

Hawk Watch

Hawthorne Elementary School Parent Newsletter November 2016

Soar - Sail- Succeed

Dear Families,

Hawthorne students recently participated in our annual Day of Service with student volunteers from Westminster College. During this event our students worked with college volunteers to tie blankets which were given to veterans at the VA hospital and made treats for animals in the local pound. They filled book bags with school supplies and made up hygiene kits. Cardboard boxes were decorated by kindergarten students for the Food Bank. While they worked, our students heard firsthand from the Westminster students how meaningful and important it is to be in college. I am sure all of them enjoyed working together doing service for others be they two legged or four legged.

I am always touched by the kind acts of service that happen every day at school including students bringing classmates who are hurt to the office and offering to stay with them or inviting someone to join a game at recess. I see big brothers and sisters making sure little brothers and sisters get to class in the morning before the bell. I see students in one class reading to students in another. I am moved by the kind words I hear and actions I see while I walk through the halls. I have deep gratitude for the adults who spend hours at school serving in our school community.

In the book the *Hidden Gifts of Helping* by Stephen G. Post the author states that “a part of our brain lights up when we help others” and we feel joy and delight. He calls this the “helper’s brain.” May we all have joy and delight serving others this season.

Sincerely,

Marian

PTA News:

We had a wonderful PTA restaurant night at Pot Belly’s and more like this will be scheduled during the year. Thanks to the Reflections committee for their work gathering all of the entries, locating judges and reviewing all of the student work. We look forward to the Awards night this month. Of course Family Movie Night was a great success and well attended. What a blast! Join PTA and come to the meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00PM in the faculty room.

Flu Shots at School:

There will be a flu shot clinic for Hawthorne students on Monday November 7th at 1:00PM. Forms are in the office. Private insurance cost is \$15 per child. If students qualify for Vaccine’s for Children Program the cost is \$10.

School Community Council:

School calendar options for the next three years have been presented to the School Community Council. Copies of these calendars are posted in the front hall on the trophy case and in the foyer. Parents are encouraged to review these and share their input with SCC. The council membership is posted online and in the foyer. The school community, including parents and staff, has one vote. Contact a member of SCC to share your vote.

As the school Emergency Committee, SCC reviews our shelter in place and evacuation plans. Should the school ever need to evacuate the building, students and staff will relocate to the Waterloo Chapel on 5th South.

Math Ideas:

Hawthorne families already know the benefits of reading to children at bedtime-or anytime! For a change of pace consider exploring math at bedtime. A recent study published in *Science Magazine* showed that first grade students who interacted with their caregivers for a few minutes a day in math had significant growth in their math skills and less math anxiety after one year. The program used in the study is called “Bedtime Math.” An October 2015 article from the Deseret News indicated that integrating counting and math into daily routines helped ease parents’ anxiety about math as well. Information about Bed Time math can be found at bedtimemath.org

Next Generation Science Standards or NGSS:

Next time you see a sunset with your children the National Association of Science Teachers suggest you “stop and sit down for a while. Stay very still and watch the sky change colors.” You and your children are looking at a remarkable natural phenomenon. A sunset or sunrise is inspiring and wonderful. You and your children can notice how the air changes temperature or shadows form. We see sunsets every day and may not think twice about what is happening. Find an opportunity to talk with your children about the simple science that is happening, because the sun is not really setting or rising.

The NGSS approach to science includes developing a sense of wonder in our students about natural phenomena like the phases of the moon or clouds in the sky. It is an approach to studying science that includes asking questions and defining problems, analyzing data, using mathematics and computational thinking, developing models and of course inspiring young scientists.

End of First Trimester:

First trimester report cards will go home before Thanksgiving recess. For those students who did not do as well as they had hoped, we encourage you to think of second trimester as a fresh start. Take some time during the upcoming Thanksgiving Recess to get your folders and backpacks better organized. Check with your teachers to see if there is work you can make up. Get started on long-term projects or start studying for upcoming tests. You can make the second trimester more successful than the first one.

Keep Kids Safe at Arrival and Dismissal Times: We continue to notice unsafe parking, driving and walking practices around the school. We need all parents to help us keep our students safe. Please, **do NOT** double-park your car, encourage your child to cross in the middle of the street or allow your child to exit your car before you come to a complete stop. In the mornings the drive through at the north of the building is for drop off only. Please, **do NOT** park the in front driveway where there are signs and painted lines indicating “**No Parking.**”



Dates in November to Remember:

- November 3rd – Make up Picture Day PTA Meeting 7:00PM in the faculty room
- November 7th – School Community Council 5:30PM in the library
- November 18th – End of the term
- November 22nd – PTA Restaurant night at Zupas in Sugarhouse
- Nov 23rd – 25th – Thanksgiving Recess
- November 30th – PTA Reflections Awards 7:00Pm in the gym

A woman’s bicycle was found at school in the foyer. It is in the office. Has anyone lost a bicycle?