

J.B.S. Press



January, 2014

a “Short” report
by Mrs. Short, Principal

The *Thirty Million Words*® Initiative is an innovative parent-directed program designed to harness the power of parent language to build a child’s brain and impact his or her future. The link to find out more is: <http://tmw.org/>. This program is designed for the needs of children from birth to 3 years old and is currently in operation in Chicago. In looking at it, I discovered three tools which are good for all of us who work with children of all ages. They are the 3 T’s.



Tune In by paying attention to what your child is focused on or communicating with you.

Talk More with your child using lots of descriptive words to build his/her vocabulary.

Take Turns with your child by engaging in his/her conversation.

I hope you will incorporate the 3 T’s in your interactions with your children.

I have included the attendance section of the handbook in this month’s newsletter. Although it does not specifically address students leaving before 2:00 p.m., please make note of the message from Mrs. Kellams in her “Pointers from Pam” article below.

Of all the determiners of school success, good attendance is one of the most important.

Pointer; from Pam



by Mrs. Kellams, Secretary

Parents, please try your hardest to call before 1:30 if you have a change in transportation for your child(ren). If you call after that time, it may be impossible to deliver the message before dismissal time.

Some parents are coming to the school office before 2:00 to pick up their children. Students will **not** be allowed to leave class early, unless an early dismissal is pre-arranged due to a medical appointment or emergency family situation. Students are released from their classrooms at 2:00; education is being delivered until 2:00 p.m. Asking for a student early is considered the same as bringing a student to school late.

On two hour delays, students may not be dropped off until 9:20, as that is the time our staff is ready to supervise them. The Indianapolis TV stations, as well as the Greenfield radio station, the G-C website and your alert system should be functioning to let you know of any changes in school schedules. If you are not being alerted and have a school-aged child, let us know. At this time, preschool families are not in the alert system.



Math Minute

by Mrs. Cooney, Math Coach

“Model with mathematics” is the fourth Standard for Mathematical Practice, and it calls for students to see math in everyday situations. As home life changes, our students are encountering less opportunities to see and use math at home. Recently when teaching second and third graders about money and making change, I realized how seldom I use cash in a week. In many homes the only clocks are digital, yet we are tasked with teaching the students to read analog clocks. So we need to build more connections for our students as to why these systems function this way, and how we can best learn them and use them.

Fortunately in the US our monetary system is grounded in base ten – unlike the rest of our measurement system- thank you Benjamin Franklin! Understanding money reinforces number sense and leads directly into understanding decimals. But time with its roots in the circle is a different story. The Babylonians used a sexagesimal (base 60) system that was so functional that today, 4000 years later, we still use it every day -- whenever we tell time or refer to degrees of a circle. So in teaching time it helps to explain why the hour is based on 60 minutes and how that base 60 is coming up again in measuring angles. For me it is always easier to remember something that makes sense and we need our students to see that math makes sense.

Measuring time and circles with the same system makes sense because originally all the calculations for time were based on the movement of the sun in an arc across the skies, the phases of the moon, and the change of the seasons based on the rotation of a sphere. The Babylonians were “Modeling with Mathematics” when they developed methods for keeping track of the passage of time.

Isn't math fascinating?

READING TIP



by Mrs. Dudley, Reading Coach

Good readers form mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting him see it. Then, ask him to guess what the illustrations look like. Examples: How are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy?

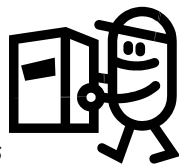
Library News



by Mrs. Jaeck, Library Assistant

Be sure to use the library search website, <http://destiny.gcsc.k12.in.us>, to see which books are available in our JBS library.

Watch for information about our next Book Fair: February 10-14. Contact me if you could help any during that week.

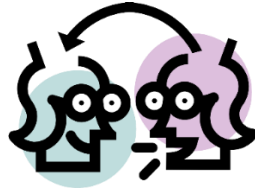


Collections at School

- *General Mills Box Tops
- *Target Points
- *Pop-tabs
- *Marsh Points (Code #28577)

- *Tyson Labels
- *Campbell's Labels
- *Paper in the Arbitibi Recycling Bin

Conscious Discipline Tip



Our school uses the concepts of *Conscious Discipline*, which is a program created by Dr. Becky Bailey. It is based on brain research and centers around keeping children safe.

The seven principles of *Conscious Discipline* include:

1. Composure
2. Encouragement
3. Assertiveness
4. Choices
5. Positive Intent
6. Empathy
7. Consequences

Conscious Discipline tells us that the benefit of giving children choices is that it leads to increased self-esteem and willpower. Choices trigger the release of the brain's optimal thinking chemicals, endorphins. Children should be encouraged to own their choices and take some responsibility for them. If they choose to hit their sibling, they should state the reason why they did it, not lie about doing it. When a child blames others for his/her behavior, ask them, "Who is the boss of you?" Follow their answer with, "What could you do differently if you were the boss of you?" Or, "How sad. It must be hard for you with your brother/sister bossing you all the time."

