creativity for Success* by Kathleen Wheelihan

## CALAMITY JANE & JOHN DOE

### NOTES FROM NURSIE:

In case of accidents, please **send an extra change of clothes in a labeled bag** (including underwear & socks) for your child to keep in his/her locker. Many times mud puddles call a child's name and lunch room incidences happen as well. On average four/five times a week I'm browsing the "extras" closet in hopes of a perfect size match—to no avail. This proactive step would be greatly appreciated!

Also, the flu bug has hit early this year. Here are some helpful

### guidelines:

- ☺ Stay home with a fever of 100 degrees or more either the night before or the morning of school. (24 hours fever free before returning)
- ☺ Colds are very contagious during the first day or two. Stay home, especially if child is coughing or sneezing.
- ☺ Keep your child home with vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat or abdominal pain either the night before or morning of school.
- ☺ **CALL THE SCHOOL TO REPORT THE ABSENCE!**

## JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

The American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Program is returning to Shawnee the week of October 3rd. Packets will be sent home the first week of October, with all donations to be returned by October 21st.

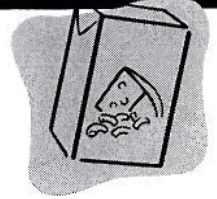
*All donations will benefit the American Heart Association.*

If you would like to donate, please make your contribution to a Shawnee student or contact Dana Skavnak, Physical Education teacher, during school hours.





## Food for Fines Huron Public Library November 7—12



Bring one nonperishable food item into the Huron Library for each overdue item,  
and they will waive the fine for that item.

(Food for Fines does not apply to previous fines.)

Donations will be distributed by the Huron Food Pantry.

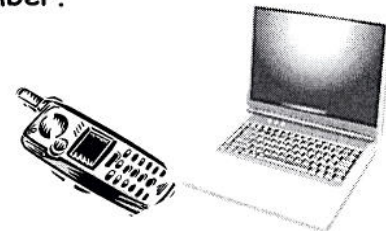
## ONE CALL NOW

We have used the "One Call Now" system for the past few years to notify parents in the event of emergencies and snow days, etc. **This telephone alert system is now accessible through our website.** You have the opportunity to update, add and remove telephone numbers or email addresses by going to [www.huronhs.com](http://www.huronhs.com) at your convenience.

Once you're on our homepage, look for the "One Call Now" specialized web link on the right side of the page. You will be asked to enter your child's last name, the telephone number used on the Emergency Medical Form, and select the appropriate school building to login to the Family Profile. While logged in, you can enter up to three additional telephone numbers and email addresses. These telephone numbers will also be called, along with your primary telephone number, during a One Call Now alert. If you elect to provide an

email address you will receive a special email alert during a One Call Now alert. At any time, you may also remove these additional telephone numbers or email addresses without having to call the school. We hope this service will prove to be very useful for you!

The one thing you **CANNOT** change, however, is the primary telephone number (the telephone number provided on the Emergency Medical Form). To change **THIS** number, you must call the school office and provide us with a new number.



## TONGUE TWISTERS

Tongue twisters are a fun way to practice speech coordination, alliteration (all words start with the same sounds), and sentence creation skills! Try to repeat them clearly several times! Start slowly and then speed up. You can create your own as well.

- ♦ Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
- ♦ How much wood can a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?



- ♦ I scream for ice cream!

For more, try these internet links:

<http://www.starfall.com/n/level-b/twisters/play.htm?f>

[http://www.indianchild.com/tongue\\_twisters.htm](http://www.indianchild.com/tongue_twisters.htm)

Mrs. Carter, Speech Pathologist