A Warm Winter
Because we have had an unusually warm winter this year, students have not always been prepared for weather changes that take place while they are in school. When our forecast has said warmer and rainy, it has snowed! Snow has not always arrived when predicted.

One thing that we can count on is that the worst of the weather arrives during dismissal! Last Friday, a couple of students were walking out in T-shirts when they were suddenly hit with snow. When asked where their coats were, they replied that they didn’t have to wear them to school.

Please send your children to school during this month with cold weather clothing just in case it is needed. Shorts are not to be worn to school until our temperatures reach 60 degrees.

Kids Helping Kids
Students who made honor roll every grading period during the first semester had their group photo taken for the newspapers. There were sixteen of these students and we are very proud of their accomplishments!

These students will take on a project of encouraging others to become a part of this academic group by lending helping hands and providing encouragement. There have been 63 students on Honor Roll this year. Congratulations to all!
Collection Programs

The Giant Eagle Apples for the Students Program will end in March. A special thanks to everyone who supported our school by using their Giant Eagle card. We will receive library books, playground equipment, and audio-visual supplies with our bonus points!

Professional Development

As we continue to work towards the mission of our school, our instructional staff takes part in professional development. There are several types going on this year.

One is that we will be expanding our knowledge of best practices through a text called, Classroom Instruction that Works. This text identifies and gives practical examples of the strategies that work best to boost achievement.

About a month ago, our intervention specialists attended the Linda-Mood Bell workshop. There they learned how to help students make mental pictures of what they are learning. Students have fun describing what they see in their mind as they listen to a story. Sharing with each other about their mental pictures adds interest to the setting, characters and plot of a story. It helps them to remember what they read or listen to even better.

In planning meetings, teachers have adjusted the focus of their agendas to include discussions about what strategies are working best for individual students. They are also working to organize a new curriculum called Common Core Standards, which will take the place of our previously used curriculum called Academic Content Standards.

Ongoing professional development helps to keep instructional staff and the principal focused on improving instruction for students.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement with homework can be very beneficial. While no student should have an excessive amount of homework, these assignments are given for a variety of reasons:

- when students don’t finish class work.
- to complete a reading log.
- to complete a Homelink page from the Every Day Math Program.

When students return to school repeatedly without homework, or have not made a good effort, a number of things can happen:

- they fall behind the rest of the class.
- they miss an opportunity practice.
- they make slower than expected progress.
- they may earn a detention.

If students have ongoing problems with behavior, a behavior log may be used. This log must be signed and returned so students understand that parents and teachers are working together to improve behavior.

We understand and respect that parents have busy schedules and complicated family circumstances, but we will do more to help students when we are joined together. Your assistance will be of great benefit to your child’s achievement and will improve behavior.

Thank You!

A special thank you goes out to homeroom mothers and fathers, grandparents, retired teachers, community volunteers, KICKS volunteers and PTO for helping in our school!

Ohio Achievement Assessments

- April 23-May 3.
- Please plan appointments around this schedule.
- Our students are working very hard to prepare.
- Your involvement and encouragement is appreciated!