

Dolphin Digest

Open House Breaks Records

Hello Downey Family,
I would like to personally thank all of the parents and guardians, students, and staff who attended Downey's Fall Open House. We had over 150 parents and guardians at our event! Downey parents, guardians, students, and staff are The

Best. ☺ Please do not forget to sign up with your child's teacher for the parent-teacher conferences that will be occurring on October 24th and October 25th. When you attend your child's parent-teacher conference in October, you will be entered into a raffle

drawing for a New Bike, Giant Gift Cards, and other great prizes. We hope to see you then.

Thank you and let's continue to make this the best year ever for your child!

-Travis Peck, Principal

October 2013

Events:

- October 2nd—Half Day
- October 9th—Half Day
- October 14th—Columbus Day **NO SCHOOL**
- October 24th—Half Day
- October 25th—**NO SCHOOL**
- October 24-25th—Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 31st—Character Parade
- October 31st—Halloween



Just a few of our lucky winners!

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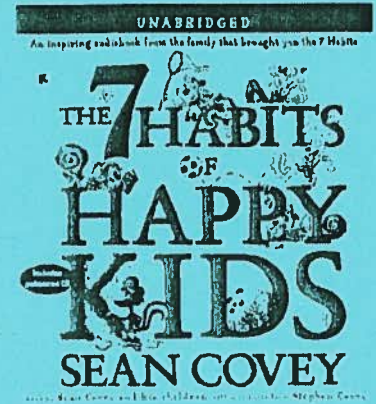
Kindergarten News

Welcome to Kindergarten in Mrs. Pariso and Mrs. Beam's Class. We now have full morning and afternoon classes that are full of eager children who are ready to learn and on their way to becoming knowledgeable Downey Dolphins. This month we have begun teaching classroom routines and setting high expectations for our students. We are currently learning the letters of the alphabet, focusing on beginning sounds of words and starting to blend words. In math, we are introducing concepts of numerals,

shapes, measuring, and counting.

We have taught the first four habits of Happy Kids. We apply these habits daily and talk to the children about how they can apply them at home! We encourage parents and guardians to look on the website to help support these efforts!

<http://www.theleaderinme.org/the-7-habits-for-kids/>



Special Subject News

As the new school year of 2013-2014 gets underway, the art, music, and physical education departments at Downey are gearing up for another exciting year.

Mr. Shannon Lippy, our art teacher, who can be found in Room 101, flanked by his ever-present superheroes, has started his students off (by grade level) with some interesting projects. First and second grade classes are already hard at work on assignments involving their names, while third and fourth grade classes are investigating the artwork of American graffiti and visual artist, Keith Haring. Beyond that, the students will focus on projects for the upcoming holidays. Mr. Lippy also coaches current fourth grade students in delivering the morning announcements over the school's sound system.

Our resident expert on health and physical education, Mr. Dennis Lumpkin, has his sights set high on getting Downey students physically fit. Troubled by recently published reports that Pennsylvania is one of just three states having experienced an upsurge in childhood obesity, Mr. Lumpkin is determined to make his students much more aware of the need for good nutrition and exercise to combat this problem. Mr. Lumpkin's commitment to this effort is apparent from his many bulletin boards and posters which brighten Downey's hallways.

From a musical standpoint, Mr. Michael Kohler, Downey's music instructor, is excited to implement the "Leader in Me" initiative into his music curriculum and teaching. Students are already learning an original "Seven Habits" song (sung to the tune of "Greased Lightning" from "Grease"), complete with choreography. While each grade level explores different musical concepts, classroom singing is emphasized heavily. Efforts are underway to form a Downey chorus, and plans are afoot for a special musical presentation featuring Downey students during the holidays.

In addition to their important classroom academic instruction, Downey students have many other opportunities to express themselves, to explore their talents, and to become healthier, happier citizens.





You're Such a Character

On Thursday, October 31st, Downey School will be hosting a Character Study and Parade. Primary students will be dressing up as a character and creating a book starring them. This will allow the younger students to get a deep understanding of what a character in a book is and why they are so important.

Parents, don't feel left out. At the end of the day, all of the characters will be coming outside to parade their costumes and

show off their stories.

