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Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Kindergarten through 8th grade students will be held on November 5th and November 12th this year. Most families have requested evening conferences in the past, so we decided to offer all evening conferences this year. Your student will be bringing home a slip for you to indicate the date that may work best for you. Please return that to classroom teachers by **Monday, October 27th**. Teachers will be meeting next week to coordinate the scheduling of conferences for all K-8 students. We do our best to coordinate between staff to meet the needs of all families, the best we can. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Red Ribbon Week

As always, we will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week next week, by encouraging students to say NO to drugs and alcohol. Please encourage your student(s) to take part each day.

- Monday, Oct. 27th:** "Celebrate Red Ribbon Week" - Wear something red
- Tuesday, Oct. 28th:** "Staying drug free is no sweat" - Wear sweatpants
- Wednesday, Oct. 29th:** "Team up against Drugs" - Wear team gear
- Thursday, Oct. 30th:** "Drugs are scary" - Wear your school-appropriate costume
- Friday, Oct. 31st:** No School - PIR Day

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

As the PTO's Charleston Wraps Fundraiser drew to a close last night there were lots of surprised and delighted faces when they learned that this fundraiser had raised just over \$6,500. This was only possible through the efforts of many and PTO sends out a huge THANK YOU to all who supported this cause. Student prizes should arrive here within the next 2 week and will be awarded when they arrive. If you missed out, the link (<https://charlestonwrap.com/>) will remain open until December 7th, and while profit from those sales will not be credited to any particular student, it will go to increase the PTO's total profit.

STUDENT PHOTOS

Student photos, taken by Legacy Photography, are here! To ensure that they arrive home safely and in good condition, we will distributed them at Parent Teacher Conferences. If you would like your student's photo sooner, feel free to stop by the office, or call and we will send them home with your student.

November Fun Fridays

Our Student Council has chosen the themes for FUN FRIDAYS in November.

- November 7th - Everything but a backpack
- November 14th - Mustache and crazy hair day
- November 21st - Rainbow Day

Important Happenings

- 10/23 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 10/24 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/24 FUN FRIDAY - Country / Western Day
- 10/24 PTO Popcorn Friday-sponsored by The Good Family
- 10/24 Cross Country State Send Off - 12:25-12:30PM
- 10/24 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 10/27-10/31 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/27 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 10/27 "Celebrate Red Ribbon Week" - wear red
- 10/28 "Staying Drug Free is No Sweat"-wear sweatpants
- 10/28 JH/HS Fall Concert - 6:30PM - High School
- 10/29 "Team Up Against Drugs" - wear team gear
- 10/29 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 10/30 "Drugs Are Scary" - wear school appropriate costume
- 10/30 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 10/31 No School - PIR Day**
- 11/2 Daylight Savings Time - fall back 1 hour
- 11/3 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 11/3-11/6 Scholastic Book Fair
- 11/5 NO REACH
- 11/5 K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/6 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 11/7 FUN FRIDAY - Everything But A Backpack Day
- 11/7 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 11/10 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 11/12 NO REACH
- 11/12 K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/13 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 11/14 FUN FRIDAY - Mustache & Crazy Hair Day
- 11/14 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 11/17 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 11/19 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM

Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,
Principal

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



How to Help Kids Handle Poor Grades: Inspire Them to Love Learning

By now this school year, grades have started to appear. If your kids are bringing home disappointing grades, it's normal to feel upset and respond with frustration, lectures, or anger. The best way to handle poor grades isn't through lectures or punishment, it's by inspiring kids to learn. When kids develop a love of learning, they naturally become motivated, confident, and capable of improving their grades on their own.

Shift the Focus from Grades to Growth

Parents often take their child's academic struggles personally. Remember that responsibility for learning belongs to the child. Encourage and guide your child, but don't do the learning for them. Keep these points in mind:

- Parents cannot do the learning for their children.
- Many highly accomplished individuals faced academic challenges during their youth.
- Always, always respond either genuine empathy and understanding.

Respond with Empathy, Not Anger

When your child brings home disappointing grades, respond with empathy instead of anger. Instead of saying, "*These grades are unacceptable!*", say, "*I bet these grades are really disappointing for you. Please let me know if I can help in any way. Remember, this doesn't change the way I feel about you!*" This approach teaches responsibility, builds emotional safety, and shows your child that mistakes are part of learning - not a measure of their worth.

Creating a Positive Learning Environment at Home

There's nothing wrong with parents providing help if kids do their own homework. It is natural for parents to care about their children's homework, but they should follow some basic guidelines so that they can help in productive ways and avoid common pitfalls. Here are some examples.

Guidelines for Productive Homework Help

1. **Provide help only if your child wants it from you.** Parents should not force help on their kids without giving them the option to decline the help. They must have a sense of control over their work.
2. **Help only when you know your child is listening to their teacher.** Kids sometimes do not pay attention in class and rely on getting help from their parents at home. Ask your child how the teacher described the homework and how it should be done.
3. **Help only as long as there is no frustration or anger.** Create an atmosphere that will develop and maintain positive feelings about learning. Anger and frustration will destroy this atmosphere and interfere with learning and your relationship with your child.
4. **Provide help in short segments to allow them to see themselves succeed.** If parents always sit with their kids while they do their homework, kids will believe that they can only succeed when their parents are beside them. Give guidance but move away and let your kids work on their own and discover solutions on their own.

Motivate Kids by Celebrating Effort, Not Just Results

To inspire kids to learn, focus on effort and progress instead of results. When you see your child succeed say, "*How did you do that?*" This helps them connect success to their actions and effort. You can ask:

- "*Were you working hard?*"
- "*Did you try a new approach?*"
- "*What do you think made that work so well?*"

Helping kids with academic performance isn't about fixing homework, it's about inspiring the love of learning. My book, [*From Bad Grades to a Great Life: Unlocking the Mystery of Achievement for Your Child*](#), provides many helpful insights and approaches for instilling the love of learning in your kids.

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

Contact our school counselor, Ms. Jessy Lewis, for more info.