

DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Events

- **October 1st - DRES PTO Meeting 6:30 PM in the DRES Library**
- **October 3rd - Kindergarten Trip to Deep River Library**
- **October 8th - NO SCHOOL: Columbus Day (Professional Development Day for Teachers)**
- **October 12th - DRES Mystic Aquarium Learning Experience**
- **October 18th - Early Dismissal at 1:00PM for Parent Teacher Conferences**
- **October 19th - Early Dismissal at 1:00PM for Parent Teacher Conferences**
- **October 31st - DRES Halloween Event**
- **November 6 and 7th - DRES PTO Fall Book Fair**

The “Choose Love Program” at DRES

Last school year the Social Development Committee considered and agreed to adopt the Choose Love Program as the DRES Social Development Character Education program. This program was created following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School and is the creation of Scarlett Lewis, mother of Jesse Lewis, one of Sandy Hook’s victims. She worked with educators and experts in the field of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) to develop a program that is child, parent, teacher and classroom friendly. The lessons work to develop the Social and Emotional Learning Competencies of Self-Management, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision-Making Skills. The weekly classroom lessons will begin in October. We are also planning a Parent Program for January in collaboration with our colleagues at Tri-Town Youth Services.

The program identifies four core themes ~ Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness and Compassion (in action) = Choose Love.

- **Courage:** Students will learn what it means to have courage in any situation. This will help them face adversity and do the right thing even when it is hard or uncomfortable.
- **Gratitude:** Students will learn what it means to be grateful for all of the good in their lives. This will help nurture a positive attitude and inspire them to be kind and giving to others.
- **Forgiveness:** Students will understand what it means to forgive someone who has hurt you. This does not mean you forget or accept the hurtful actions as OK but forgiving will help free them from bad feelings and to have a positive mindset in school and life.
- **Compassion:** Students will understand that compassion is LOVE in action. They will understand what it means to have empathy and be sensitive to the feelings of others. This will help them realize the importance of being in service to those who need help or support, a longstanding tradition at Deep River Elementary School.

The creators of this program were careful when crafting the lessons to align them with Common Core Standards. Additionally, there is alignment with Habits of Mind, a DRES initiative, as well as Critical and Creative Problem Solving, a district wide focus.

At the close of this school year we will make a shift and adopt the Choose Love Pledge as our DRES Pledge.

Choose Love Pledge

We will have Courage even when things are hard.

We will have an attitude of Gratitude.

We will Choose Loving thoughts over angry thoughts.

We will show Compassion in our words and actions.

We are excited to make this program part of our students’ education at Deep River Elementary School. Parents are a child’s first and most important teacher and so we invite you to share the experience with them by joining the Choose Love movement at www.jesselewischooselove.org. If you have questions please contact us for more information. Thank you for your support and encouragement as together we..... Choose Love!

-DRES Staff & Social Development Committee

October Parent Teacher Conferences

October 18th and 19th will be early dismissal times for your child's parent teacher conferences. This is always an excellent time to speak with your teacher about your child's academic and behavioral progress. We kindly request that you arrive at your child's scheduled conference time so that our teacher's schedules don't become backed up.

As always, DRES works to foster a collaborative partnership with our parents. Your child's teacher is looking forward to sharing with you their observations and information about your child, but they are also interested to hear from you. Be sure to plan any questions you may have ahead of your conference to maximize your time together. Also, talk to your child following your parent teacher conference. Let them know about their strengths that you are most proud of them for, and then help them to set goals for themselves as they continue with the school year.



DRES Mystic Marine Life Aquarium Experience

This year on October 12th all of DRES will be participating in some outstanding learning opportunities. In partnership and collaboration with our DRES PTO we have been able to fully fund an on-sight learning day with multiple programs from the Aquarium here at DRES for our younger learners while our older students will be traveling to the aquarium itself. Students in grades K and 1 will experience different hands-on learning experiences in workshops taught by the Mystic Marine Life Aquariums instructors, interactive Touch Tank Experience, and an assembly on Sharks! Similar learning experiences will be had by our students in grades 2-6 as they journey to the Aquarium that day. This learning experience has a variety of connections to our work with Next Generation Science Standards, Critical and Creative Problem Solving, and supporting development of strong Habits of Mind. We are proud to have the opportunity to organize and arrange this day in partnership with the DRES PTO at no cost to our families. We believe it will be a great experience for all of our students.



