



## Dowds Elementary School October 2020 Newsletter

We've had a bountiful year of learning at school so far! Our growing learners have been working very hard every day and we cannot say enough how much we value and appreciate your support at home, through supporting PTO, and any other ways that you support our building. We are so lucky to have the best families and community to support what we do for our students each day!

Thank you also for all of your help and support with our PTO fundraiser this month. PTO very generously supports the many field trips (hopefully again soon!), projects, and needs of our school and we are always grateful for the extra time and effort our families put forth to help support the fundraiser as well. We are excited to make a generous donation toward our new school playground from this year's fundraiser!

As the weather gets cooler, please remember to send a jacket or sweatshirt with your child for recess. Please be sure to **label** any clothing items—our lost and found rack is already getting full. The same goes for lunch boxes, water bottles, recess balls, etc. Many students have identical items and it is much easier to return things to their rightful owners when they are labeled. Thanks for your help!

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with questions, comments, feedback, or compliments. Our door is always open at Dowds. Please join our Facebook page, check Dojo, and visit our website often for updates, important information, required and optional forms, and upcoming calendar dates at the following link: [www.shelbyk12.org/dowds](http://www.shelbyk12.org/dowds). Go Whippets!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kaple-Jones  
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(419) 342-4641

### Upcoming Important Dates:

10/5: PTO Calendar Bonanza Fundraiser DUE  
10/9: Fall Picture Day  
10/16: **NO SCHOOL** (Teacher Inservice Day)  
10/21: **Grade 3 ELA OST (Part 1)**  
10/22: **Grade 3 ELA OST (Part 2)**  
10/27: SCRAP Recycling, 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
10/26-10/30: Parent/Teacher Conferences  
11/20: Picture Retake Day  
11/24: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Interim Reports; SCRAP Recycling, 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
11/25-11/29: **NO SCHOOL** (Thanksgiving Break)

Be sure to sign up for the Shelby City Schools Notification System to receive text messages and/or e-mails regarding important bus and school information, including reminders, emergency information, and weather updates. Go to the SCS Homepage and click on the SCS Text Alerts link to do so. You can sign up for our school alerts, weather alerts, transportation (bus) alerts, as well as athletic and other activity alerts.

You can also follow us on Twitter and Instagram @shelbywhippets or search the hashtag #WhippetPride. Check out our Dowds Elementary School Facebook page, too, for the latest and greatest PTO updates, school information, and announcements (search: "Dowds Elementary School" and send a request).

Our school hashtag is #WeGrowTogether.

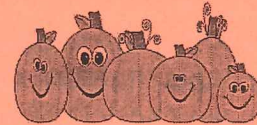
*Our school is collecting Box Tops! Please trim them and check expiration dates before submitting them and/or scan them in the new app. We appreciate your support!*



### Important Reminder Regarding Medication:

According to state law, the school is NOT permitted to administer *any* medication to students at school (including cough drops, Tylenol, etc.) without the signed consent of a physician on a Medication Administration Record (MAR) form (available in the office, or on the Dowds website for download). We can always fax a form to your physician's office if a last-minute need should arise. Students are also NOT permitted to bring over-the-counter or prescription medication (including cough drops) to school with them. Please do NOT send these medications to school with students without an MAR. Parents can come to the school and administer any medication to a student if the need arises. Please contact Mrs. Cramer, our school nurse, with any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

**SMILE! Fall Picture Day is Friday, October 9.**  
**More information regarding picture packages and on-line ordering options will be coming home.**



If you need to make changes to your child's after school dismissal arrangements, please be sure to send a note or call the office by **2:45 p.m.** Our runner takes notes to classrooms at that time each day, so we appreciate your timely communication to ensure we get everyone where they need to be at the end of each day. Thank you!

### Attention, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families:

Important reminder that our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will take the ELA (English Language Arts) OST (Ohio's State Test) on October 21 (Part 1) and October 22 (Part 2). Please be sure to have your student at school on time with a good night's sleep. We appreciate your support in helping our students to be successful!

If you are interested in having your child evaluated for possible identification as gifted (Superior Cognitive Ability, Specific Academic Ability, Creative Thinking, Visual/Performing Arts) please contact your child's classroom teacher or Tianna Keinath, Gifted Coordinator, at SMS for a referral form or with questions.

From Miss Fairchild's  
Counselor's Corner...

This month in classroom guidance, we will be talking about small problems vs. big problems and ways of solving small problems.

