



From the Principal

A recent article by Thomas Friedman entitled *How About Better Parents?** (*NY Times*) focused on recent studies that showed that parents who are more focused on their child's education make a huge difference in a student's achievement. At Devon we are very fortunate to have parents who are highly involved with their children's education, thus contributing to the success of our children. However, the article cited specific research of how parents can be most effective that I think is worth noting:

- "Fifteen-year-old students whose parents often read books with them during their first year of primary school show markedly higher scores in PISA** (Program for International Student Assessment, 2009) than students whose parents read with them infrequently or not at all."
- "The performance advantage among students whose parents read to them in their early school years is evident regardless of the family's socioeconomic background."
- "Just asking your child how was their school day and showing genuine interest in the learning that they are doing can have the same impact as hours of private tutoring. It is something every parent can do, no matter what their education level or social background."
- "On average, the score point difference in reading that is associated with parental involvement is largest when parents read a book with their child, when they talk about things they have done during the day, and when they tell stories to their children... The score point difference is smallest when parental involvement takes the form of simply playing with their children."
- "...monitoring homework; making sure children get to school; rewarding their efforts and talking up the idea of going to college. These parent actions are linked to better attendance, grades, test scores, and preparation for college... The study found that getting parents involved with their children's learning *at home* is a more powerful driver of achievement than parents attending P.T.A. and school board meetings, volunteering in classrooms, participating in fund-raising, and showing up at back-to-school nights."

*For full article go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/opinion/sunday/friedman-how-about-better-parents.html> . **For PISA Report go to <http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/4/1/49012097.pdf>

Thank you for all that you do for your children and in collaboration with the Devon staff.

Tom Tobin

Mark the Date

Wed., January 25, 2012

- DES Camp Fair at CHS

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012

- Chinese Paper Cutter

Monday, Jan. 31, 2012

- Kindergarten Math Night at New Eagle Elementary 5:30—7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 10, 2012

- PIZZA BINGO 6-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

- Kindergarten Valentines Concert
- Valentines Parties



To The Following Volunteers and Their Committees:

A Big Thank You to...

- Suzanne Emerson, Kelly Walker and all the “chefs” for providing lunches during conferences for Devon’s wonderful staff.
- Denise Cooper for coordinating the MLK service project.
- Amy Susanin & Cathy Rains for planning our annual Main Line Camp Fair. Save the date of January 25th, 5:30-8:30.
- Chrissy Bennett & Sarah Keyes for organizing “A Day in the Life of a Soldier” for 4th grade.
- Susan Stuber for being Devon’s BUILD representative.
- Sam Elsen for being Devon’s DELTA representative.
- Winter Party volunteers for planning a fun afternoon for the children.

Important Phone Numbers

School Office 610-240-1450
 Attendance 610-240-1465
 Emergency Closing 610-240-1970
 School District www.tesd.net
 PTO www.devonpto.org

Devon Elementary PTO Board 2011/2012

President	Tricia Jennings
Vice President	Amy Susanin
Recording Secretary	Lauren Forman
Treasurer	Margaret Ruschmann
Asst Treasurer	Cindy Krapels
2nd Vice Presidents:	
~Cultural Arts	Chrissy Bennet/Sarah Keyes
~Fundraising	Cecilia Cooleen/Georgeann Bernabeo
~Social Functions	Tricia Petrane/Kelly Walker
~Issues, Affairs and Programs	Carli Younce
~School Services	Lori Piccone
Member at Large	Audrey Kese

From the 'Green Corner'...



5 'Green' New Years Resolutions

1. **Avoid Waste: RECYCLE anything & everything you can** - plastics, aluminum, glass, bottle caps, juice pouches, clothing, furniture, appliances, books, shoes etc....
2. **Give Up Plastic & Paper Bags** - Use Reusable Shopping Bags - not only at the grocery store but at the pharmacy, mall, & department stores
3. **Give Up Plastic Sandwich & Snack Bags** - Use Reusable Ones
4. **Stop Buying Bottled Water** - Use Reusable Water Bottles
5. **Give Up Regular Paper Towels, Napkins & Toilet Paper** - Buy Microfiber Cloths or Recycled Paper Towels, Buy Cloth Napkins or Recycled Paper Napkins & Buy Recycled Toilet Paper

