

DALTON ELEMENTARY NEWS



September 2009

Volume 9 Issue 1

Insert

Breakfast & Lunch Menu



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Coming in October

October 6 & 7 (Elementary)	Picture Day
October 9th	Superintendent's Conference Day
October 12	Columbus Day
	No School
October 16th	Interim Reports K-5
October 31	Halloween

Visit us on the Web

www.keshequa.org

Wow! September has gone by so quickly. It is terrific to see all of our students back in the building. They seem to be adjusting to their new classes and schedules quite well. October looks to be a busy month. Student pictures, fire and bus safety presentations are just a few of the activities scheduled for our students. Many of our clubs will also begin meeting in October. Our Open House is scheduled for October 21st. I hope you are able to join us. The students love this opportunity to show off their classrooms and projects that they have been working on.

I wanted to add a few reminders about our school day and the procedures that we have for arrival and dismissal. Sometimes these may seem inconvenient but all have been put in place to help us ensure student safety. Your efforts and cooperation in achieving that goal are greatly appreciated.

The school day begins at 8:15am. If your child is walking or being dropped off at school they should not arrive before 7:55am. Bus students will be dropped off at that time as well. We do ask that students who will be eating breakfast in school be here at 7:55am in order to have enough time to eat before the day begins.

Student dismissal varies between grade levels but begins about 2:20. Buses depart the school at 2:35. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, please do not arrive at the school until at least 2:15 pm. Those who arrive early should park in our parking lot located near the kindergarten wing. Also, we request that if you will be in the building for more than five minutes that you not park in the loop but in the designated visitor parking spaces. All students being picked up, including pre-k students, need to be signed out and dismissed from the cafeteria. Please wait for your child in the cafeteria instead of the hallways.

We have many students that ride the bus home at the end of the day. The bus garage sends us a daily list of any bus changes. Please send a note in with your child in the morning if they will not be riding their usual bus home. When transportation changes are made in the afternoon it makes it difficult to ensure that all the necessary people are notified.

Thank you very much for your support,

Ami Hunt

Elementary Principal

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'To be a teacher you must be a prophet - because you are trying to prepare people for a world thirty to fifty years into the future.' Gordon Brown MIT

Welcome to Kindergarten

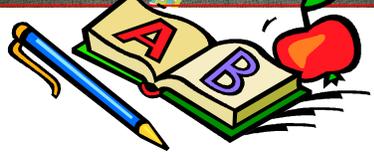
Kindergarten News

Kindergarten started the school year off with an orientation day on September 8th. The students and parents were able to spend time in the classrooms with the teachers and become familiar with Kindergarten routines and expectations. The parents also met with Ivan Beardsley to confirm the children's bus routes while the boys and girls had a bus safety lesson on a school bus. It

was a great way to help the children feel comfortable about starting a full day of school.

This month the Kindergartners have been busy learning classroom and school rules. All the children have also been practicing letter naming and letter matching during reading time. At math time they have sorted a variety of objects by size, color, and shape.

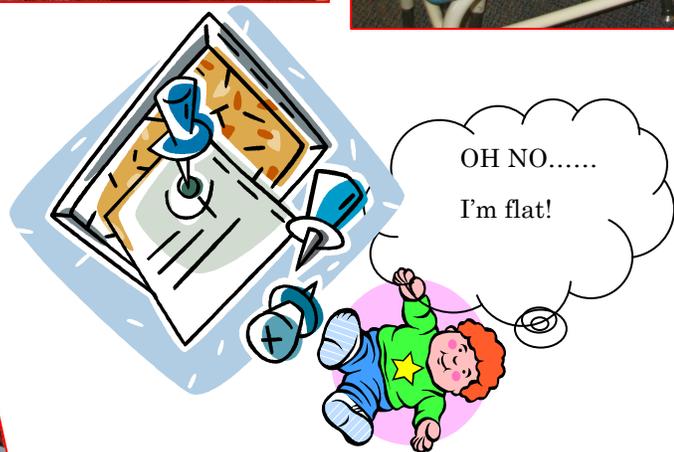
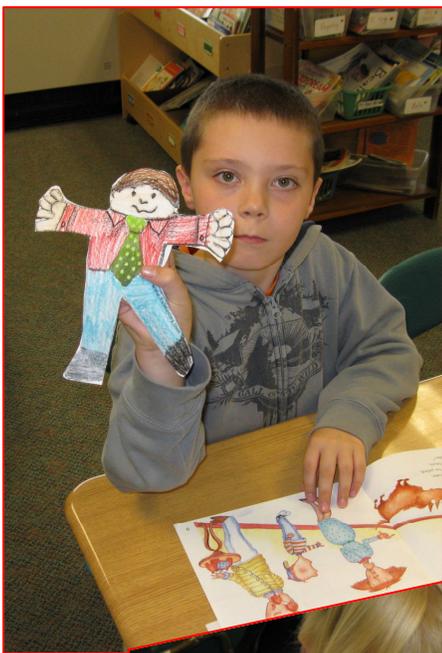
Everyone is completing a social studies unit about families. As a final project, each child will trace and cut out patterns to make a large paper doll that resembles him or herself. The doll will be decorated with information about the child. Look for these finished projects in the Kindergarten area soon!



