

# The Eagle's Nest

Diamond Springs Elementary Home of the Little Eagles



Shirann C. Lewis, Principal

Linda M. Reese, Assistant Principal

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2009

## The Principal's Corner

### Every Child Learning Everyday

It is hard to believe that we have completed the first month of school. We've had a wonderful start to a brand new year. I am happy to report that the students are adjusting very well to their new teacher, classmates and classroom. I have had the opportunity to visit each classroom and I am very excited about what I have seen so far. Students are really working hard learning the classroom expectations and routines.

Leadership is a concept we don't normally consider when thinking of young children. However, young children are very capable of learning leadership skills and using them in their lives. In an effort to help our students develop the essential life skills and characteristic needed in order to thrive in the 21st century, we are introducing our students to the 7 Habits by Stephen Covey. The kid friendly version is *7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids* by Shawn Covey. We began introducing the 7 Habits to our students day one of school. For the months of September and October, we will focus on Habit 1 which is Being Proactive. Students are learning to stop, think and make the right choices. They know that leaders are responsible and they do the right thing. Our Monday morning announcements highlight the habits and

talk about leadership. We are having so much fun with the habits.

We don't want to leave our parents out. At our next parent night, we will introduce the habits to our parents. You are going to have lots of fun learning all about the habits and how you can reinforce the habits at home. Mark your calendars and don't miss this exciting Bayside Tri-Campus event. The date is Tuesday, October 20.

We were so excited to see so many of our first grade parents out during our First Grade Orientation Expo. Thank you so much for your support and I hope you learned much about the first grade curriculum, what is expected of your child in first grade, and how you can support your child at home.

Please join the Bayside Tri-Campus PTA. We really need your support. The PTA membership is only \$5.00. The "P" in PTA stands for parents so please, show your support for your child's school by joining the Bayside Tri-Campus PTA. We are striving for 100% parent participation. Please help us reach our goal.

Also, we need interested parents to become a part of the PTA board to represent Diamond Springs Elementary. If you are interested, please call the school at 648-4240.

### Homework

For our returning parents and to all of our new parents, Diamond Springs

has a mandatory homework policy. **Every** child is to read for a minimum of 15 minutes nightly. We have taught our students three ways to read a book: students can read the pictures, read the words, or retell the story. This way, to say I cannot read, is not an excuse. Also, your child can be read to by a parent, grandparent or older sibling.

Each student will have a monthly reading log to help monitor their reading progress. Parents will need to sign this log nightly and return the log to the teacher. Teachers will turn a list of names into the principal of students who are not completing this homework. The principal will then contact the parents. If we want our students to do their best in school, they must read every night. One thing that we do know is that reading is the number one indicator of learning success.

Students will also have math homework as indicated by the curriculum and maybe asked to practice their word wall words and handwriting.

### Smile! It Is Picture Time

Diamond Springs Elementary students will have their pictures taken on Monday, October 26. Fall individual pictures will be taken by Lifetouch Photos. Fliers with payment options will be sent home prior to picture day.



### **Bayside Tri-Campus Parental Involvement Activity**

We are so excited about our first parental involvement activity scheduled for October 20 at 6:15 p.m. at Diamond Springs Elementary. Mr. Ronnie Hall, guidance counselor from Williams Elementary, Angela Parker, guidance counselor from Diamond Springs Elementary and Leyla Chafin, guidance counselor from Newtown Elementary, have a dynamic and exciting program planned for our parents. You don't want to miss this electrifying program. Dinner will be served and babysitting will be offered. Please mark your calendar and don't miss this event.

### **Showcase Your Talent**

Showcase Your Talent is a venue whereby students get to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Virginia Beach objectives and the Standards of Learning. Our first Showcase Your Talent presentation will be on Tuesday, October 27. First grade students will participate in a Reader's Theatre presentation. Parents are invited to attend. Your child's teacher will send home more information about this activity.

### **National School Lunch Week**

National School Lunch Week is October 12-16. Please come out and have lunch with your child(ren). This is a time to spend a little extra time with your child and have a delicious nutritional lunch. A schedule was sent home in last week's Wednesday's folder. Thank you in advance for supporting our School Lunch program.

### **National School Bus Safety Week**

National School Bus Safety Week is October 19-23. Now is a good time to remind your child of the importance of school bus safety. It is important that students behave appropriately on the school bus. Please review with your child the Code of Student Conduct regarding behavior on the school bus. In addition, all kindergarten and first grade students need to sit in the front of the bus in the designated area. Please help us keep your child safe.

### **Federal Cards**

Federal cards will go home on Monday, October 12. Please complete the card and return it to school with your child the very next day. Thank you.

### **Book of the Month: Building a Culture of Literacy Month by Month**

We hope you enjoyed the first Book of the Month activity with your child. October Book of the Month activities will come home on Wednesday, October 7. Teachers and students will be reading the book, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Joffe Numeroff on Monday, October 5. The theme for this month is Family Time/We Love our Families. Students will have many fun activities to do with the book, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. Why not make some cookies together. Please read the parent letter carefully for suggested activities for you to engage in with your child at home. Thank you for your support in helping us build a culture of literacy.

### **Kindergarten Team 1 Highlights**

Team 1 welcomes you and your child to kindergarten. Our students have been working so hard this month. They have really learned a lot. All of the kindergartners here at Diamond Springs are learning the Seven Habits of being a leader. Just ask any of our students about "Being Proactive." It's the first of the Seven Habits and we are sure they can tell you exactly what it means.

In our classrooms we have established many new routines and procedures which will ensure that we have a fabulous school year. The students have also learned about building a community and becoming successful leaders in school. In addition, we have learned many new songs and nursery rhymes that will help us spell, read and write. In the days and months to come, you will be seeing great things from your child and your child's classroom. Please continue to read and write at home with your child and complete the nightly homework assignments. We have only been here a short time and look how much we have already accomplished!

Team 1: Mrs. Ellis, Ms. Green, Miss Hayes, Mrs. Leon and Mr. Thompson



## **Important Dates To Remember In October**

Student of the Month	10/02
Parent Book of the Month Activity	10/07
Progress Reports Issued	10/12
Columbus Day-School Open/Federal Cards Go Home	10/12
National School Lunch Week	10/12-16
America's Safe School Week	10/19-23
Reader's Theatre-Showcase Your Talent-Grade 1	10/26
Picture Day	10/26