6th Grade Adventure Day

Report

Prior to 2015 we held our 6th grade “Fun Day” at the end of the year. This day included some experiential learning activities that promote team-building concepts along with some traditional field day activities. Reflecting on the outcome of this day, the staff at DRES realized that the benefits that come from these team-building “adventure” activities would better serve our school community if we presented them at the beginning of the 6th grade year. For this reason we decided to replace the end of the year Field Day event with “6th Grade Adventure Day” in September. For the last four years this day has been a meaningful and successful event and is now officially part of our Grade 6 Social and Emotional Wellness program.

Some of the main benefits of adventure learning reside in the area of Social Emotional Learning and what are now being labeled as 21st Century Skills. Social Emotional Learning is necessary for children to develop into competent caring people who make good decisions and have positive relationships. During the morning of our Adventure Day the students will engage in experiential learning activities that will promote the following themes:

- Building Trust, Relationships, and Community
- Self Awareness and Self Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision Making
- Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution

All of these themes will be explored through fun physical activities and are directly connected to our school and district’s work on critical and creative problem solving. Furthermore, these activities help to support our belief in developing strong Habits of Mind with our students.

The students will be put into small learning groups and will be guided through the series of activities by a staff member at DRES. Each activity will include a short debriefing that will help the students make the connection between the experience and the social theme.

It is our hope that 6th Grade Adventure day continues to be a day full of fun and more importantly that each student can take something away from the experience that helps them further develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as develop a sense of “team” as they continue their sixth grade year.

-Mr. Brian Drinkard - DRES Physical Education Teacher



A Word From Mrs. Shakun

Welcome to another school year! Like last year, I have the privilege of working with both teachers and students in the area of mathematics. As the building Math Coach, you'll find me visiting classrooms, working with small groups, supporting teachers, analyzing student needs and providing enrichment opportunities. I also enjoy keeping our students thinking by posting math facts, statistics and questions on bulletin boards and in unexpected places throughout the building.

In this early part of the year, kindergarteners are learning to count with one-to-one correspondence and to sort objects, first and second graders are exploring place value, third and fourth graders are practicing multiplication strategies, fifth graders are constructing models to illustrate the connection between finding surface area and the associative property of multiplication, and sixth graders are solving ratio problems. All students will be encouraged to exercise their critical thinking and problem solving skills by investigating and justifying potential solutions and then reflecting upon their decisions.

We have an exciting year ahead of us at DRES and I look forward to working with your children!

Jill Shakun

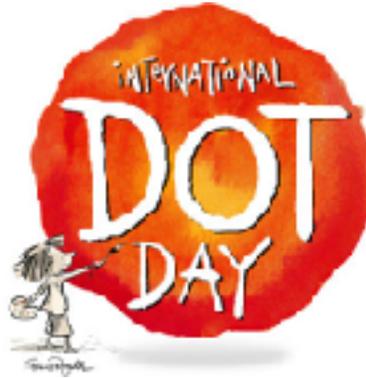
www.mathlearningcenter.org/bridges

www.greatminds.org/math

<https://openupresources.org/math-curriculum/>



Media Minute



On September 14th and 15th, many students took part in International Dot Day in the Media Center. Students listened to The Dot, by Peter Reynolds. Students discussed what they took from the story. Comments included “You have to try,” “You will never be able to do it if you don’t start,” and “You should see if you can do it a different way.” The students were given a choice of two activities: (1) Make a picture out of a dot or (2) Create a building using twenty-five dot stickers and twenty index cards. The end products were inspiring. Students were critically thinking and problem solving ways to make the tallest building with the supplies they were given. The story and activities were wonderful vehicles to illustrate two Habits of Mind: Thinking Flexibly and Creating, Imagining, Innovating.

Celebrating Summer Readers

Students that returned their summer reading journals, were treated to an extra recess and popsicle the last week of September. Mrs. Celotto’s and Ms. Pitney’s class had 100% participation. They were treated to ice cream sundaes and extra recess. Way to go!



