

# NO SCHOOL

There will be no school **tomorrow, September 27th.** It is a Teacher Development Day. Our staff will be attending a Love and Logic workshop.

## MOST IMPROVED RUNNERS

The dust has cleared from this year's Fun Run. Ten new records were set, and a new honor has been added. One boy and one girl were chosen for Most Improved. This year's most improved runners are 4th grader, Anthony Oxford and 3rd grader, Jody Piscitello. Congratulations!

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS

R.E.A.C.H., our after school program for **3rd through 8th grade students**, begins on **Wednesday, October 2nd.** Once again this year, REACH, will be under the direction of Ms. Penny Hopkins. REACH, will be open most **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00PM**, until the end of April. REACH provides a free snack, a safe place for students to finish up schoolwork, and participate in fun, enriching, hands-on activities. Enrollment paperwork is being sent home with all 3rd - 6th grade students today and is available in the office or on our website at <https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net/reach> Once enrolled students may attend each day, or as often as they like. Students must have a signed enrollment form to attend.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Thompson Falls Public Schools has made strides to have a bigger presence on social media over the past few years. We love to use it as a communication tool with our school families, community, and families far away. We do our best to post just some of the positive aspects of our schools. In return, we ask parents/guardians to use social media similarly. If you have a question or concern about our school, a staff member, an event, etc. please reach out to the school or an individual staff member directly. Posting questions or complaints about our school or staff for the public to see and comment on is not helpful to our school or your child. We fully understand that not every decision we make will be agreeable to every person, but we do our best to make decisions and run our schools with the best intentions for all students. Far too often we are made aware of social media posts by parents/guardians that are derogatory to our school or a staff member. This often drives a wedge between the school and community, or worse yet, our students. We kindly thank you in advance for refraining from posting questions or concerns about our schools on social media. We are ALWAYS more than happy to have a conversation and invite you into our schools if you have questions, concerns, comments, or ideas for how to make our school better.

## FLU VACCINE AVAILABLE

The Sanders County Health Department will visit Thompson Falls Schools on **Tuesday, October 15th.** They will be giving Flu Vaccines to school staff and students with signed consent forms. If you would like your student to receive the vaccine, a signed consent form *must be received in our nurse's office by Friday, October 4th.* The Influenza Immunization Consent Form can be found on our website at [tfes.thompsonfalls.net/el-forms](https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net/el-forms)

## Important Happenings

- 9/27 **NO SCHOOL—Teacher Development Day**
- 10/1 5th Gr Water Festival - TFalls State Park
- 10/2 Hearing Screenings
- 10/2 REACH(after school program Gr 3-8) begins 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/2 3rd Gr Field Trip - Ag Days - Plains Fairgrounds
- 10/3 Hearing Screenings
- 10/3 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/4 *Early out—2:05PM*
- 10/7 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/9 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/10 Fall Picture Day by Legacy Photography
- 10/10 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/11 *Early out—2:05PM*
- 10/13 Elk's School Hoop Shoot—2:00PM Elem Gym
- 10/14 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/15 Flu Vaccines available from County Health
- 10/16 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/17-10/18 **NO SCHOOL—Teacher PIR—MEA**
- 10/21 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/23 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/24 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/25 *Early out—2:05PM*
- 10/25 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/28 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 10/30 REACH(after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
- 11/1 **NO SCHOOL—Teacher Development Day**
- 11/5 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/6 NHS Blood Drive
- 11/7 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/8 *Early out—2:05PM*
- 11/10 Elk's District Hoop Shoot
- 11/15 *Early out—2:05PM*

## Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,  
Principal

School web site:  
<https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net>



ThompsonFallsSchools



Thompson Falls School District #2 shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, previous arrest or incarceration or non-program-related physical, sensory or mental handicaps as stated in board policy and MCA 49-2-307, 49-3-205.

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**Why Lecturing Isn't Working - And What To Do Instead**

Recently some concerned parents called us about their son and some poor choices that he made in school. They were seeking advice regarding how they initially approached the situation, which included lectures about what he must do to address his behavior. Through our conversation, they learned that listening might allow them to help their son learn from his mistakes. Listening might also shed light on the underlying problem that led to his poor choices.

Our brains are amazing organs that give us the ability to do marvelous things, including the ability to speak and communicate effectively with each other. These same brains can also be triggered by external events that cause us to speak and communicate ineffectively, such as by responding with anger, threats, and lecturing.

Most parents have a part of the brain devoted exclusively to lecturing kids about doing the right thing, eating the right way, doing their homework, and making sure their chores are done. For most adults, this part of the brain remains dormant—until we are confronted with what we perceive as outrageous behavior on the part of a child. As a parent or teacher, have you ever been amazed at how easily and automatically a good lecture rolls off the tongue?

One of the fundamental principles of physics is that every action has a reaction. This principle can also be applied to our brains. When lecturing starts, kids are immediately triggered and become defensive. They react by shrinking their learning and listening abilities.

We can learn much from our mistakes as well as from those made by others. Over the past 47 years, we've noticed that successful parents and educators understand the following concept: *The more words we use when kids are misbehaving or acting irresponsibly, the less effective we become.*

Instead of lecturing, successful parents and educators have learned to ask open-ended questions in a calm and empathetic tone of voice. Kids test us to see if we will love and accept them regardless of what they may do. When we show them empathy and ask open-ended questions, three important and powerful things happen.

First, open-ended questions show others that we can and want to understand their viewpoint. Second, these questions encourage people to do plenty of thinking. Open-ended questions create a lack of closure deep within the psyche. Humans yearn for closure and they sort of go nuts when they don't have it. Even when our kids don't answer our questions verbally, their subconscious minds can't resist the urge to give them plenty of thought. Finally, it gives us the opportunity to listen, to demonstrate that we understand, and to express empathy.

Some examples of open-ended questions include:

- \* What do you think about how you're doing in school right now?
- \* What are your ideas on whether bikes, like your new one, ever get stolen?
- \* What are your thoughts on kids experimenting with drugs?
- \* How do you think some kids put themselves in danger while chatting on the internet?
- \* How are you going to pay for that toy? (When a toddler takes a toy off a shelf at a store)

Listening to our youngsters' opinions—even when they're silly, strange, or downright scary—dramatically increases the odds that they'll listen when it's our turn to speak.

Think about it—do children have control over whether they listen to us, even when we don't give them this control? You bet! Do stubborn kids know this? Definitely! Whenever we pretend to have control over things we clearly do not, it erodes their respect for us and creates a battle they cannot resist.

Some of the best opportunities for listening instead of lecturing occur when kids do the unexpected. For tips on how to handle these situations, listen to our audio, [Oh Great! What Do I Do Now?](#)

***Each week we will share Love & Logic tips here. We also have many Love & Logic resources available for loan.***

***Contact our school counselor, Ms. Taylour Freed, for more info.***