

Vol 1, #7

March 2010



Delmar-Harvard Elementary School

...IN THE LOOP

from the principal...

It's almost time for our second set of Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences will take place on March 23 and 24.

This is the perfect time of year to check on your student's progress. Ask the teacher to explain grades that you do not understand. Ask how you can help your child at home and what they can do over the summer to reinforce their skills in preparation for next year.

Teachers spend time preparing for conferences and so should our parents. Think about your student, the homework they have been doing (or not doing!), grades on assignments that you have seen and any

behavior referrals that have come home.

Write down your questions and don't hesitate to take notes during the conference.

Be sure that you go over what was said at the conference with your child. Discuss the "good, bad and the ugly". Take notes during this time also.

If something doesn't seem right, contact the teacher and ask for a phone conference or a meeting at school.

It is important for your child's success that you and she/he understand what is happening at school and have all of your questions answered.

You can then make plans

for summer school or summer activities that will enhance learning.



Lego Club

Our first year for Lego Club at D H is off to a great start! We chose to do the Jr. First Lego League Challenge, which was Transportation. Two teams of six children each decided upon something to show transportation, and built a model that had to have one moving part. Part of Lego club was just learning to work as a team.

Our two teams decided to show how milk and emeralds moved from one

place to another. Part of the challenge was that they could only build on a 14"x14" square. Things got pretty crowded and there were lots of moving parts. Lego gave them directions they could use to build machines. One team built a milk truck with a motor and the other built a crane and a car.

The team Cyber Lions (Elinor Handlin, Gage McGinnis, Jackson Dobslaw, Liam Naylor, Mialla Klohr, &

Nate Martin) won Best Child Centered Project for their Milk project. Tteam Lion's Heart (Abdou Kane, Amit Cohen, Beatrice Handlin, Branford Coleman, Darrell Sheppard, & George Nichols) won Best use of Simple Machines for their Emerald project.

We've had a great time, and the projects were wonderful. Thank you so much to all the parents for their support!

Dates to Remember



March 1 - Early Dismissal @ 1:15pm
 March 2 - Dr. Seus Breakfast @ 8:00am
 March 3 - Shakespeare @ 2:00pm
 March 10 - Fired Up for Kindergarten @ 6:30pm
 March 12 - No Classes; Record Day
 March 15/19 - SPRING BREAK
 March 23 - Grandparents' Breakfast @ 8:00am
 Early Release @ 1:15pm
 Parent Conf @ 4:00pm
 Book Fair
 March 24 - Early Release @ 1:15pm

Parent Conf @ 4:00pm

Book Fair

March 25 - Magic House Comes to DH
 Grades 1,2,5,6
 March 26 - NO CLASSES
 March 30 - MAP Testing Begins

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES:

Due to Snow Days, the following changes have been made to our calendar:
 May 25—All School Awards
 May 26—Sixth Grade Promotion Ceremony
 May 28—Last Day of School (early release)

Academic Goal # 3

Our third academic goal for this year is to improve scores in Writing on the 2010 MAP by 10%. We identified this goal using item benchmarks from last year's MAP test. Our Reading Specialists and teachers work to improve writing skills by teaching the writing process and using it in class.

This year we celebrate our writing with two events. In December we invited parents and friends to join us for "Words Matter". Students prepared a piece of writing using

the writing process and then read to their audience. In April, we will invite all of you to "Literacy Night". You will be able to see displays of writing for all of our students (and teachers too!). In this way, we encourage writing as a life-long endeavor while teaching necessary skills

You can help your child by encouraging them to put

their thoughts into writing at every opportunity. Keeping a story journal is a great way to jot down ideas for later use. Write with your child and have a family sharing time. Writing is something we never outgrow and it helps us to learn and to organize our thoughts.

Improve Writing Skills of our Students

Shakespeare at DH

Once again, Shakespeare will visit our school. The Shakespeare Festival St. Louis will be here on March 3 to present "All the World's A Stage" at 2:00pm in our cafeteria.

This is a great way for our students to "taste" the writings of the bard. Seeing a performance always brings the words to life.

Many thanks to our PTO for helping to

sponsor this event at Delmar Harvard.