First Grade's Adventures of Flat Stanley

The first graders in Mrs. Beachel's class have started a project that will continue throughout the school year. They have listened to the book Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. In this story a boy named Stanley is flattened by a bulletin board that falls on him during the night. When he awakens the next morning he is only half an inch thick! Stanley proceeds to have many new adventures such as being flown as a kite and helping to catch dangerous art thieves.

The adventure that the students will focus on is one in which Stanley is rolled up and mailed to a friend in California in an effort to save on travel expenses. Each student will decorate their own Flat Stanley and we will mail these paper cut-outs to addresses that the students provide. When our responses arrive we read about the exciting things Stanley did while vacationing and then plot his location on a map. This project is a fun way to explore literature, hear about new places, and learn map skills. We look forward to sending our Stanley's soon!



First Graders learned about the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly first hand.

For days they watched the caterpillar eat greedily. Then one day the students came to school and the caterpillar had formed a chrysalis.

Waiting patiently for the butterfly to emerge was not easy for first graders...we checked daily to see if it had become a butterfly.

Finally the day came and we got to see it come out! What an amazing thing to observe!



Here is our caterpillar as the Chrysalis has become clear in color.



Here is the butterfly as it emerges from the chrysalis.



Here is the butterfly as it begins to dry its wings. Notice how the wings are curled up.

Swing Choir

Select Chorus (now known as "Swing Choir") will begin rehearsals after school beginning on Wednesday, September 30th.

2nd and 3rd Grade chorus rehearsals begin on Thursday, October 1st, after school (please send a snack and drink in with your child.)

What We Do in Third Grade

We do a lot like Math, Cursive, Science, and Social Studies.

We do Reading and have Centers. I think all of us like Centers.

Some people think Cursive is hard but most of us like it. So far in Math we are doing thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones.

We have Art, Music and Library once a week. We have Computer two times a week, and Physical Education four times a week.

We are very busy, but we like third grade!

by : Jada Luther,
Tori Weber and
Alyssa Cartwright

(from: Mrs. DeMarco's 3rd Grade Classroom)



YEAH!!

THE ADVENTURE COURSE/FITNESS TRAIL

The adventure course/fitness trail was built 3 years ago. We received the money from a grant and had help from faculty members, community members and the Boy Scouts. We all worked together to clean the woods and build the course.

We use the course two to three times a year in Physical Education (PE). Each element has a name and purpose (such as Wild Woosy, Nitro Crossing and Trust Fall.) All of the elements are used to provide teamwork, trust, communication and much more.

A big thank you to everyone who helped and also to Nunda Lumber for all of the materials they donated to help build the course/fitness trail.



October 10th is National Metric Day

PEACE BUILDERS

ADAM YENCER
JACOB ELLIOTT
CLAY DAVIS
MACY BOSS
MADYSON SIMMONS
ANTHONY DIETZ
ALYSSA CARTWRIGHT

PEACE BUILDERS PLEDGE

I am a peace builder
I pledge to praise people
To give up put-downs
To seek wise people
To notice and speak up
about hurts that I have caused
To right wrongs
I will build peace at home at
school and in my community
each day.