Children should be offered two positive choices. A positive and a negative choice is not really a choice but a manipulation. Two positive choices optimize the chance for cooperation.

Point out to children the many choices they are always making in their daily lives.

If you wish to know more about techniques to give choices to your children or to help them own their choices, contact Mrs. Short or Mrs. Harpold. If you are a Facebook user, I encourage you to "like" *Conscious Discipline*.

Want to borrow a copy of the *Conscious Discipline* book? Please ask!!!

P.T.O. News

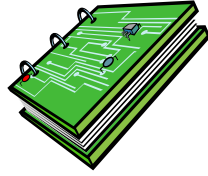


by The Officers

With the holidays over, please send in your General Mills Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education in Ziploc baggies or envelopes with your child's name(s) on them. They need to be packaged and sent in to receive our rewards.

Audrey Atkinson, chair of the Santa Shop, wants to thank the following for helping with this year's Santa Shop: Jamie Mayberry, Laura Clark, Sarah Clark, Diane Huff, Courtney Kellams, Aariah Yazell, Tommy Yazell and Dakota Atkinson.

Focus on the JB\$ Family Handbook



Except for kindergarten families, there were no paper handbooks distributed this school year. The handbook is located online at our website: jbs.gcsc.k12.in.us. If you need a paper copy, contact the front office at 462-4491. Below are excerpts from the handbook.

ATTENDANCE

Good school attendance is an important ingredient in achieving success in school. We expect each child to be in school every day unless they are sick. Each day lost can really never be regained, even though all assignments are made up.

We do recognize that absences are unavoidable in certain instances. The only excused absences recognized are:

- *Personal Illness
- *Quarantine of the home
- *Observance of religious holiday
- *Required court appearance or probation appointment
- *An emergency or set of circumstances as approved by the principal
- *Illness in the family
- *Death of a relative
- *Attendance at 4H related activities at the Indiana State Fair as approved by the principal.

All other absences not listed above will be considered unexcused. This includes family vacations while school is in session. Please contact the school when your child will be absent. You may report the absence to the office or leave a message in the General Voice Mailbox. Please make this phone call before 9:00 AM. If a telephone call is not feasible, please send a note with your youngster when they return to school. Your child will be marked Absent Unverified if we have not confirmed the reason for the absence within 24 hours.

Classroom teachers are not responsible for providing make up work prior to an unexcused absence. Class participation is an integral part of teaching and learning. It is consequently, an element in the determination of a student's grade. The participation element of a student's grade for class time lost during an excused absence will be waived.

Keeping up with schoolwork is important. If a child is absent two or more days, parents are encouraged to pick up homework. You may call the school office to make arrangements to pick up assignments at the end of the day. Students will be given one day for each day absent to make up assignments missed due to absences. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the make-up work.

While medical and dental appointments during the school day are sometimes unavoidable, we do ask they be scheduled after school hours or toward the beginning or end of the school day to minimize the school time missed. We also ask that vacations and other special days be scheduled when school is not in session.

EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM IS CONSIDERED TO BE ANYTHING OVER TEN DAYS PER SCHOOL YEAR. EXCESSIVE TARDINESS TO SCHOOL IS CONSIDERED TO BE THREE (3) OR MORE TARDY DAYS PER SEMESTER.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Recorded tardy

A student will be marked tardy if entering building after 7:40 AM.

Recorded absence (Full day)

A student shall be recorded absent if out for a full day.

Recorded absence (Half day A.M.)

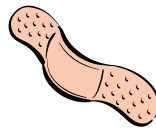
A student shall be recorded absent in the A.M. if they arrive after 10:50AM.

Recorded absence (Half day P.M.)

A student shall be recorded absent in the P.M. if leaving school prior to 10:50 AM.

Students will not be marked absent for doctor or dental appointments if in school before and after the appointment. Students will not be marked tardy if in school directly after an early morning appointment. Your child will be excused for such absences, provided only the time needed for such an appointment is used. A note to your child's teacher, stating the time and day of the appointment, is needed. Please come to the office to sign out your child.

Nursing Notes



by Mrs. Atkinson, Health Assistant

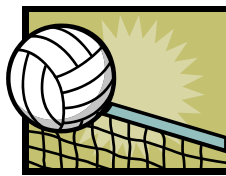
The clinic is in need of clothing for both girls & boys. We also need 3 oz. cups. Thanks!

Third Grade "Arts" Showcase

by Related Arts Teachers



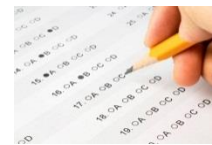
MUSIC



P.E.



ART



ISTEP/I-READ 3

Third grade students will be giving parents a peek into their music, art and physical education curriculum on the evening of **February 6, 2014**. Mrs. Short will also be discussing the spring assessments required of all third graders. Mark that date on your calendars; you don't want to miss it.

