



BLACKBIRD & SHAY NEWS & INFORMATION

March 5, 2010

Attendance Line:
Blackbird 526-4660
Shay 526-4550

Blackbird: Building the Foundation

Shay: Academic Excellence in a Family Atmosphere

ENRICHMENT NEWS

March into Reading

Ms. Jania Taylor, a local magician kicked off literacy week for Blackbird and Shay students emphasizing the importance of reading! Our high school band led the students to the gym and played some fun songs to start the program.

Poetry Deadline -1st & 2nd grade

Get your creative poem in by **March 15th!**

Blackbird March Memory Challenge

The March poem is Pass the Poems, Please by Jane Baskwill and it is to be recited on **Monday, March 29!**

Second Grade Reading Bee

Students are invited to participate in this mini "Battle of the Books". Children can check out the selected books through their classroom teacher. The date of the Bee is **Monday, April 19** at lunch recess! Happy reading! Look for parent note in Friday folders!

SHAY TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 IMMEDIATELY AFTER SCHOOL IN MR. MOFFATT'S MUSIC ROOM! STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PERFORMING, OR HELPING BACKSTAGE OR EMCEEING MUST CHECK IN WITH MRS. FLYNN ON THIS DATE!

Shay Poetry Deadline

Get your creative poem in by **March 15th!**

Shay March Memory Challenge

The March poem is Last Week's Adventures by Geoff Mihalenko.

Do not procrastinate! Get it done before the end of the month!

Fourth Grade Problem Solvers:

This group of math whizzes did terrific work with some very difficult problems: Samuel Wathen, Jacob Young, Joe Claramunt, Zoe Shepherd, Christopher Erxleben, Martha Johnston and Thomas Kelbel! Outstanding!

Parent to Parent Coffee

The March 10th Parent to Parent Coffee is entitled "Parenting in a Cyber World". The discussion will include topics such as texting, "sexting", social networking, on-line gaming, monitoring kids on the internet, cyber bullying, internet predators, parental controls, etc. Erik Larson, MSSW, LMSW will facilitate the conversation along with computer consultant Tom Moss. Please join us at 8:30 A.M. at the Harbor Pier. The coffee is free and open to the public.



Kids That Care Coin

Drive & Heart Happening



Blackbird students raised a whopping \$149.87 in their coin drive for UNICEF. These funds are designated for the children in Haiti after the devastating earthquake that took place there.

Students also collected 473 non-perishable items for the annual Heart Happening food drive. The local food pantry is very appreciative of our generosity! Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3/10 | P/T Conferences evenings |
| 3/11 | Half Day release at 11 am
P/T Conferences afternoon/evening |
| 3/12 | NO SCHOOL Teacher In-service |
| 3/17 | Early release 1:30 |
| 4/2 | -4/12 Spring Break |

Principal's Corner

Good Readers Ask Questions

Research shows that good readers ask themselves questions as they are reading. The questions may focus on what's going on in the story: "What might happen next?" "Why did he do that?"

Good readers might also ask about words they do not know. "It says she is *slumbering*. What could that mean?"

Help your child become a better reader by showing him how to ask questions as he reads:

- **When you are reading aloud**, stop when you get to an exciting part in the story. Ask your child, "What do you think is going to happen next?" "Why do you think that?" "Let's see if you're right."
- **While you are reading**, stop when you read an unfamiliar word. "James is *irritable*. What could that word mean?" Together, think about other clues that might show what the word means.
- **After you finish**, ask questions to help your child connect the book to things he already knows. "Did you ever have a day when you felt *irritable* like James?"

Effective Instruction for Struggling Readers.
Taylor and Ysseldyke

Expert Insight

By Teresa Pipe, Ph.D., R.N., Mayo Clinic

Optimism yields positive benefits*Want to be an optimist? Think beyond happiness.*

Optimism is more than simply being happy. A deeper approach to how you experience life, optimism can appear as joy, gratitude, serenity, interest, hope, pride, amusement, inspiration, awe, and love.



Research shows that optimism has many health benefits. It can boost your immune function, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, relieve pain and improve sleep. Being optimistic also may help you feel more creative, make better decisions and communicate more effectively.

You can teach yourself to be more optimistic by:

- Reflecting on what makes you feel happy, joyful and grateful. Ask yourself, "what am I grateful for right now?"
- Make real efforts to get more of these experiences in your life each day.
- Actively noticing when you're experiencing optimism.
- Noticing when you're jumping to a negative conclusion and striving to reframe the situation in a more positive light.

To gain true benefits from optimism, you can't fake it. Pretending to be upbeat may actually create stress. Honor your true emotions and thoughts, even when they aren't positive, and strive to find benefit or meaning even in stressful experiences.

Authentic optimism is a positive investment you can make in your health-and in the contributions you make to the world around you.

**PTO POPCORN DAYS**

This is a fun and inexpensive way for all of us to help support the PTO.

The PTO supplies our schools with added funding for field trips, they buy large items for classrooms, award grants for school use and purchase the cookies for conferences. These are just a few ways in which the PTO supports our students, teachers, staff and schools.



-When at school, please turn your car off when you leave it. Besides being very dangerous, it is a violation.

-When parking your cars, be respectful of pedestrians and do not park on the sidewalks. Think how dangerous it is for kids to be walking in the driveway.