JADA LUTHER
KEARSTIN SCHARET
ERIC REED
ANGELINA CUTLER
ALLISON GALTON
BRENDAN WHITE
KELSEA MARTIN

PEACE COACHES AND BUS SAFETY

Our students have been doing a great job of building peace in school, but behavior on the school bus still needs some improvement. Starting on Monday, September 28, we're beginning our "school isn't over until you get off the bus" campaign". Our fifth grade students who have volunteered to be Peace Coaches will greet students as they get on the bus at the end of the day and remind them of the expected behaviors while on the bus. Peace Coaches will be identified by their white Peacebuilder shirts and their "peace coach" dog tags. Each Peace Coach will have a copy of the Top 10 Expected Behaviors On The Bus poster to remind students to act safely on their ride home. The top 10 list was actually developed by last years' first graders with the help of Mrs. Hunt and Mr. Wiggins. The top 10 list:

1. USE POLITE WORDS
2. SIT DOWN AND STAY SEATED
3. KEEP YOUR HANDS AND FEET TO YOURSELF

4. BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT IF YOU'RE ASKED TO
5. KEEP THE AISLES CLEAR
6. USE AN INDOOR VOICE AND BE QUIET AT THE RAILROAD TRACKS
7. BE FAIR TO OTHERS
8. WAIT TO EAT UNTIL AFTER YOU GET OFF THE BUS
9. RESPECT THE BUS-PLEASE PICK UP
10. LISTEN TO YOUR BUS DRIVERS DIRECTIONS

With everyone's cooperation, our students' bus ride can become more enjoyable and safer. If you have any questions about the Peace Coach program, please contact Mr. Wiggins at extension 1128.

Library Media Center News

By Joan Ellison

The library is a very busy place this fall! If you have a student in grades 3-5 who would like to join PageTurners, have him/her see Mrs. Ellison. PageTurners is a group that meets every other Thursday after school. The students read as many books as possible from the official PageTurners lists and then twice a year compete against other schools to see who knows the most about the books they have read. It is a fun group and every year the students really seem to enjoy it. Our first meeting was September 24th, but if your student would still like to join, it's not too late.

Our visiting author is coming in November this year! Barbara Palmer will be visiting our school on Thursday, November 19th. We will be starting soon to prepare for her visit. Mrs. Strathearn requested this author/illustrator, so she will be doing something exciting in the art room to help prepare. More information will be coming as we get closer to the date.

Have a wonderful fall!

Information for Students and Parents

Some things to know about the flu

During the spring of 2009 a new flu virus started making people sick in the United States and throughout the world. At first this illness was called “swine flu,” but now you may hear it called novel (new) H1N1 influenza. To date, most people effected with the novel H1N1 flu virus have experienced mild to moderate illness, similar to seasonal flu. However, the flu can be serious, and many more people may get the flu this school year.

What can you do?

- Get the seasonal flu vaccine now. It won't protect you from novel H1N1 flu, but seasonal flu is also circulating and can make you just as sick.
- Get the novel H1N1 flu vaccine as soon as it is available, according to the priority groups established by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Everyone should eventually be able to get the novel H1N1 flu vaccine, but those at highest priority are:
 - Pregnant women
 - Health care workers and emergency medical responders
 - People caring for infants under 6 months of age
 - Children and young adults from 6 months to 24 years
 - People aged 25 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes)
- Sick kids should stay home! They should NOT go to school, work, or out in public. If you think you have the flu, you should stay home and away from others. Individuals with flu-like symptoms should remain home for at least 24 hours after fever has disappeared (without the use of fever-reducing medication).
- Practice healthy habits. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with a tissue – not your hand. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Wash hands often with soap and warm water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Wash and rub hands for 20 seconds – as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Flu in our school

We expect that some people in our school will get the flu. Treatment for the novel H1N1 flu is the same as for seasonal flu. Rest, fluids and medicine to reduce body aches and fever, are all that most of us need to recover. For people with certain underlying medical conditions, such as those with asthma and other chronic diseases, flu can be more serious, and these individuals should contact their health care provider.

