

# Hawk Watch

Hawthorne Elementary School Parent Newsletter

"Equity and Excellence; Every Student, Every day, Every Classroom"

Dear Families,

SAGE and End of Level testing has begun. It is a daunting task to organize and schedule these high stakes tests. Suzanne Urban coordinates the schedule with teachers and Michele Miller oversees the lab. Together these ladies are effective and efficient. We anticipate that testing will go smoothly this year as it has in the past. We encourage our families to help students do their best by getting enough sleep, eating a good breakfast and lunch and taking the tests seriously. These tests are used as indicators of students acquired academics and teachers' instruction.

There are many more ways to assess student achievement including performance tasks that demonstrate learning. Performance tasks are opportunities for students to demonstrate skills they have learned by developing tangible products or performances. They include science projects, portfolios, personal exploration projects, debate, oral presentations, blog posts, technical displays and fine arts presentations such as our school Art Walk, music concerts or dance presentations. We feel fortunate to be able to offer students so many opportunities to showcase what they have learned during the year and to feel successful at school.

Sincerely,

*Marian*

## **High Flyer and Golden Tray Awards:**

Stop by the bulletin board outside of the gym and you will see pictures of our High Flyers for each month. High Flyers are students and classes which are recognized for their contributions to our school community. These are students who uphold the 8 Keys of Excellence. The bulletin board in the cafeteria acknowledges two classes each month which have excellent manners and clean up after themselves. These classes receive the Golden Tray Award.

## ***The 8 Keys of Excellence:***

Principles taught at Hawthorne to help us live above the line:

Integrity, Failure Leads to Success, Speak (and act) with Good Purpose, This is It, Commitment, Ownership, Flexibility and Balance

## **Health and Safety Fair:**

We are looking forward to a return of our Health and Safety Fair on April 28th. This is part of our efforts to inform the school community about Emergency Preparedness. Please join us for an informative evening, prizes and a light dinner. PTA is seeking donations for the prizes and volunteers to help with the evening. Contact the office for more information. Thank you to PTA for supporting this event.

## **More School Safety:**

Each month the school holds an emergency drill. Drills include: fire, earthquake, lockdown and medical. If the school needed to relocate due to an onsite situation, we would go to the Waterloo Chapel on 5<sup>th</sup> East. The direct walking route to this site is along Wood Avenue. A secondary route is along 17<sup>th</sup> South cutting through to the chapel at Artic Circle. Once we are located in the parking lot or in the building, staff would begin contacting families. This is part of our basic emergency training for staff and students. Hawthorne is also a relocation site. The building is a S.A.F.E. neighborhood school. There is an earthquake kit located in room # 4.

SCC is the Emergency Committee for the school. SCC meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30PM in the library. This meeting is open to the school community. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, but only SCC members vote on matters. PTA reviews many school safety concerns as well. As a school we participate in an emergency radio drill and the Utah Great Shake-out Drill which is a state wide earthquake disaster practice. For more information about this: <http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

Safety is on the minds of all of us as the weather gets warmer and more students walk or ride to and from school. Please remember to slow down and be aware of others when you drop off or pick up your students. One of our greatest concerns is the drive through and the exit onto Milton Avenue. Students crossing the drive through can be hard to see because of parked cars. In addition, please remember that the school entrance off of 600 East is one way from 7:30 AM until 3:00 PM.

### **School-wide expectations:**

Our school-wide expectations are part of a Positive Behavior Intervention System along with teaching the *8 Keys of Excellence* and acknowledging students and classes as High Flyers or Golden Tray winners. The following expectations are posted in classes and taught during the year:

**In the restroom:** respect other's personal space, keep the walls and floors clean and when finished, leave quietly and quickly

**In the cafeteria:** use good manners while eating, clean up when finished and keep food inside the lunchroom.

**In the halls:** walk quietly, use kind words and actions and use proper exits and entrances.

**On the playground:** play safely and be a good sport, play on your assigned playground and play with recess equipment properly.

### **Counselor's Corner: Friends and school achievement Wendy Child, MSW**

In addition to helping children develop socially and emotionally, having friends at school can also improve and enrich academic achievement at school.

“Schools can provide a network of rewarding experiences and represent natural communities of reinforcement. Friends can help each other with class assignments and homework; they can fill in what's missed during absences, and most importantly, friends make school more fun. Research confirms these impressions. Longitudinal studies show that children entering first grade have better school attitudes if they already have friends and are successful in keeping the old friends as well as in making new ones. Similarly, teens who have friends experience fewer psychological problems than friendless teens when school changes or transitions occur.” (From *Do Kids Need Friends?* by Alice Pope and Anita Gurian)

Here are some ideas to help build friendships:

How to be a FRIEND

**F = FIND** things in common

**R = RESPECT** other students' space, property and ideas

**I = INVITE and INCLUDE** kids to participate

**E = EMPATHY:** Show that you care

**N = kNow** when to support each other

**D = DO** the right thing...even if no one is looking

**S = SAY** you are **SORRY**. Everyone makes mistakes.

### **Prevent Child Abuse Survey:**

An online training for parents through Prevent Child Abuse Utah is a practical guide for understanding child abuse. We encourage our families to participate in this training. The link is:

<https://pcau.enspark.com/>

the United States Code, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Whitney Banks, Compliance and Investigations, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.