News from the Music Room

First and foremost, I would like to thank students, parents and staff for all of their hard work in producing a fantastic Unity Night. It was a wonderful evening spent showcasing student talents and historical events. I am sure we are all very proud of our Delmar-Harvard community.

I am very excited about the events happening in the fourth quarter. Kindergarten, First and Second grade will be focusing on new skills through songs, games and student compositions to prepare for next fall. Third and Fourth grade will be improving their note reading by learning recorder. Fifth grade will begin tackling the guitar, and sixth will continue drumming, but also focus on their musical vocabulary, knowledge and listening skills.

Delmar-Harvard's Second Annual Talent Show is scheduled for Friday, May 14 during the afternoon. After last year's success, I look forward to the talented acts and what the students will put together!!!

-Ms. Rachel Nold



The Essential Question

On February 12, teachers spent the day investigating a planning tool called "Understanding By Design". Basically, it is a method of designing lessons based on asking "essential questions" and then planning material and experiences for the students. "Essential questions" refer to the enduring understandings that help us make thoughtful decisions in our lives. One example may be: Civilizations developed around sources of water.

As teachers look at this statement, they begin to plan backwards. First an end of study assessment is created. Next, teachers look at the skills and

information that students need to understand this central idea. From there, lessons are designed that will thoroughly engage students in their study.

We watched a DVD on "Understanding By Design" and discussed several related articles. Our afternoon was spent with Nikki Davenport, Director of Science and Math for the district. She provided us with more information and ways to plan units of study.

What is "the Essential Questions?"

As we continue our study of the instructional core (student engagement, formative assessment and essential learning) we are learning new ways to think about curriculum and delivering it to our students.

All of this helps our students to be successful learners.

Washington University Partnership

On Feb. 19, fifth and sixth grade students visited the Edison Theatre for the ballet "Rosa" by PHILADANCO dance company to celebrate Black History Month. After the ballet, students remained on campus for lunch, and visited the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum.

In May, students in grades K-4 will have the opportunity to attend a per-

formance of "Darwin". This puppet show focuses on the topic of "electricity".

Washington University also provided books and a performance of "Tom Sawyer" for students as part of their "Big Read" program.

We look forward to working with the university in the future and are grateful

for their partnership with Delmar-Harvard.



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Mission:

At Delmar-Harvard, we are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment where students are encouraged to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, and responsible members of the community.

Vision:

Our vision at Delmar-Harvard is to form a community of educators, learners, parents, and other role models who are committed to using best practices in order to create confident and independent thinkers.

We're On he Web
Ucityschools.org

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|------------------|---|-----------|--|------------|--------------------|
| Principal | Dr. Phyllis Fredericksen | GATE | Ms. Christi Sorrell | Custodians | Ms. Rodney Stoval |
| School Secretary | Ms. Gwen Nelson | Library | Ms. Donna Gilchrist | | Mr. Demetrius Cook |
| Kindergarten | Ms. Marsha Nash | Counselor | Ms. Beth Brightfield | | Ms. Arnita McCoy |
| K/1 | Ms. Moira Kelly | SSD | Ms. Linda Baraba | | |
| 1st Grade | Ms. Jill Goldstein | | Ms. Sharon Danziger | | |
| 2nd Grade | Ms. Nikki Weiss | | Ms. Scarlett Keeley-Ferguson (Speech) | | |
| | Ms. Rachel Mueller | | | | |
| 3rd Grade | Ms. Channa Hankins | SSD TA's | Ms. Karen Gonia | | |
| 4th Grade | Ms. Debbie Rosso | | Ms. Margaret Anderson | | |
| | Ms. Kate Kaczerowski | DH TA's | Ms. Erin Bromley | | |
| 5th Grade | Ms. Katherine Sykes | | Ms. Alison Cien Fuegos (Library Aide) | | |
| 6th Grade | Ms. Sandra Feemster | | Ms. Terry Johnson (Science Curator) | | |
| Reading | Ms. Carrie Moore/Ms. Jill Rogers | | Ms. Irlene Woodson (1st Grade Classroom) | | |
| Math Inter. | Ms. Dianna DiMartino | | Ms. Evelyn Williams | | |
| PE | Mr. Mark Tabscott | | | | |
| Music | Ms. Rachel Nold | Cafeteria | | | |
| Art | Ms. Judy Lazarus and Ms. Adrienne Patel | | | | |