

Crossgates Courier

3901 Shadylawn Drive Toledo, Ohio 43614

Office Phone – 419-385-4571 Attendance Line – 419-385-0388 Fax Line – 419-385-3689

September 2008

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New Staff Members and Staff Moves



We would like to inform you of some changes in staff at Crossgates this year.

Mrs. Nancy Schroeder, one of our Intermediate teachers retired at the end of the year and **Ms. Rose Forbes** took her class. One of our Kindergarten teachers, **Diane Hass** also retired last year and **Mrs. Mary Fran Smitley**, a 1st grade teacher will be teaching the kindergarten class. Replacing Mrs. Smitley will be a teacher new to Crossgates, **Mrs. Heidi Best**. A second Intermediate teacher, **Mrs. Sue Appelhans** is also leaving us and will be teaching at DeVeaux Middle School. Taking Mrs. Appelhans position at Crossgates will be **Mrs. Becky Sherman**. Finally, **Mrs. Kathy Konz**, our long-time secretary took another position at Central Administration and **Mrs. Leslie Donaldson** will be our new secretary in the office. We welcome all of our new staff members.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Students in grades 1-6 have been provided with a Student Planner. These colorful, full-size 8 ½ by 11 spiral bound books were purchased with funds from our Parents' Club. They are a terrific way for students and parents to keep track of school assignments and other activities at school.

We encourage parents to check these planners at home daily.

As stated above, each student in grades 1-6 has received one planner **free of charge.**

The cost to replace a lost or damaged planner is \$3.00. Kindergarten students will receive a blue vinyl folder to be used for carrying school papers and notices to and from school.

6th Grade Camp

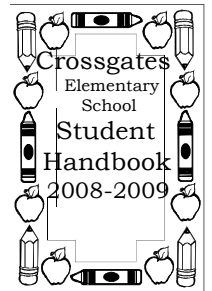
Each year 6th grade students attend Outdoor Education "Sixth Grade Camp". This is when they spend a week at Camp Storer in Michigan. The cost for this week at camp this year is \$124.00 and is due no later than March 16, 2009. Crossgates 6th graders will be attending camp March 23-27, 2009. **(I am supplying sixth grade parents with this information now so you can plan the cost of this week at camp into your budget.)**

Emergency Medical Cards

In a couple of weeks your child should be bringing home a blue Emergency Medical Card. Please make sure these are filled out completely with any medically related conditions listed on the card and returned to school promptly.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Your child should be bringing home a "Student Handbook" with a red cover that looks like the one to the right. This book has important information in it and we encourage you to go through it and keep it handy for reference.



Student Picture Day -- Friday, September 12th

Your child will have the opportunity to have his/her picture taken at school on Friday, September 12, 2008. Information about picture packages and cost will be sent home with your child soon.

Room Changes

The staff changes that are listed above also involved some classroom changes. Listed below is an updated list of staff and their room assignments.

Deanna Lardinai, Kdg., Room 5; **Mary Fran Smitley**, Kdg., Room 7; **VACANT**, Kdg., Room 51; **Heidi Best**, 1st Grade, Room 45; **Deborah Eding**, 1st Grade, Room 49; **Aimee Hanf**, 2nd Grade, Room 8; **Sue Ocker**, 2nd Grade, Room 9; **Nicole Ganun**, 3rd Grade, Room 44; **Shannon Tisdale**, 3rd Grade, Room 50; **Sandy Lefevre**, 4th Grade, Room 3; **Suzan Packo**, 4th Grade, Room 4; **Kathie Pertcheck**, 5th Grade, Room 41; **Bonnie Kaper**, 5th Grade, Room 38; **Christine Sweeney**, 6th Grade, Room 42; **Sharon Dendinger**, 6th Grade, Room 43; **Becky Sherman**, 4th, 5th, 6th Grade, Room 36; **Rose Forbes**, 4th, 5th, 6th Grade, Room 37; **Carolyn Metcalf**, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade, Room 46; **Laurie Featzka**, Art, Room 6; **Rob Donaldson**, Music, Cafeteria; **Brenda Hodges**, P.E., Gym.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

If you did not sign-up for a Parent/Teacher Conference time at our Open House on August 26, you may still do so by either stopping by the school office or calling the school at 419-385-4571. This year conferences will be held on **Thursday, November 13, 2008, 8:00 AM until 12:00 noon, and 2:00 PM until 7:30 PM** and **Thursday, November 14, 2008, 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM.**

If you have moved, changed phone numbers, an emergency contact number has changed, or any other family related

information needs to be updated, please contact the school office to inform us of the changes. It is especially important now, but also anytime throughout the year when changes occur. Thank you!