Read more: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/green-new-years-resolutions-10109>

ESL at Devon- Mrs. Maryann Walsh

Bonjour, hola, hallo, geia sou, hallo, namaste, sziasztok, tungjatjeta, nomoshkar, nei ho, nei hou ma, ni hao, vanakkam, ihaoahnyong, kwe, czesc. Hello in many languages! Devon Elementary School is very fortunate to have so many students from different countries. This year there are 27 different languages spoken by Devon students and their families.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires all families to complete a Home Language Survey when they enroll their children in school. Students who speak more than one language are screened by the ESL teacher to assess their language proficiency. The students who come to ESL (English as a Second Language) class are called ELLs (English Language Learners). The goal of the ESL program is to provide students with the capacity to succeed in school, both academically and socially. It is important for the ELLs to become a part of the school community while preserving their language and culture. We encourage families to speak their native language at home.

The Social Studies curriculum at Devon enables students to learn about the United States and many other countries. This year first graders will be learning interesting information about Africa and Japan. Second graders started their unit on China and currently third grade is studying Mexico. Later this year third-graders will explore Canada. Throughout the year, the fourth grade studies the United States, India, Spain, Brazil, England and France. Students have multiple opportunities to acquire knowledge about the geography and cultures of different countries around the world. At Devon, we encourage parents to share their ancestry. Volunteering in your child's classroom to be a guest reader is a great way for students to learn about countries around the world. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to visit a classroom and share your cultural experiences with the class.

Save the date-Saturday, April 21st. This year the theme of the Devon Friendraiser is "Around the World". Hopefully, many Devon families will be able to attend this event. If you would like more information about the night, please contact Cindy Krapels or Tara Owens.

We are so fortunate to have many families from different countries at Devon. Talk to your children about their classmates from other countries and encourage your children to bring home a new friend. Devon is a wonderful example of our multicultural society.

News From the Classroom

Devon **Kindergarten** students have been enjoying our new theme, Sweet Dreams, which is full of fantastic literature, terrific activities and exciting science experiments all related to nighttime. One of the big events of this unit involved designing our own pillowcases after reading Mitra Modarressi's wonderful book, *The Dream Pillow*. In language arts, we are continuing to develop our sight word vocabulary and are becoming good writers. In math, we are working on telling time and simple geometry. In science, we are learning about the night sky. In social studies, we've been enjoying our PATHS curriculum with classroom activities and lessons with Mrs. Noel, our guidance counselor. It's a busy and fun place to be in kindergarten here at Devon! We have many more exciting activities planned for the rest of the month, including a pretend sleepover!!!

First grade wishes you a very happy 2012! We all enjoyed our winter break with family and friends and now we are busy getting back into the school routine. The students are excited and enthusiastic about our two new units of study: the rainforest (for Science) and Japan (for Social Studies). The children are so eager to turn our hallway into a rainforest over the next few weeks! They are also working on an individual rainforest research project, in which they are learning about a rainforest animal of their choice. If you happen to have any artifacts or specialized knowledge about Japan or the rainforest, please let us know!

At this point in the year, the children really seem to take off. They are aware of their personal best and are expected to work to their potential. We continue to learn a new character trait each month. The children are becoming skilled at applying what they have learned and are using their knowledge to peacefully resolve conflicts and problems that arise from time to time. It is wonderful to see how thoughtful they have become and how much progress they continue to make.

Second Grade students have started learning all about China. We begin by identifying important cities and landforms on a map. Next, we read about the history of the Great Wall of China and take a virtual tour using the Mac laptop computers. After reading *The Empress and the Silkworm* by Lily Toy Hong, students learn that the Chinese people are responsible for the discovery of silk. During a follow-up activity, they organize the steps in the silk-making process using sentences and pictures. *Grandfather Tang's Story* by Ann Tompert introduces the concept of tangram puzzles. In response to this story, students create their own animal shape using the tangram puzzle pieces and write a short narrative to describe it.

