

BLUE HAWK NEWS

NO SCHOOL April 21 - April 25

CAUTION NEEDED

Spring has arrived! We are pleased to see students and families taking advantage of the nicer weather by walking or riding bikes to school. More student foot traffic means more caution is needed when driving. Drivers, please keep these things in mind:

- Slow down in school zones and as you near the school
- Follow the flow of traffic when dropping off and picking up students
- **DO NOT enter the staff parking lot below the gym before or after school.** It's a healthy little walk for students to walk from the drop off zone below the school onto the playground. *Thanks for helping us keep our students safe and healthy!*

2025-26 Calendar

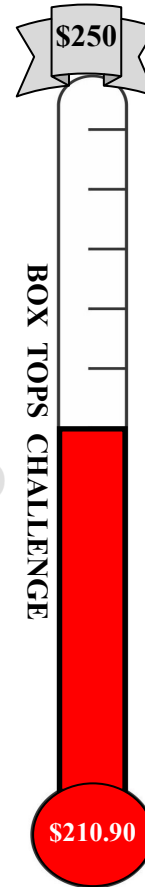
The School Board approved the calendar for the 2025-26 school year at the April School Board Meeting. The calendar, showing starting and ending dates as well as all non school days can be found on our website at tfes.thompsonfalls.net/calendar. Take a peek, it's not too early to plan those vacations.

RIDING BUSES

We want to remind students and parents that we contract our busing to Mosher Transportation for the purpose of transporting students to and from school and for school related travel. Due to liabilities, **guest riders** are not allowed on buses. Students visiting other student's homes for play dates, sleepovers, etc. must be transported by private vehicle, if they do not live on that route.

R.E.A.C.H. Wraps Up

REACH, our after school program for 3rd through 8th grade students, wraps up on Wednesday, April 30th. The program, which is open Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays, runs from October through April. REACH offers students a place to finish any homework they might have, with available assistance, while they enjoy a snack and then various enrichment activities. Students have enjoyed a variety of activities this year. Among the favorites have been aeronautics, which had paper airplanes flying, craft projects, bringing out students creative side, and cooking, where they whipped up some very tasty treats. Currently, students are testing their green thumbs as they make the best use of our greenhouse. It is too early to known if they will 'taste the fruits of their labors', but seeds and plants have been planted. Thank you Ms. Penny Hopkins, for coordinating REACH again this year.



Important Happenings

4/17	REACH (after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
4/18	FUN FRIDAY - Black and White Day
4/21	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
4/22	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
4/23	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
4/24	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
4/25	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
4/28	REACH (after school program for Gr 3-8) 3:30-5:00PM
4/30	Last day of REACH - 3:30-5:00PM
5/1	Mid 4th Quarter
5/1	2nd Gr Tree Planting Ceremony
5/5	Final day to submit PTO candy orders
5/5-5/9	Staff Appreciation Week
5/8	5th-12th Gr Band Concert - 6:30PM - HS Gym
5/9	5th/6th Gr Solar Ovens completed
5/9	Popcorn Friday - sponsored by Happy Trails Pre-School
5/9	PTO Reverse Blue Hawk Drawing
5/12	PTO Meeting - 5:00PM - Elementary
5/13	K-6 Choir Concert - 6:30PM - JH Gym
5/14	Early Childhood Screening (Birth-5) call for appt.
5/16	5th/6th Gr Egg Cart Races
5/16	3rd Gr Field Trip - TFalls Dam
5/20	3rd Gr Field Trip - Noxon Dam
5/23	2nd Gr Field Trip - Harlow's Bison Ranch
5/26	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
5/27	6th Gr Field Trip - Fort Missoula
5/28	Graduation Walk - 10:30AM - Elementary
5/29	4th Gr Field Trip - Clark Fork Fish Hatchery
5/29	5th Gr Field Trip - Conrad Mansion
5/30	3rd Gr Virtual Field Trip - Butterfly House
5/31	PTO Box Tops Challenge ends - \$250 goal
5/31	High School Graduation

Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,
Principal

School web site:

<https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net>



ThompsonFallsSchools



Turn Your Words Into Gold: The Art of Enforceable Statements

Imagine this: You ask your child to clean up their room, and without a second reminder or a raised voice, it's done. Sounds like a dream, right? For many parents, getting children to listen and follow through on requests can feel like an uphill battle. But what if there was a way to transform your words into something as valuable and effective as gold—commands that your kids actually listen to? Enter the world of enforceable statements, a cornerstone of the Love and Logic approach that can revolutionize how you communicate with your children.

