



Greetings from

Victoria Zelenak, Superintendent



Cape May City Elementary School NJ Governor's School of Excellence

January 2010

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,



___Can you believe it's 2010? I remember when it turned 2000, and 2010 seemed so far away. Now here we are! Are you making any resolutions? Any new goals? Just think about how fast 10 years went, and keep in mind that 2011 will be here in a New York minute. Make it a fantastic year, so next year at this time you will be able to say, "Wow, 2010 was a fantastic, exciting, enlightening, loving, healthy, peaceful, and prosperous year." Good luck to all of you and your families in the coming year. Be mindful in all that you do. Happy New Year!! ___

It's a New Year with New Things to Do!

To help the students continue to meet success with our monthly **Character Education Handwriting & Writing Program**, our theme for January is "Reaching for Greatness." K-6 students will copy a character education quote. Students from each class will be selected for the best handwriting awards. Also, students in grades 3-6 will be asked to write a paragraph or essay about the monthly quote. These students will read their essays during morning announcements to the whole school.

Here's January's Quote for Handwriting: "*We are all the same in this: The possibility for greatness lives inside each of us.*" ---*Wilma Rudolph*, one of the most celebrated female athletes of all times. She achieved greatness against great odds.

The essay for 3-6 graders is entitled “*Reaching for Greatness.*” Students will be asked to answer these three questions to help them write GREAT essays: 1. What is the greatest thing about you? 2. How can you share that greatness with other people? 3. How can sharing that greatness with other people help them or make the world a better place?

It's Worth Repeating

How can parents help their children with their handwriting and writing skills? Remember that **WRITING IS IMPORTANT, TOO.**

All parents are thrilled to hear their children read for the first time. But oftentimes, parents don't pay as much attention to the writing skills of their children.

Jane Kostelc, early childhood specialist at Parents as Teachers National Center in St. Louis, says that no matter what your child's age, he or she is learning to write. “When your baby uses her index finger and thumb to grasp objects, it is called the pincer grasp. This skill forms the basis for holding a pencil in a mature writing position.”

She recommends that parents let their toddlers play with materials of different textures and consistencies—such as shaving cream or play dough. This provides great stimulation for fine motor skill development. Unscrewing lids or turning doorknobs helps the toddler's wrists become strong, yet flexible.

Sitting beside your child and drawing helps him or her associate writing with comfort and joy during the preschool years.

Young children show a big interest in writing during pretend time. They also enjoy writing shopping lists, restaurant checks, and “To Do” lists. Give your children old calendars, notebooks, or address books to write in. Point out letters as you see billboards or street signs while out and about.

Older children enjoy writing projects, also. Have them list their favorite songs, tv shows, athletes, video games to practice handwriting. Have them write letters, postcards, and descriptions of themselves and their favorite friends and relatives to practice their grammar and sentence structure. **MAKE IT FUN!**

P.S. Some parents and teachers often ask, “Why do kids have to write in cursive when we have computers and word processing programs?” Recent research shows that writing in cursive helps students develop reading fluency. In other words, cursive helps a child read smoothly rather than sounding out the letters individually.



Recently a parent asked me how a child gets a Dolphin Note. **Here's how:** All staff members look to catch children being good. When they do, they will write the child's name on a Dolphin Club Note and put it in a box. At the end of the month, **there will be a drawing for each class.** The students whose names are drawn will have a "Chicken Lunch" in my office with me—Mrs. Zelenak. I buy the chicken from the Acme on Mondays when they have a special on their delicious fried chicken. The kids love it. December's winners are Ethan Woof, Haden Dendy, Sofia Rossi, Mikhail Ayala, Melanie Amador, Grace Melancon, Matthew Sehn, Gerardo Salmoran, Aspen McNellis, and Tristan Chambers. The first C.L. for the New Year is Mon., Jan. 11, 2010.

Here are the High Five Rules the children must follow for Dolphin Notes:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be There/Be Ready
4. Follow Directions
5. Keep Hands, Feet, Objects & Unkind Words to Yourself



Guest Speaker Program: January's theme is Local Businesses, Restaurants, & Real Estate Agencies. If you fall into one of these categories or know someone who does, please sign up to speak to one of PreK-6 grade classrooms. The purpose of this program is to bring local people (including parents) into our schools so they can see first hand what a great school we have. Plus, it gives the chance for the students to learn more about their community and the types of jobs and careers that may attract their interest and talents.



Ed Connect Phone Messages: In case we have snow, ice, or wicked winds, you may receive a phone call that school will be delayed or cancelled for the day. You don't have to call the school. I will call you on our Ed Connect Phone System. You may also watch Channel 40, 3, 6, or 10 for school closings. If school is delayed 2 hours or cancelled, the Before School Child Care Program and the Preschool AM session will be cancelled. If school is delayed one hour, the Preschool Program will start at 9:30.



Thank you for donating all those adorable pajamas, socks, and comfy bed toys for the needy children in Cape May County. The tree looked festive decorated in all those colorful and cute clothes. Thank you for your generosity and good taste in sleepwear!!



CAPE MAY WINNERS:

Congratulations to the students of the month for December: Arely Serrano-Vasquez, Parker Kistler, Aidan Perkins, Grace Wagner, Julia Gibson, Elijah Jackson, Bella Orłowicz, Gwen Orłowicz, Carrie Laffey, Ethan Woof, Sean Galvin, Camille Gathers, Savannah Bruno, Chase Woof, Hanna Cole, Sydney LaCosa, Joseph Galestok, Alexandra Goslin, Sarah McNeal, and Daniel Witucki.

Mark Your Calendars



Wed., Jan. 6: H1N1 vaccinations for all at Wildwood High School 4-7 pm

2:00 pm P.T.A. Meeting



Mon., Jan. 11: H1N1 vaccinations for all at Ocean City High School 4-7 pm



Tues., Jan. 12: 3:15 School Curriculum Meeting (Parents welcome)



Thurs., Jan. 14: 6:30 pm Board of Education Meeting.



Fri., Jan. 15: 1:05 P.M. Dismissal - Teacher In-Service



Mon., Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Day School closed



Wed., Jan. 20: 3:15 pm: T.A.S.K. (Team Advocacy for our School Kids)



Mon., Jan. 25: 1:30 School Safety and Security Meeting

vzelenak@capemaycityschool.org or call 884-8485

This newsletter may also be viewed at www.capemaycityschool.org