PARENTS: Please Note

The table listed below contains the most recent information about the TPS Elementary Dress Code. Please pay close attention to the colors allowed for shoes and clothing.

ELEMENTARY STUDENT UNIFORM PROGRAM			
ITEM	GIRLS	BOYS	COLOR(S)
Tops No hooded clothing or sweatshirts of ANY kind. All tops must be long enough to tuck into pants. <i>*Tops Must be Tucked In*</i>	Blouses or polos with collars, or turtlenecks	Dress shirts and polos with collars, or oxford style button-down shirts or turtlenecks	White, light blue, dark blue, yellow No other colors, insignias or logos. All tops in approved solid colors.
Bottoms No jeans or sweat suits for either boys or girls Pants must be at waist.	Skirts, jumpers, slacks, knee length shorts, skorts, capris – all items knee length or longer	Pants, knee length shorts	Dark blue/navy, khaki/tan, black. These must be solid colors – can be uniform, dress or corduroy
Sweaters No Hoods	Cardigans, pullovers, vests	Cardigans, pullovers, vests	Navy or white No other colors, insignias or logos
Socks	Socks, tights, knee socks in solid matching colors	Socks	Solid dark colors or white
Shoes Athletic Shoes : White, Gray or Black	Black or dark shoes with enclosed toes/heels, no platforms NOTE Athletic Shoe colors to left	Black or dark shoes with enclosed toes/heels, no platforms NOTE Athletic Shoe colors to left	Black, dark Laces match the body of the shoe
Belts	Required for all skirts, slacks, shorts, skorts with belt loops	Required for all pants, shorts with belt loops	Black, navy, light or dark brown. No other colors, insignias or logos on belts.

ATTENDANCE LINE

419-385-0388

Parents, please remember to call the school attendance line, at the number listed above, if your child is going to be absent from school. A recording will ask you to leave the information we need from you concerning your absent child.

In addition to this call, you are required to send a written excuse to school with your child when they return. Thank you.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

On Thursday, September 11, 2008, from 8:00-8:45 AM, all of our Crossgates grandparents are welcome to attend a Parents' Club sponsored doughnuts and coffee breakfast in the cafeteria. After the breakfast you are invited to walk your grandchild to their classroom to spend a few minutes so they can show you where they spend their day. After the morning announcements we would like you to join us for our annual "9/11 Memorial" around the flagpole in front of the school. At the conclusion of this ceremony you can say your good-byes to your grandchildren so they can enter the building to begin their school day.

School/Home Communication

Please make sure you stay in contact with your child's teacher. Many times a problem can be avoided if you take the time to speak to the teacher when there is a concern.

This is also true with concerns outside the classroom. If you have a concern, please call the school office, or stop in. You can contact the school office by telephone at 419-385-4571, by fax at 419-385-3689. You can also send e-mail to dennis.delucia@tps.org.

Thank you!



TRANSPORTATION

Please bear with us as we work through the yearly transportation glitches. Since we do not make the schedules for buses at the school, we cannot change them from our office. The Transportation Department does this and for the first few weeks of school they may receive hundreds of requests for changes per day. I want you to continue to inform our office of concerns, but we cannot guarantee all requests for changes can be accommodated. As long as students are not crossing busy streets, they may have to walk a block or so to catch a bus.

VOLUNTEERS

The Crossgates Parents' Club is always looking for volunteers for a variety of school projects. From helping on "Pizza Day" to helping in the library. Please watch for information coming home about these opportunities and respond if you can spare the time. The students always benefit greatly from your help.

IN ADDITION, TPS SUPERINTENDENT, JOHN FOLEY IS ASKING EACH PARENT TO VOLUNTEER AT LEAST 10 HOURS THIS SCHOOL YEAR. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP.

"What did you do in school today?"

Please make it a habit to ask your child the above question on a daily basis. In addition please watch for papers, booklets, newsletters, etc. coming home with your child throughout the year. Please take the time to review all of these items to keep yourself informed about your child's education. Parents are important partners with the school in ensuring the academic success of their child.

Donated Quilts Net \$4,200 for Charities

Crossgates students from Mrs. Kaper's and Mrs. Pertcheck's fifth grade classes during the 2007-2008 school year made and donated two quilts for the annual auction for Mennonite worldwide charities. Among those charities which benefit from the auction is the Sunshine Children's Home near Maumee that provides help to severely physically and mentally challenged young people.