More information will be sent home with all participating classes closer to the end of the month. If you do not receive paperwork from your child's teacher about participating, please send them to school in their uniform that day.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Happenings in 4th Grade

As we move through the first couple months of school, 4th graders have been working hard. They have studied story structure, author's purpose, cause and effect, and theme in language arts. In math, they have been reviewing place value, geometry terms, and addition and subtraction with regrouping and renaming.

Now that they are the oldest

students in the building, 4th grade has also been working hard to set a good example for the younger students. They have been learning the 7 Habits of Happy Kids and trying to put them into practice. 4th graders are well on their way to becoming the leaders of our school.

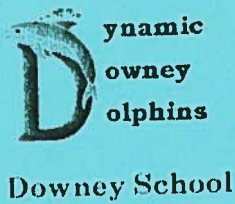
"4th grade has also been working hard to set a good example for the younger students."

Popping Up

We are excited about learning in 3rd grade. We have participated in pre-viewing skills previously learned which include alike/different, cause/effect, using parts /total , number stories and other new concepts. There's something else we want you to know. We are moving in the right direction with our 7 Habits routine. Now that you know what's POPPIN IN THIRD GRADE, we are looking forward to October's newsworthy happenings.

W.I.N.

Reading WIN or What I Need instruction started on Wednesday, September 18th at Downey School for grades 1- 4. WIN is daily, 30 minute, small group instruction, based on individual student's need. Once a student learns and can do a new skill, their group, teacher, and lessons change. Hearing and blending sounds, reading multi - syllable words, and comprehension are a few of the WIN interventions offered. Our goal at Downey School is to inspire life-long readers. Good readers are able to read with no errors - with a smooth, pleasant sounding voice - which is not too fast or not too slow... but, *just right* - ultimately understanding what was read. Reading should be as fun as speaking.



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7 Habits at Home

You have probably seen the 7 Habits tree on the mural across from Downey school, or hanging in our lobby. You may have heard your own children discussing the habits or Leader in Me. Downey School has only started learning and using the habits, and we have already seen many of the benefits. Here is a little chart to help you understand the habits and use them in your homes.

With Our Thanks...

Downey School would like to thank everyone who has helped us start this year off with a bang. The following sponsors donated raffle prizes for our amazing open house:

- Giant Food Stores
- Wal-Mart
- CRAM
- Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg
- Integrity Bank
- Messiah College
- Horace Mann Insurance
- The Boys and Girls Club

We could not have done it without you!

Habit and Slogan	What It Means	How Can I Use It At Home?
Be Proactive "I'm in charge of me"	I am responsible for my actions, mood, and attitude.	Remind children to make good choices, even if no one is watching.
Begin With The End In Mind "Have a Plan"	I plan ahead and set goals.	Encourage children to save their allowance to buy something they really want.
Put First Things First "Work first, then play"	I can prioritize and do what is important first.	Children do their homework before playing.
Think Win Win "Everyone can win"	I can compromise and make agreements that everyone can be happy with.	When children argue with their siblings- they can find a way to compromise.
Seek First to Understand, Then To Be Understood "Listen before you play"	I listen to other people's feelings and ideas. I see things from their viewpoints.	Listen without interrupting others.
Synergize "Together is better"	I value other people's strengths. I get along with others and work well in groups.	Encourage children to work together (Maybe to clean their room).
Sharpen the Saw "Balance feels best"	I take care of my body by eating right, getting enough sleep and exercising. I can also rejuvenate myself by doing things I love.	Remind children to go to bed on time to feel balanced.

October Reminders

October 2: Half Day

(12:30 Dismissal; No EXPLORE; Regular Kindergarten Schedule)

October 9: Half Day

(12:30 Dismissal; No EXPLORE; Regular Kindergarten Schedule)

October 14: Columbus Day - **NO SCHOOL**

October 24th: Half Day

(12:30 Dismissal; No EXPLORE; Regular Kindergarten Schedule)

October 25th: **NO SCHOOL**

October 24-25th: Parent Teacher Conferences

October 31: Character Parade

October 31: Halloween