What Are Enforceable Statements?

Enforceable statements are the secret sauce to getting kids to listen and act, not because you're forcing them, but because you're giving them clear choices within boundaries that you control. These statements are simple, yet powerful—they focus on what you as a parent can do, rather than what your child must do. This shift in language empowers you and reduces the chances of a power struggle, making your words not just heard, but respected. Why do they work so well? It's all about psychology. Children naturally push back against commands, especially when they feel cornered or powerless. By using enforceable statements, you place the responsibility of choice back in their hands, within the limits you've set. It's a win-win: they feel in control, and you get the desired behavior without the fight.

The Difference Between Enforceable and Unenforceable Statements

Let's look at the common unenforceable statements we often use: "Stop fighting!" or "Hurry up!" While these commands are clear, they're not enforceable—what can you really do if your child chooses not to comply? This is where frustration builds, and repeated warnings or raised voices tend to follow. Now, let's turn those unenforceable statements into enforceable ones: Instead of "Stop fighting!" try saying, "I'll be happy to talk to you when your voices are calm." Instead of "Hurry up!" say, "We will leave as soon as you're ready." In both examples, you're expressing what you will do in response to their actions, rather than demanding they change their behavior. This subtle shift makes all the difference. It puts the ball in their court, and because they know you mean what you say, they're more likely to make the choice you hope for. Creating enforceable statements is easier than you might think, and with a little practice, it will become second nature. Here's a simple guide to get you started:

1. **Focus on What You Can Control:** Begin your statements with "I will" or "I am," focusing on what you can do, not what you want your child to do.
2. **Be Specific and Concise:** Keep your language clear and to the point. Avoid lengthy explanations—children respond best to simple, direct statements.
3. **Use Positive Language:** Frame your statements in a positive way, showing what will happen, rather than what won't. For example, "I'll serve dinner when the table is set," instead of, "No dinner until the table is set."
4. **Prepare for Follow-Through:** Be ready to act on your statements. Consistency is key, so make sure you're prepared to follow through every time. Take a moment to practice. Write down a few unenforceable statements you find yourself using often. Now, try transforming them into enforceable ones using the tips above. The more you practice, the more natural this will feel, and you'll soon notice a significant change in how your children respond to you.

Benefits of Using Enforceable Statements

The benefits of using enforceable statements extend far beyond immediate compliance. Here are just a few reasons why this approach is so powerful: **Improved Compliance:** When children understand that the consequences are within your control and will be consistently enforced, they're more likely to follow through. **Reduced Power Struggles:** Enforceable statements shift the responsibility to the child, reducing the likelihood of arguments and resistance. They are less likely to push back when they feel they are making their own choices within your defined limits. **Building Respect and Trust:** This approach fosters mutual respect. Children learn that you mean what you say, and that trust builds over time as they see you consistently follow through with empathy and love.

Common Mistakes To Avoid

While enforceable statements are highly effective, there are some common pitfalls to be aware of:

Avoid Empty Threats: If you make a statement, be sure you can enforce it. Empty threats undermine your credibility and teach children that your words are negotiable.

Don't Nag or Lecture: Say it once and mean it. Repeating yourself or escalating to lectures dilutes the power of your statement and invites resistance.

Enforceable statements are a game-changer in parenting. They transform everyday commands into opportunities for your child to make responsible choices, all while preserving your authority and reducing stress. By focusing on what you can control and following through consistently, you'll notice a positive shift in your household dynamics. Give enforceable statements a try in your daily routine and experience the difference for yourself. Remember, parenting is a journey—each day offers new opportunities to grow, learn, and strengthen your bond with your child.

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