The auction takes place every June on the Fulton County Fairgrounds near Wauseon, Ohio. Mrs. Pertcheck has been having her sixth grade students donate quilts for many years. Last year, having moved to fifth grade, Mrs. Pertcheck found an enthusiastic collaborator in Mrs. Kaper the other fifth grade teacher.

The two quilts received a boost this year from an article about the auction that appeared in *The Toledo Blade* featuring the Crossgates quilts. The auctioneer also pointed out that the Crossgates students are the youngest who contribute quilts to the auction. Each child designed a square for the quilts. Geometry and measurement skills were utilized in making their squares. The teachers finished them off with painting, borders, and quilting.

The \$4,200 was, by far, the highest amount ever raised by the Crossgates quilts. Mrs. Kaper and Mrs. Pertcheck were pleasantly surprised at the dollar amount, and are most appreciative of the efforts put forth by their students. "We fully intend to continue this wonderful tradition," both teachers agreed.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the rare instance when it is necessary to evacuate Crossgates, we are required to have a destination identified where students and staff can be housed until the building is clear or students are picked-up by parents. This may take place if we have a gas leak at the school, or a power outage during cold weather. If the situation arises, we will have our students and staff walk to Church of St. Andrew, 3620 Heatherdowns Blvd., (this is at the corner of Colony and Heatherdowns). Everyone will remain there until Crossgates is safe, or until they are picked-up. The telephone number at the church is 419-385-6160.

LUNCH PROGRAM

As of the writing of this newsletter the cost of a lunch at school is still \$1.40. Breakfast costs 60 cents. If students pack their lunch they can buy milk, which this year has increased in price. **A carton of milk or juice will cost 55 cents this year.** You will be notified of any changes in these prices if they occur. Watch for a school lunch menu coming home each month. There may be two versions of the School Lunch Menu. The first is just an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper with a calendar on it showing each day's menu. Another menu that may be provided for us to send home looks like a small comic book or activity book. These unfold and the menu is printed inside. In either case they will be sent home at the end of each month for the subsequent month.

Interested in Cub Scouts Mark Your Calendars

A representative from the Boy Scouts of America will visit Crossgates School during the day on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, to speak to boys in grades 1-5 about joining Cub Scouts. During the visit she will hand out flyers to boys about scouting. **Then, at 7:00 PM in the evening on that same day, Tuesday, September 9, 2008, there will be a sign-up meeting held for any boy in grades 1-5, and his parents interested in joining scouting. It will be held in the cafeteria at Crossgates School.**

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: PARENT COORDINATOR BOWSHER AND LIBBEY AREAS

Bowsher, Byrnedale, Arlington, Beverly, Burroughs, Crossgates, Glendale-Feilbach, Harvard, Libbey, Jones, Marshall, Pickett, Stewart, Walbridge, Westfield

SALARY \$19,375.00

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must have children attending Toledo Public Schools.
- Applicant must successfully pass an FBI background check.
- Applicant must have experience working with Toledo Public Schools' parent organization(s).
- Applicant shall not undertake other full-time employment with Toledo Public Schools during the term of the contract.

BASIC FUNCTIONS

- Full time position
- Serves as liaison between parents/guardians and central office staff
- Chairs learning community parent councils
- Works with the school principal and school organizations to ensure that Board Policy is followed as it pertains to bonding/representative elections/bylaws
- Works with school principals to strengthen parent groups
- Ensures adequate parent participation (3) at Parent Congress, district meetings, rallies, individual school events and other TPS events whenever those events are held: before school, during the school day, after school and/or on weekends
- Attends Parent Congress, parent coordinator meetings and other events assigned by the Superintendent, Chief of Staff, and Assistant Superintendents including before school, during the school day, after school, nights and weekends.
- Serves on district committees as designated by the Assistant Superintendents
- Performs any other duties consistent with the job description as assigned by Assistant Superintendents

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

A copy of the job description is available in the Elementary Education Office, Room 110, and will be forwarded to all applicants. Application and job description may be obtained by calling 419/671-8394.

APPLICATION

Completed application should be forwarded to the Elementary Education Office, Room 110, Toledo Public Schools, 420 E. Manhattan, Toledo, OH 43608-1267 to arrive no later than 4:00 pm, Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

Back to School Reminders & New Information

As we begin another new school year, we would like to remind all of our families of some issues that will ensure the safety of all of our students and help maintain a positive learning environment.

