



PAW PONDERINGS

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 2

Ardmore School - 27001 Greater Mack - St Clair Shores, MI 48081

Mrs. Donna Block, Principal

M.E.A.P. Testing

The 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be taking the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (M.E.A.P) test beginning the week of October 13 through the end of October. The third graders will be tested in Math, Reading & Language Arts. The fourth graders will be tested in Reading and Math and the fifth graders will be tested in Writing, Social Studies and Science.

You can help your child be ready for the test by ensuring he or she has a good night's sleep and eats right! Here are a few helpful tips.

Plan a peaceful night before the test. Don't overbook children in activities during this period. Turn off the TV, read, relax and get to bed early.

It is also a good idea to have a good breakfast before a test. Being hungry can be distracting. Balanced meals with plenty of protein will be the most helpful. A good breakfast menu would be a glass of milk, cereal (hot if you can), a piece of fruit or glass of juice and toast with a dab of peanut butter for extra protein.

SAFETY AT ARDMORE

The old adage, "It takes a village to raise a child," is true where child safety is the issue. And, sometimes when we put the safety of children first, it means the adults have to experience some inconvenience. In particular, I am referring to our parking lot and street congestion, before and after school. The parking lot is small, and is not conducive for use as a drop-off and pick-up zone. Additionally, the gate remains closed during the most critical times of the morning and afternoon, when children are walking on the sidewalk in front of it. For the safety of all, if you find yourself inside the gate when it is closed, please know it will not be opened until all the walkers have passed before it. It also will not be opened prematurely to let you drive into the lot from the street.

Another area of concern is curb parking, also during morning and afternoon arrival and dismissal. If you are using the valet-style drop off on Greater Mack or Louise, it is CRITICAL that you drop your child off and GO. Please remember to NEVER park when you are in that line of traffic. One person parking, anywhere along the stream of cars will cause that entire system to fail. If you wish to park, find a place where you can legally park that is NOT in that particular traffic pattern. I realize this may be an inconvenience, but again, the safety of all children is paramount.

It has been reported to me that adults are ignoring our safety patrol students, and even the adult crossing guards. Particularly, when parents are in a hurry, or when parents are told they cannot park in a specific area, some have been rude, disrespectful and have even used inappropriate language with the safety workers. Please remember that the crew of people assisting outside are there for the safety of YOUR children, as well as ALL children. Sometimes, following the system will result in some inconvenience, but it serves the common good, and it is just a few minutes out of the day.

Bicycles have become a safety concern, too. The bike riders have been instructed to walk their bikes any and everywhere on school property. The sidewalks along Louise and Greater Mack are included in this walking zone as well. Students may not mount their bikes until they have crossed the street in a pedestrian crosswalk and are completely off school property. Sitting on the seat of the bike, with legs straddled over it, "walking" the bike along is not acceptable. Students are to actually stand on one side of the bike to walk it, with both hands holding the handlebars.

Finally, in the cafeteria, there are some issues to consider. Children have been instructed to keep their hands, their feet and their property to themselves in all areas of the school. This is particularly relevant in the cafeteria. Children are not to share food, and they must not "joke" around with each other's property. Some students sit high on their knees, and this lends them a greater opportunity to reach across the table to disturb another's lunch. I have taught the students to "sit on their sitters" and keep all parts of themselves to themselves. Also, children are to use quieter restaurant voices over outdoor recess voices, and behave in a manner that parents would expect. For the weeks up to now, all of the cafeteria staff has been instructing children on proper procedures. The time has now arrived where consequences will result for children who continue to have challenges in the cafeteria.

Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity

It is the policy of the Board that no student in this District shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, height, weight, and/or any other legally protected characteristic, be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in its programs and/or activities.