DRES PTO Meeting

Date: October 1, 2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: DRES Media Center



Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Introductions – Angela Tressel

1. Secretary Report – Katie Bauer
 - a. Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2018
2. Principal’s Report – DRES Principal Strickland
3. Parks & Recreation Commission Report
4. DRES Board of Education Report
 - a. November DRES Board of Education Meeting – Thursday, 11/15 – 7:00 p.m. – DRES Media Center
5. Vice President Report – Annie Lewis
6. Treasurer Report – Miriam Morrissey
7. Corresponding Secretary Report – Cari Kruzel-Boxwell
8. PTO Committee Reports (Baking, Bingo, Birthday Bulletin Board, Book Fair, Books for Birthdays, Box Tops, Day of the Arts, Field Day, Recycling, School Beautification/Veteran’s Day, Sixth Grade Promotion Night, Someone Special Dance, Teacher Appreciation, STEM Day, Winter Wonderland, Yearbook)

Old Business

1. September Activities: 9/13 Back to School Night Table

New Business

Request for New Fundraiser – Marjorie Russell (Social Worker at EES) would like to sell an Essential Oil Kit for \$30 with \$10 proceeds going to PTO.

October Activities:

- 10/1 (Monday) - DRES PTO Meeting at 6:30 in Media Center
- 10/12 (Friday) – Mystic Aquarium Event (PTO paid ~\$5,000 for this)
- 10/18 (Thursday) - Staff Appreciation Dinner
- Unfundraiser Mailing (in 2017-2018, PTO spent ~\$85/student)
- Halloween Trick or Trunk (Sponsored by Park and Rec) – Saturday, October 27, 3pm
- Halloween Parade (Wednesday, 10/31) - 1:30 p.m. at DRES

November Activities:

- 11/5 – DRES PTO Meeting at 6:30 p.m. – DRES Media Center
- 11/6 and 11/7 - Fall Book Fair –Family Night on 11/7 in DRES Gym
- 11/12 - Veterans Day Program and Daffodil Planting at DRES
- 11/15 – DRES Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m. – DRES Media Center
- 11/16 - Bingo at JWMS Cafeteria

December Activities:

- 12/3 – DRES PTO Meeting at 7:00 p.m. – DRES Media Center
- 12/7 – Winter Wonderland Craft Night in DRES Gym
- 12/20 – STEM Day at DRES

Adjournment

Next DRES PTO Meeting Date: Monday, November 5th– 6:30 p.m. – DRES Media Center

**DRES PTO Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018 Deep River Elementary Media Center**

Attendees: Mr. Strickland, Dr. Ricci, Angela Tressel, Katie Bauer, Miriam Morrissey, Carla Voitovich, Kylie Goodall, Kristi Roach, Keri Maclean, Karyn David, Cari Boxwell, Linalynn Schmelzer, Melissa Symonds, Sue Rowland, Jennifer Donahue, Jessi Schreck and Krista Farrell.

**The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.
The following topics were discussed:**

Secretary Report- Katie Bauer

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting on June 4, 2018. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Principal's Report- Mr. Strickland

Mr. Strickland thanked the PTO executive board for providing lunch for the Staff Luncheon

Park and Rec had a wonderful summer and the camp was well attended.

There are 242 students attending DRES

Choose Love Project will be integrated throughout the grades this year.

The program focuses on four important character values: Courage, Forgiveness, Gratitude and Compassion

School Info Night- Thursday, September 13th at 6:15

Mystic Aquarium- October 12th: K-1 program at DRES. Grades 2-6 will travel to the aquarium

Park and Rec- Carol Jones

Deep River Family Day- September 15th- Fireworks to take place at night.

Trunk or Treat- October 27th from 3:00pm-5:00pm (rain date Sunday 28th)

**Request to use Baking Committee. There will be a DJ and a Balloon Artist
Volunteers to decorate trunks at field are needed.**

Board Of Education-Mirriam Morrissey

September 20th at 7:00 pm- first meeting of the school year

The Region 4 Calendar was recently voted on for the next two years. It can be found on the Region's website.

Treasurer's Report-Mirriam Morrissey

Savings- \$11,966.87

Checking-\$13,279.59

Taxes have been filed

Committee Reports-

Baking Committee- First event will be Trunk or Treat and Book Fair to follow.

Bingo- This year will include more silent auction items. More items are needed to purchase prizes for the Bingo winners. Some raffle items that have been donated to the Bingo event will be given to the Teacher Appreciation Days Committee.

Book Fair- November 6th and 7th

Box Tops- last year made \$700. The goal for this school year will be \$2000. A few more volunteers are needed for this committee.

DART- In need of a few more volunteers

School Beautification- Lina has been working with Ann to ensure a smooth transition. The committee is still in need of a few more volunteers. The first project will focus on completing a mural to go along with the newly purchased bat house.

Sixth Grade Promotion Night- Needs a chair

Winter Wonderland- Needs a chair



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