- **Crossgates School and all other TPS elementary schools now have security cameras and intercoms at entry doors. This means that each school day, beginning at 9:00 AM, ALL DOORS WILL BE LOCKED and visitors to the building will need to have the doors unlocked remotely from the school office. The two doors equipped with the cameras and door buzzers are: The second door from the right at our main front doors, with the buzzer on the wall to the right of this door, and the door on the left in the rear of the building, off the parking lot, that enters the hallway between the cafeteria and the office. The buzzer at this door is on the wall to the left. **SPECIAL NOTE: When you ring this buzzer on either intercom, our secretary will be able to see you on a monitor in the office and speak with you over the intercom. She will then be able to unlock the door. If she happens to be away from her desk at the time, you may have a slight wait until she arrives back to the area near the monitor in the main office.****
- We ask that all visitors to our building report to the main office before visiting any other area of our building. **THIS INCLUDES VISITING OUR "PORTABLE" CLASSROOMS.** If your child forgets a lunch, etc., please bring the item to the main office and we will make sure your child gets it. If you happen to visit the building after school hours and find the doors unlocked, **PLEASE** look for the night custodian to help you. **HE CANNOT ALLOW YOU INTO ANY TEACHERS' CLASSROOM WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.**
- If you have handouts for groups such as girl scouts, brownies, cub scouts, etc. we strongly urge that they be handed out at regularly scheduled meeting times. On the rare occasion when they cannot, we ask that they be brought to the office before 8:45 AM. Please put the children's names on them. We will do the best we can to make sure they are passed out to the students before the end of the day.
- Announcements are made in the morning between 9:00 and 9:05 AM. If you would like us to make a general announcement about a meeting cancellation or meeting time change, please get the information to the main office before 8:45 AM.
- Please do not drive into the horseshoe drive to drop students off or pick them up between the hours of 8:30 and 9:30 AM and 2:30 and 3:30 PM. This drive is reserved for our buses and we do not want traffic in the drive when buses are loading or unloading. **In addition, please do not drive into the faculty parking lot to drop students off and pick them up.** Each class is assigned a door to enter, usually at the front of the building. Dropping them off in back would necessitate them walking around the school to enter the building. Please stop at the curb on Shadylawn and ask your child to walk on the sidewalk, which borders the horseshoe drive to walk to their assigned entry door. It is a good


idea to use the sidewalk even when you are with them. This will help them get in the habit of using this safe path when you cannot be with them.


- During the first week of each month, a Crossgates Courier, like the one you are reading now, will be sent home with your child. Please take time to read it so you can stay informed of activities at school. In addition to the Courier, a monthly lunch menu and school calendar of events will also be sent home.
- Please do not send items such as birthday party invitations, etc. to school with your child to be passed out to selected children in class. This causes many hurt feelings of the students in class who may not be invited. Please help us by taking care of this outside of school.
- For the first few days of school, we welcome parents to walk their child into school if it helps alleviate fears a child may have about attending school. After the first few days, we encourage parents to allow their child to begin entering school by themselves. Many times after attending class for a few days, they realize school is not so bad. If your child continues to be afraid, do not minimize or dismiss the fear as being silly. Do not belittle them, but talk to them about their feelings and help them work through this fear. The sooner this can be accomplished, the better. If school personnel can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to ask for help in the office.
- Please send a note to school with your child if he or she is to go home a different way than they normally would. For example if mom or dad are going to pick them up instead of taking the bus.
- If your child forgets his or her lunch or lunch money, they can charge a lunch or milk at school. All we ask is that the charge is paid the next school day.
- As most of you may know, we have two microwave ovens in our cafeteria, which can be used to warm-up lunch items. Remembering that lunch periods only last 30 minutes please do not send in items that need to be heated more than a minute to a minute and a half. Sometimes as many as 20 students have items to be warmed and this cuts down on the time students have to eat if they must wait too long for food to be warmed. **SPECIAL NOTE!** Many of the Lunchable brand items that students want warmed-up are more easily handled by the smaller children if they can put these items on a paper plate. We **do not** provide paper plates at school, so you may want to add a folded or rolled paper plate in lunch bags to help your son or daughter.
- **Glass bottles are not allowed in the cafeteria.** This is because of the safety hazard they may cause if dropped by little hands.


We appreciate the time you have taken to read all of the above reminders. Please remember that we want to make Crossgates the best school it can possibly be. Your children are the reason for our existence. Together we can make sure they are successful in school. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Our door is always open.