We will also learn about types of conflict since October is National Bullying Prevention Month.

We will learn about some academic skills such as listening, focusing, and ignoring distractions.

Lastly, we will practice different mindfulness strategies such as breathing, grounding, body scan, progressive muscle relaxation, visualization, and gratitude. I will post resources on Facebook and ClassDojo that we are using here so that you can use them at home also!

**Important SCRAP recycling reminder!**  
**SCRAP recycling will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 12:30-2:30 p.m.**  
**They accept #1 & #2 plastics, white & newspaper, steel & aluminum cans, and corrugated cardboard.**  
**Please mark your calendars to go green!**



**We are trying something different this year, in this whole year of "new." Students WILL be permitted to wear their Halloween costumes (no Halloween masks, please) to school on Friday, October 30. Costumes should be school appropriate and free from violence, gore, etc. Please do not send any props or accessories (swords, guns, etc.). We wanted to do something fun for our students to celebrate the season. PTO will provide candy for teachers to pass out to students around the building, too (we will do a walk or parade of some sort during the day). Thank you for helping us to make this a fun day for our students!**

# Welcome to *Leader in Me*

Each new school year brings opportunities for academic growth and growth in all areas of development. Although children must be knowledgeable when they graduate, they must also be healthy, engaged, responsible, and caring people.

We're grateful you're here at our school and we're excited to partner with you and your child. As a *Leader in Me* School, we believe that every member of your family has greatness and we can't wait to learn and grow from you! *Leader in Me* (LiM) is an evidence-based, comprehensive school-improvement model—developed in partnership with educators and FranklinCovey—that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in a global community.

Our school has chosen to operate through a uniquely different lens. *Leader in Me* is about empowering your child to reach their full potential while ultimately finding their voice. As a school, the staff in this building have made five core commitments to your child. We call these our Core Paradigms. In these paradigms you will find the belief and way we view all students. At this school we see that:

- Everyone is a leader.
- Everyone has genius.
- Change starts with me.
- We empower students to lead their own learning.
- Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

Not only do these paradigms apply to your student, they apply to all of us!

*Leader in Me* provides our school with the vision and language to lead the school in a way that addresses all areas of development. As each child discovers and develops their unique gifts and talents, they are given opportunities to lead. As leaders, they become active, engaged partners in their own education, and their self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative grows. The children quickly understand the benefits of different gifts and talents; they learn to listen to new ideas, work together to achieve results, and motivate one another to be the best.

We hope your school enjoys sharing these new opportunities. Together, we will see each child grow throughout the year.

# Parents as Partners

As a *Leader in Me* School, one of our 5 Core Paradigms is that parents and teachers partner to support the whole child. What this means is that we value you as your student's first teacher. You know your student best. Oftentimes it's easy to assume that teachers are the only ones who are responsible for a student's academic and social success in school. As a parent of a *Leader in Me* student, we believe that you are a valuable member of our Learning Team. You have an important role in the educational journey of your student. Research shows that when parents are engaged in their student's education, the student's success, academically and behaviorally, increases significantly. If we know this partnership is critical, what can we do to create a partnership?

We would love to get your insights and feedback on what we can do to nurture this partnership as well as your ideas on what you would like to do as a partner in your student's education.

Following are a few of our insights on working together to create a partnership:

Partnering is about communication and relationships. We want to honor your family's culture, beliefs, and circumstances. We want to communicate with you about what is happening in school, but that's only one part of effective communication. We encourage you to share your opinions, ideas, and background. We believe all of us have unique gifts and talents. If you are doing something at home that works well for your student, that you are proud of, or simply a fun fact about your family, share it with us. Your input and voice is so important!

A partnership is not only about being physically present at the school, volunteering, or being on committees—that is only one aspect of partnership. If you're working full time, travel for work, or simply cannot be physically present to engage that doesn't mean you're not our partner. There are other ways to engage such as:

- Add our school to your social media feed.
- Set up regular times to check in with your student about what they enjoy at school or what is a challenge.
- Regularly check emails or other communications from your student's teachers and respond. Ask questions when clarification is needed.
- Model a positive attitude about school.

Let's keep the communication lines open! We may have questions or concerns. Let's create space to ask questions and listen to each other. We want to be there for you! Just like you, we can't do this alone. We must come together as a Learning Team to support your student and ensure they have every opportunity for success.

We look forward to our partnership!