2/6/14

6:00-7:30 p.m

"Star Power"



by the Greenfield-Central School Foundation

The Greenfield-Central School Foundation's STAR Power program lets you thank and honor your child's teacher, principal, coach, librarian, social worker, instructional or health assistant, secretary, bus driver, custodian or cafeteria worker. Each honoree will receive a personalized card listing the donor's name and any special sentiment you wish to include. With a minimum gift of \$10.00 to the STAR Power Fund, you help support education. All proceeds benefit the GCSF Educational Enrichment Grants which provide teacher, classroom and student resources.

To find a STAR Power form, go to www.gcschoolfoundation.org under the "STAR POWER" tab. Forms are also available in our front office. This would be a great way to honor an educator during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-9.

Character First!



by Mrs. Harpold, School Social Worker

The Greenfield-Central School Corporation uses the Character First! Program to share ideas about good character with students and families. During each school year, the traits of respect, responsibility, truthfulness, punctuality, generosity, self-control, obedience, dependability, compassion and orderliness will be discussed, role-modeled, and expected at all elementary schools.

The Character First! definition of Self-Control is, "rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right." They list indulgence as the opposite of self-control.

Parents, students, and teachers should practice self-control by considering the following:

- **Do Not Act Impulsively.** Inward character is shown by saying "No" to what *feels* right and "Yes" to what *is* right.
- **Do Not Equate Desires with Rights.** To be a person of character and a law-abiding citizen, we must recognize that just because we desire something, it is not our right to have it.
- **Set Limits.** We all need to set limits to our behavior. Self-control is setting a standard for our words and actions before encountering opportunities to do wrong.
- **See Anger as a Sign that Something Is Wrong.** Feeling angry is not wrong. But failing to recognize it as a warning signal is wrong. People who learn to control their tempers will rarely have to regret hasty actions or words.

- **Walk Away From Things That Aren't Right.** We must learn to walk away from situations as soon as we sense that things are not right. To delay or take a second look may lead to tragic results.

Character is taught best when it is modeled. Character growth is encouraged in children through recognizing, requiring, and emphasizing right attitudes, words, and actions. As we model good character, others around us can see a living example of how to demonstrate good behavior. Model, praise, teach, and recognize the character quality of Self-control.

Attendance News



by Mrs. Short

Each month, there are three ways for students to receive incentives for their good attendance. Students who do not miss a day of school all month receive a donut hole/fruit snack; individual classes win prizes for their first, second and third place finish for the month; and all students get to see Mrs. Short, (and other staff members), wear pajamas for a day if the entire school shows a 97% attendance rate for the month.

DECEMBER REPORT

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Monthly Attendance Percentage</u>	
Mrs. Ahonen	96.2	
Miss Batton	98.3	SILVER
Mrs. Bewley	97.8	
Miss Bladen	96.1	
Mrs. Clark	98	BRONZE
Mrs. Hammons	96.4	
Mrs. Jacquemin	96.7	
Mrs. Johnson	91.7	
Mrs. Kuntz	95.9	
Mrs. Leininger	96.9	
Mrs. Martinez	94.8	
Mrs. Matthias	95.9	
Mrs. Olin	93.8	
Mrs. Parker	97.7	
Mrs. Rizzotte	93.2	
Mrs. Sexton	96.7	
Mrs. Smith	98.9	GOLD
Mrs. Steeno	97	
Ms. Stout	93.5	
Mrs. Trapp	92.8	
Mr. Vogel	95.4	

GOLD = Extra Recess
 SILVER = Popcorn
 BRONZE= Special Seating at Lunch TOTAL 96% (Goal is 97%)

Physical Education Update



by Mr. Wood, Physical Educator

Be sure to take advantage of the Hancock Public Library’s program regarding the upcoming Olympics.

Olympics Countdown

Grades K-5, Thurs., Jan. 30, 4-5 PM, Youth Program Rm.

Learn about Russia and the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi. Then try a skills test on a variety of challenges to see what it takes to prepare for the games, and make an Olympic torch to wave.



Mark Your Calendars



January 10	Report Cards Online	1:00 p.m.
January 13	Semester Good Conduct Mini-Breakfast	
January 18	Market Day Pick-up – Café	10:30-11:30 a.m.
January 20	Mozzi Benefit	
January 24	Semester Awards’ Program	8:00–10:00 a.m.
January 28	P.T.O. Meeting/Child care Available	7:00-8:00 p.m.
January 31	P.T.O. Movie Night/Free Admission/Snacks for Sale	6:30-8:00 p.m.
February 6	Third Grade Showcase	6:00-7:30 p.m.
February 8	P.T.O. Date Night	5:00-8:00 p.m.
February 10-14	Book Fair Week	
March 17-28	Spring Intercession (First week – possible make-up days)	