At home, 2nd graders researched interesting facts and created a visual display about the giant panda, one of China's most precious creatures. Students will present and explain their Panda Project to the class. Take a walk by the 2nd grade classrooms later this month to see this wonderful work on display!

Students and teachers are looking forward to a visit on January 26th from Mr. Hou Tien Cheng, a master paper-cutter. Mr. Cheng quickly and accurately creates artwork using scissors and blank pieces of paper. Thank you to the PTO Cultural Arts committee for organizing this fascinating presentation!

We are looking forward to our Chinese New Year celebration in February. Next month, students will be designing dragon boxes, calligraphy t-shirts, Terra Cotta Soldier vests, and masks. All of these items will be used during the festival celebration on February 17th.

During Science class, students are continuing to explore the topic of Changes and Matter. During our visits to the lab, second graders have been attempting to separate mixtures using a variety of methods. Our most recent experiments involve observing chemical reactions. Students are learning how to make careful observations and draw conclusions about how these reactions occur in everyday life.

...Classroom News Continued

Third Grade ~ How does it feel to be back in the swing of things? We hope everyone enjoyed the poetry books & snowflake ornaments. The children worked very hard on them and we know they are very proud of their work. Parents, please take the time to look through your child's school supplies and make sure they still have all the supplies they need for school. This will give your third grader the tools to be successful.

In science we are working on our chemical testing unit. Ask your third grader what the unknown powders were.

Math has been exciting as we practice multiplication. Boys and girls don't forget to continue practicing your multiplication facts.

The 3rd graders have recently enjoyed a fun field trip to Conestoga High School. On December 21st we visited Conestoga and enjoyed two fun plays written and performed by Conestoga students.

We are happy to hear that many students are enjoying Reading Bingo. Remember that even after you have completed one BINGO you may still work towards another or even try to fill in the whole chart! On February 17th we will have a party as a reward for all who completed at least one BINGO. Keep up the good work and happy reading!!!

Valentine's Day will be here before we know it. Our classroom parties will be on Tuesday, February 14th.

January 27th is Pajama Day! This is our January ticket reward activity. Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas as we enjoy a comfortable day. Thank you again for all of your care and support.

Winter has been wonderful in **Fourth Grade!** We celebrated winter with fantastic winter parties before the break. Aside from the fun and games, we recognize our students for being truly community service oriented. All fourth graders helped support the breakfast bag component of our school-wide Martin Luther King Day event by making cards. Mrs. Dutkiewicz's class did a fantastic job raising awareness and money for the ConKerr Cancer organization, too. In the classroom, our students have enjoyed reading great books and stories in Language Arts. Our current unit is "Across the U.S.A." Stories focus on regions and how our land shapes people's lives. In math, we are working on our multiplication and division skills, time concepts, geometry, and graphing. We hope that the children are practicing their math facts at home, even when not assigned. In science, we have begun our study of motion and design. Using K'Nex, we are experimenting with a standard vehicle, built by students. We are testing potential and kinetic energy, as well as friction and the effects of pulling and pushing forces. In Social Studies, we are studying American History, currently focusing on the American Revolution. Our students enjoyed the fantastic "Day in the Life of a Revolutionary War Soldier." This "in-school field trip" allowed the children to experience the Revolutionary War in a hands-on way. They experienced marching like a soldier, medical treatment for wounded and sick soldiers, soldier training, soldier rations, and an early American history through flags. We thank the PTO and the volunteers from Valley Forge National Historical Park for making this day a success. Thanks for your support in keeping our students organized with homework and materials. This is a good time to replenish supplies; please ask your child if s/he is low on pencils, glue, scissors, etc. It's also a good time to check folders for tears and either mend or replace them. Finally, as the weather has turned colder, please remember to send your child to school with appropriate outdoor gear (hats, gloves, scarves, and warm coats). We go outside for recess as often as possible...even if for only 10 minutes on the really cold days in order to get fresh air. Thanks for your help.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS ARE COMING SOON!!!

The Devon After-School clubs spring session is just around the corner. Look for registration forms in your child's folder in early February.

Following are the most Frequently Asked Questions, to help you better understand the After-School Clubs' registration process:

If I get my child's registration form in on the first day will he/she be guaranteed a spot in a club?