Counselor's Corner



Although it may seem like there is still lots of time, the holidays are fast approaching and these are difficult times. Many of the organizations that are willing to help want names at the beginning of November. So, if your family, or another family you know, needs assistance during the holidays, please let me or Mrs. Block know as soon as possible. All names and information will be kept confidential. Families will be contacted before being placed on lists for help, to assure that they are comfortable with receiving assistance. Due to the number of families in need of assistance, unfortunately we may not be able to provide assistance to all who respond. You may contact me by phone 586-445-4160 (Ext. 2102) or by email: bmorisette@scslakeview-k12.com. You may also contact Mrs. Block at dblock@scslakeview-k12.com. We must have all names and contact information by October 30. We cannot submit names after this date. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Jo Morisette, Elementary School Counselor

PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

SCHOOL PICTURES WILL BE DELIVERED
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

PICTURE ABSENTEE/RETAKE DAY IS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 FROM 9am
UNTIL 11am. IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS
RETAKES, PLEASE SEND YOUR ORIGINAL
PICTURE PACKAGE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4. IF YOUR
CHILD WAS ABSENT ON PICTURE DAY
PLEASE SEND PICTURE ENVELOPE, WITH
SELECTED PACKAGE MARKED AND PAYMENT.
EXTRA ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
SCHOOL OFFICE.

THANK YOU !

Fall Festival

October 30, 2009 6:00-8:00

We are really looking forward to a fun evening filled with a variety of games, cake walk, nachos, popcorn, donuts & cider, as well as tattoos and 'sandy candy'. Students are *encouraged* to wear Halloween costumes for this special evening.

Please remember this is a family event. Students must be accompanied by a parent.

Conference Sign-Up is scheduled in Room 1, for your convenience.

If you wear your costume or bring a box of tissue you get a free ticket to use in the game room !

Mom to Mom Sale

The St. Isaac Jogues Parents Club in St. Clair Shores is sponsoring their Fall Mom to Mom Sale on Saturday, October 17, 2009. Early bird shopping will be from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. for special admission of \$2 at the door. General admission from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is \$1.00 at the door. The sale will feature 100 tables of children's clothing, toys and furniture. **NO STROLLERS PLEASE.** St. Isaac's is located off 10 Mile Rd. between Little Mack and Harper. For more information, contact JoLynn @ (586) 939-9414.

Recycling Brigade Turns Trash to Treasure

Ardmore parent, Mr. Connolly, is dedicating some of his time each day to pursue an easy method of fundraising for our school. At the end of each lunch period, we collect juice pouches (Capri Sun and all other brands as well). In turn, Mr. Connolly retrieves them each day, takes them home and cleans them. When he sends the pouches into the company, they will send us 2¢! There are other products that qualify as well, including *Sunny D* UPC codes, for starters. If you drink *Sunny D* at home, please consider sending the UPC codes to the school office in a clear ziplock bag. When we've collected enough, we will send them in as well. This is recycling at its best, and many thanks go out to Mr. Connolly for spearheading this great idea. We will post other qualifying products as well, in the future.

ARDMORE PTO NEWSLETTER

We wanted to address a few of our most commonly asked questions.

Do you need to be a board member to chair/co-chair events?

No, the PTO is always looking for parents who would like to take on a school event. The PTO sponsors all of Ardmore's events and board members are at every event. We are more than happy to walk you through your event(s) of choice. Let us know if you are interested!

If I attend the meetings, does my vote count on new decisions being executed?

Yes, any parent who attends our meetings has the right to vote on any decision that needs board approval to be implemented.

May I suggest & implement new activities for my child's school?

Yes, the PTO is always looking for fresh and exciting new ideas to promote at Ardmore. Please bring any new thoughts and activities you would like to see implemented to our attention and together we can brainstorm on how to get the activity/event started.

*****Next PTO Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15h @ 6:30 PM in the library*****

We have moved the Ardmore PTO chat group page to the following address:

Here is the site URL and email address:

URL: <http://sites.google.com/site/ardmoreelementarypto/>
<http://groups.google.com/group/ardmorepto>

Email: ardmorepto@googlegroups.com

We will no longer use Yahoo for our school message group.

Ardmore PTO moved the chat group and website in efforts to make the access easier for all families.

Thank you for your patience, we hope this works well for everyone.

Don't forget to also check the school PTO website for updates on upcoming activities and events at: <http://sites.google.com/site/ardmoreelementarypto/home>

CONGRATULATIONS !! The Garden Club conducted its first harvest from the cabbage patch September 30. The cabbages will be appreciated by a local soup kitchen !

