



Dowds Elementary School November 2020 Newsletter

The holiday season is upon us and we hope that you are finding much to be thankful for in your home. We at Dowds School are thankful for the opportunity to work with your children every day and we appreciate your continued support at home as we all work toward a common goal of the success of our students. We are growing learners every day at Dowds!

We had fun in our costumes last week and enjoyed the candy for our own trick-or-treat here at school, thanks to our generous PTO. It was wonderful to connect with many families at conferences last week, too. Your continued support of our school and PTO are absolutely invaluable to the work we do every day with our students. You have given us so much to be thankful for!

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 (*Dowds Elementary School*) and visit our website often for updates, important information, and upcoming dates at the following link: www.shelbyk12.org/dowds. Go Whippets!

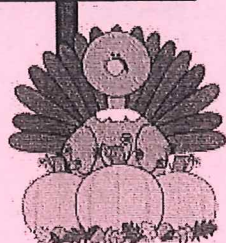
Sincerely,

Dr. Kaple-Jones
jones.kristin@shelbyk12.org
(419) 342-4641

Upcoming Important Dates:

- 11/11: Veterans Day
- 11/20: Picture Retake Day
- 11/24: 2nd Quarter Interims; SCRAP Recycling, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- 11/25-11/29: Thanksgiving Break
- 12/22: End of 2nd 9 Weeks & 2-HOUR EARLY RELEASE (1:15 P.M.)
- 12/23-1/4: Christmas Break
- 1/5: Welcome back from break & Beginning of 3rd 9 Weeks
- 1/8: 2nd Quarter Report Cards

We are
Thankful for
YOU!



Our annual community outreach project is coming up on Friday, November 20. Donations can be sent in at any time, but that will be our last call for donations. Our 1st-4th grade students will be working at home to earn money to donate in order to purchase food and supplies for the Shelby Helpline. This year, we will not be able to go out in the community to do the shopping ourselves, but the volunteers at Helpline will go and get what they need for our local community with our donations. Kindergarten students may help by bringing in canned goods to be included in the drive. The need for donations at the Helpline increases dramatically as the holidays approach, so we are fortunate to be able to help as a school community. We appreciate all of your help and generosity at home in support of our students' giving! The class with the most donations will win a pizza party, too!

Get connected with us! All parents and families are welcome to join the Dowds Facebook page (search "Dowds Elementary School"). This is a closed group, so you'll just have to make a request to join the page. We post lots of pictures, announcements, and information on the page. You can also get connected on Twitter and Instagram @shelbywhippets, or searching the hashtag #whippetpride.



Reduce-Recycle-Reuse

The Scrap Trailer will be here Tuesday, November 24, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. You may also drop items off on the side of the building or near the dumpsters earlier in the day if you cannot come during collection time. They take #1 and #2 plastics, newspapers, aluminum and tin cans, and corrugated cardboard and come on the 4th Tuesday of every month. The money earned from recycling at Dowds stays at Dowds. Thank you for recycling.



Veterans' Day Performance
Due to COVID, we are unable to honor our veterans in our school community with our regular music program at school. Mrs. Strickler has been working with our students on learning our patriotic songs to celebrate and honor our veterans and will offer a recorded version of the performances via Class Dojo. Please check it out on November 11!



Don't forget to sign up for the Shelby City Schools Notification System to receive text messages and/or e-mails regarding important 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.



Counselor's Corner with Miss Fairchild...

This month in classroom lessons, we will continue learning about mindfulness and being in the present moment. Mindfulness has many benefits from helping with focus and feelings and calming down to improving sleep and reducing stress. We will also learn about what happens in our brain when we experience worry or anger. Lastly, we will be talking about gratitude and what brings us joy as we enter into the holiday season.

Online Forms: ALL students need to have their online forms completed for the new school year. Go to the school website and choose "Forms" at the top. It works best on a computer or turn your phone sideways to landscape mode. We still have about 50 families who are missing current forms for the year. Thank you for your help in getting this completed!

Paradigms

As a *Leader in Me* School, we have 5 Core Paradigms that drive our decisions, behaviors, and results. A paradigm is simply the way we “see” things. These 5 Core Paradigms include:

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

These paradigms or “the way we see things” at our school drive our everyday interaction with not only your student, but ourselves too. A partnership with families supports our ability for students to lead their own educational journey—empowering them to be responsible, reflective, and active in their learning experiences.

The great news about paradigms is that they are also powerful at home! When you operate through these five paradigms in your own life, you are communicating your own value as well as encouraging greatness in your student.

Ways to engage your family in these paradigms can include:

PARADIGM	ACTIVITY
Everyone can be a leader.	Recognize that you are a leader. Reflect on your strengths and the strengths of your family members.
Everyone has genius.	Ask your student what their unique genius is.
Change starts with me.	Discuss how each member of the family has shown personal responsibility for their actions and choices.
Empower students to lead their own learning.	Empower your student at home to be “in charge” of their learning experience by asking questions rather than just always giving them the answer.
Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.	Reflect on how you take care of your mind, body, heart, and spirit and share that with other members of your family.

Leadership Roles at Home

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

One of the best ways to help your student realize their worth and leadership potential is to provide an opportunity to lead. Most *Leader in Me* Schools offer student leadership roles as a way to teach:

- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Contribution

Leadership roles can also be used at home. To begin:

1. Talk with your student about the leadership role he or she might be interested in at home.
2. Discuss why they are interested in the role. Ask what leadership qualities your student has that will help. Ask how he or she will handle homework or other commitments with this new role responsibility.
3. With your student, discuss leadership behaviors and expectations of the role.

Some examples of at-home leadership roles include:

- Gardener: watering and maintaining indoor/outdoor plants
- Technology lead: ensuring all devices are charged and in order
- Floor Leader: ensuring the floors are clean and free of clutter
- Assistant Chef: providing support in the kitchen as needed

Give your student a week or so to adjust and then discuss how it's going. This may open a conversation about how to handle things that are too easy or too difficult. Express appreciation and celebrate success!