



The Davis Buzz



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December, 2008

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Principal's Corner

This month, I wanted to take a few lines to discuss the subject of math. For many parents, math was not a favorite subject in school and we sometimes struggle to help our children with homework. As the math curriculum has gotten more rigorous in Georgia, we are exposing students to math concepts and algebraic thinking at younger ages than ever before. In grades 5 and 8, students must earn a passing score on the reading and math portions of the CRCT test to be promoted to the next grade.

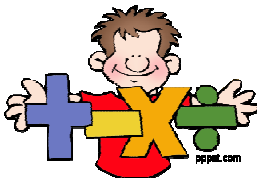
The good news is there is help for students, parents, and teachers in math!

Simple activities, like practicing counting forward and backwards and skip counting (count by 2's, count by 3's, etc.) can help students develop fluency and comfort with numbers. Students in grades three and up need consistent practice with multiplication and division facts, so time spent riding in the car can be a good opportunity to review these facts. The next time your child accompanies you to the store, try giving him or her a calculator and ask him or her to help you keep a running total of the items you are purchasing. For more challenge, ask your child to round off prices to the nearest dollar amount and keep a mental running tally of items. Then, try predicting your total as the cashier rings up your purchases to see who can get the closest estimate.

A number of web sites are also available for math. To find out what skills and concepts your child(ren) are learning in math this year, check out the Georgia Performance Standards in math. The current math standards are always available online at www.georgiastandards.org You can also visit the National Council of Teachers of Math website at www.nctm.org The NCTM site has a link for families on the left side of their homepage that will link you to information about national math standards, ways to help your child with math, and some fun online math activities. Our system's teachers were introduced to Thinkfinity, a web resource sponsored by Verizon this past August. Thinkfinity has numerous educational activities from the Smithsonian Institute, the National Geographic Society, and others. You can access Thinkfinity as a student or parent at www.thinkfinity.com Drexel University runs an online math help web site called "Ask Dr. Math" at <http://mathforum.org/students/> Students and parents can go to that site, type in math questions, and receive answers from math teachers and professors who volunteer their time to the project. A couple of fun sites with math games for students are www.mathcats.com and www.aplusmath.com. Finally, our new math textbook series has a terrific web site at <http://www.eduplace.com/kids/mhm/>

Best wishes as you help your child become a math expert and achieve success in the classroom!

Mike Rich, Principal



Substitute Training

Have you ever thought about becoming a substitute teacher for Dade County schools? There will be a substitute training session on December 4th. You can call the Dade County central office for more details and an application.

657-4361

Turkey Feathers

Have you seen all of the terrific turkeys in the hallways lately? Because of your generosity we have collected (as of Thursday) at least 2,100 cans and around \$140.00 in cash. For each can or 50 cents that was donated, a turkey feather was added to that child's classroom turkey.



New CRCT Dates

Tuesday, April 28 – Reading – 1st-5th grades
 Wednesday, April 29 – ELA – 1st-5th grades
 Thursday, April 30th – Math – 1st-5th grades
 Monday, May 4th – Science – 3rd-5th grades
 Tuesday, May 5th – Social Studies – 3rd-5th grades

GENEROSITY

The dictionary defines generosity as:

1. Readiness or liberal in giving.
2. Freedom from meanness or smallness of mind or character.
3. A generous act.

Generosity is December's character trait. Davis' students showed great generosity in November by collecting cans of food and money for community families less fortunate. In December, you have the chance to show your generosity again. During the month of December Davis is having a toy drive. Take new, unwrapped toys to Sonya Middlebrooks' office.

What do you think generosity means?

Jodi Daffron - Making room in your heart for the needs of others.

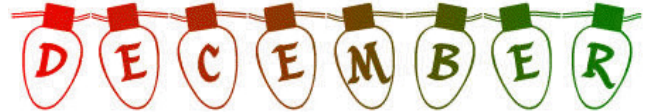
Jesse Holt - Generosity means putting others first.

Katie Ann Dawson - Generosity means you care about others and not just yourself; and you share your things.

Katelyn Shaw - When you give your time and effort to make someone else happy.

Breanna Stone and Emma Middlebrooks - Being kind, helpful and a good friend are ways to be generous.

Gabby Herston - A good example of generosity is volunteering to help others and not being involved with just yourself.



Tuesday, Dec. 2	Pre-K parent conferences
Friday, Dec. 5	Candle pick-up day
December 8-17	Santa shop open
Thursday, Dec. 11	Parent volunteers Potluck lunch @ 12:00 noon
Wednesday, Dec. 17	DCHS band to perform
Friday, Dec. 19	Christmas parties
December 20-January 6	Christmas break



January 5, 6	In-Service No School
Wednesday, Jan. 7	First day back to school
Thursday, Jan. 15	Parent classes begin – How to help your child be successful in school
Friday, Jan. 16	Awards Day – New times will be sent at a later date.
Monday, Jan. 19	In-service No School
Tuesday, Jan. 20	Valentine bag orders taken. Bags will be delivered on Feb. 13 th
Friday, Jan. 23	PTO snack day
Friday, Jan. 30	Breakfast with Dad 8-9



Thanks to everyone for making this year's fall festival a big success.

Please let Angie Beach know if you can help out with the Santa Shop.

Newly elected PTO treasurer – Ken Morris

Next PTO meeting – Thursday, February 9th

Davis Annual Candle Fund Raiser

You sold \$14,027.00 in Candles \$7,085.63 for our classrooms

Thank you for your support during our recent fund raiser. This is by far the best candle fundraiser we have ever had at Davis! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your help and support. The money raised will be used in your child's classroom this year. We appreciate your help and generosity.

Top 3 Candle Sellers

Katie Ann Dawson (\$100 Gift Card)
 Coby McBryar (\$50 Gift Card)
 Hunter Couch (\$25 Gift Card)

Top 3 Classrooms

Mrs. Bible
 Mrs. Cagle
 Mrs. Dobbs