About school closures

The H1N1 flu outbreak that first occurred in the spring of 2009 taught us that closing schools does not reduce the spread of the novel H1N1 flu. This flu moves too fast. That's why federal, state and local officials no longer recommend school closures due to the flu except in special circumstances. For example, some schools might close because of high student, faculty or staff absenteeism. Your family should plan what they will do if school is closed for a time.

More information about the flu is available at www.nyhealth.gov and www.flu.gov.

This information is brought to you by the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Education Department, and your local school.

September 2009

To The Keshequa School Community

Everyone at the Keshequa Central School is committed to the safety and health of our students and staff. As we begin the school year, we are providing the following information to everyone regarding the H1N1/Swine Flu.

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu at Keshequa. We want to keep the school open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. But, we need your help to do this.

We are working closely with the Livingston County Department of Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with the new information as it becomes available. We are planning to host a Livingston County Health Department Seasonal flu and H1N1 influenza vaccination clinic at Keshequa later this fall. We will notify you when such a clinic will be offered.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- *Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.*
- *Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable is a good idea.*
- *Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.*
- *Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.*

Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

For more information, see the accompanying flyer from the New York State Department of Health and visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of flu as they occur.

If you have any questions, please call our School Nurses, Nedra Stevens in the Nunda building at 468-2541 extension 2027 or Noreen Sanford at the Elementary building at 476-2234 extension 1148. Together we can continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone at Keshequa.

Marilyn Capawan

Superintendent of Schools

KESHEQUA CENTRAL SCHOOL

P.O. Box 517
Nunda, New York, 14517
Phone: (585) 468-2541

Dalton Elementary
Dalton, New York 14836
Phone: (585) 476-2234



Ami Hunt—Principal

1716 Church Street

**50 years ago Velcro
was invented.**



DALTON GOES GREEN

Recycling is back at Dalton Elementary. All classrooms are being asked to participate in paper recycling. Each classroom will have a recycle box that will be maintained by students and staff in the classroom. The recycle boxes will be sorted, the paper will be bagged in clear plastic bags, the bags will be tied shut and labeled with a green sticker, then placed beside the garbage can in the classroom. The custodial staff will place the sorted bags of recyclables in the recycling bin outside.

We have an expanded list of acceptable paper for recycling. Acceptable paper includes copy paper, colored paper, construction paper, index cards, newspaper, magazines, and catalogs. This is consistent with the paper recycling guidelines in local townships. Non-acceptable material includes staples, paper clips, wax paper, wrapping paper, and envelopes with cellophane windows.

Bag weight should be kept to about five pounds since custodians will be transporting bags out to the bin in the parking lot. In years past, Earth Club averaged half a ton of recycled paper per year. This number can be expected to rise, with more classes participating and more types of paper being recycled.

However, we also need to remember to “pre-cycle” and conserve paper as much as possible. That means use it up before recycling it, don’t throw usable paper in the recycle box, and use both sides whenever possible.

Earth Club is re-forming; Earth Club members will be assisting in implementing recycling in the classrooms and offices throughout the school.

The Teaching Assistants’ Corner

Do your children ever come home and say, “Mrs. (insert name) helped me today with my reading or math?” You probably have heard that and wonder who this person is. In the elementary school the answer is a Teaching Assistant. I know your question now is who or what is a Teaching Assistant. I will try and tell you.

Teaching Assistants, assist the teacher. In New York State Teaching Assistants must apply to the State, obtain fingerprint clearance, take the New York State Assessment of Teaching Skills Test, have college credits and become certified. All Teaching Assistants in the state must complete 75 hours of professional development every five years to maintain their certification.

Teaching Assistants are given a probationary appointment and must be observed in the classroom by a supervisor or principal on three separate occasions during the probationary period (one to three years) and annually after that. During these observations the assistant must demonstrate the ability to implement and reinforce techniques and subject matter previously taught by the teacher. Teaching assistants support children and assist them in learning classroom material and provide personal attention to students with special needs, help assess a student’s progress by observing their performance and record relevant data. The bottom line is that a teaching assistant works closely with your child on a daily basis.

Being a teaching assistant is a very rewarding career. Every time you see a child succeed at something they were struggling with, you feel their joy, and you know you do make a difference.

‘Out of the questions of students come most of the creative ideas and discoveries’. Ellen Langer