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS

1) **THEY SET GOALS.** Goals keep kids focused on the future. That's why they are the foundation of responsible behavior---and success in school. Help your child set goals.

 **How much improvement would you like to see on this week's test?**

 **How would you like to improve your grades this marking period?**

 **What are two things you would like to accomplish this school year?**

 **What will be needed to meet those goals?**

Goals help students focus on what's important and what's not. If they have a vision of where they want to go, they're more likely to get there. And students with goals find it easier to say "no" to irresponsible behaviors...because they are saying "yes" to their vision of the future.

2) **THEY PLAN THEIR TIME.** Responsible people meet their obligations—whether it's turning in a paper on the day it's due or having a report on the boss's desk when it's needed. But it takes planning. (Remember the old saying, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.") Help your child use a big calendar to organize his/her time. Write down all his/her commitments and use the calendar to plan time for homework each day. On a day when he/she has soccer after school, he'll/she'll need to study after dinner—but the next day, when he/she has choir practice in the evening, he'll/she'll need to study right after school.

3) **THEY STUDY EVERY DAY.** Learning any subject is like building a brick wall—you do it steadily, one step at a time. Responsible students set aside time for homework or studying every day. On the day when your child's teacher assigns no homework, have him/her "assign himself/herself." That may be the day he/she reviews vocabulary words. Or he/she may take a few minutes to review notes.

4) **THEY TAKE NOTES IN CLASS.** Students who earn all "A"s seem to have one thing in common—they take notes in class. They learn that teachers will almost always spell out what they think is important (and what's likely to be on the test.) Teach your child to take notes when the teacher is talking. Spend time reviewing them before a test—and watch his/her grades go up.

5) **THEY HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED.** A carpenter wouldn't think of showing up without a hammer. A nurse always has a stethoscope. But some students seem to think they can go to class without pencils, paper and other tools they need.

6) **THEY KEEP THEIR COMMITMENTS.** Responsible people honor their commitments—to other and to themselves. They succeed in school by doing their assignments well and on time. They do their share of the group project. They go to soccer practice even when it's cold. You can teach your child about commitments by example. Talk with your child about the commitments you have made to the family—to provide meals, to keep clothes clean, to care for anyone who is sick. Ask your child to make

commitments of his/her own at home. And help him/her feel the satisfaction that comes from meeting those commitments.

7) **THEY GET READY AHEAD OF TIME.** Some students start out every morning in a crisis. They can't find their homework. They don't have time to eat breakfast. The shirt they want to wear isn't ironed. Responsible students have learned that being late, or being early, is not something that simply happens to them. It is a choice they can make. Teach your child to take five or ten minutes before bedtime to get ready for the next day. Have him/her pack the backpack. Make lunch. Lay out clothes. He/she will soon see that those few minutes will make the morning easier... and help him/her get to school ready to learn.

HELP BUILD RESPONSIBLE HABITS IN 21 DAYS

Experts say that if we repeat an action every day for just 21 days, it is likely to become automatic. So, for the next 21 days, encourage your child to act on the habits of responsible students. He'll/She'll soon find he/she does them without even thinking. And he'll/she'll be more responsible—and more successful—in school as well!

Parents' Club News

The Crossgates Parents' Club is very active at Crossgates. They are involved in numerous activities at school that help our children and the school a great place for all of the students. To make this happen they need volunteers. Some parents put in more than ten hours a week volunteering at school and others are only able to help an hour or two a few times a year. If you are able to help, please contact the school and you will be put in touch with a Parents' Club representative. Some of the ongoing Parents' Club activities that always need volunteers include, "Pizza Days", Library, Market Day, Recess, just to name a few.

Upcoming Events-

☺ Fundraiser-"Walk-a-Thon"—Friday, September 26, 2008. Watch for details coming home with your child in the next couple of weeks.

☺ "Pizza Day" changed to Tuesdays! Each Tuesday this year will be "Pizza Day" at Crossgates and volunteers are needed to help serve the pizza. Forms will be coming home soon listing the beginning date for this year.

☺ Thursday, September 4th, Parents' Club Meeting in library, 7:00 PM.

☺ Thursday, September 11, 2008, 8:00-8:45 AM. "Grandparents Day". All grandparents are invited to join their grandchild at school for a doughnut breakfast in the school cafeteria sponsored by the Parents' Club. (Volunteers needed to help serve.)

Watch for other information coming home throughout the year for a variety of Parents' Club sponsored activities.