No. But, returning your child's form as soon as possible will increase his/her chances of getting a spot. Some clubs get more forms on the first day than there are actual spots in the club! If that happens, we randomly select the students who turned in a form on the first day.

My child has been on the wait list for a club in the past. Does that mean he/she will get in the next time?

If their form is returned in a timely manner, we will make every attempt to work with those who have been waitlisted in the past. However, there is no guarantee.

Why are some clubs so small while others can take many more children?

Each club has a specific size to meet the needs of the club topic, equipment needed, and room space.

How will I be notified if my child gets into a club?

Forms will be sent home through the Friday folders with confirmation of club enrollment or wait list.

Can my child sign up for several clubs?

Yes, as long as there is space in the clubs. However, please keep in mind your child's other commitments (boy scouts, girl scouts, dance, etc...) and don't double book them. If you sign up for a club and don't go, your child is taking the spot of another child that could have attended.

If you have other questions, please contact Barbara Schiff or Tracey Sloan, PTO After-School Clubs Coordinators.

REMINDER

Call Attendance Line if Your Child is Absent

Please remember to call the
attendance line at

610-240-1465

when your child is out sick.
or going to be late. This will
save our office staff from
making phone calls to you.
Thank you.

Devon Dispatch

Publication Schedule

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication</u>
01/27/12	02/03/12
02/10/12	02/17/12
03/01/12	03/09/12



Devon Dispatch

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Devon Elementary School,
400 S. Fairfield Road, Devon,
PA 19333, 610-240-1450,
under the direction of Princi-
pal Tom Tobin and PTO
President Tricia Jennings.

Are you ready for the summer?



Main Line Camp Fair

Celebrating 25 Years!

Wednesday,

January 25, 2012

5:30pm – 8:30 pm

**Conestoga High School
200 Irish Road, Berwyn**

(Snow Date – February 1st, 2012)

**Families with children ages preschool
thru 18 are welcome to attend.**

Representatives from approximately 100 day and overnight camps will be available to answer questions and discuss their program in detail.

Admission is FREE

Looking for summer employment opportunities?
Stop by to talk to camp representatives,
many of which will be hiring.

Sponsored by the Devon PTO

For more information and a list of camps attending visit: www.mainlinecampfair.org

**FIND YOUR SUMMER
ACTIVITIES HERE!**

DAY & OVERNIGHT CAMPS

PRESCHOOL CAMPS

SPORTS CAMPS

ACADEMIC & ARTS CAMPS

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE



Save the date for Kindergarten Math Night!

When: January 31, 2012

Where: New Eagle Elementary School

What time: 5:30 to 7:30



Plan to join us on Tuesday, January 31 for a fun filled evening of math. You will be able to share in the types of games and activities your child experiences in class, and play some of the exciting computer games designed to help enhance kindergarten math skills.

More information will be coming soon. Look for the invitation in your child's backpack and online.





Health and Fitness News
From the T/E Physical Education Department
 January 2012



Are Your Kids Overscheduled?

The idea of kids and families being too busy is a hot topic, and one with mixed reviews. While there is some research that has been done on this topic, scientists agree that more is needed. According to the Society for Research in Child Development, between 70% and 83% of American children and teens claim to take part in at least one extracurricular pursuit. These children and teenagers are spending an average of five to nine hours per week in structured activities. The SRCD also indicates that only 5% to 7% of children and teens are putting in 20 hours or more in a week to these extracurricular activities. Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University states "Are kids really overscheduled? It's not the average experience, but that doesn't mean it's not a problem." (Salamon, March 31, 2011) Being significantly overscheduled can lead a person to have higher levels of stress and anxiety, in addition to leading to trouble sleeping.

So why are kids so busy? There could be a number of reasons that families and kids are so busy now. According to an article on the KidsHealth.org website, for some families the kids may be asking to participate in a number of things as to not feel left out from activities that other children are doing. Perhaps teenagers feel some pressure to have a wide variety of activities in an effort to get into a choice college. It may also be that some parents want their child to have a wide variety of experiences and don't want to feel that their child will miss out on anything that other kids might be doing. Regardless of the reason, most families just want what is best for their child. Even with the best of intentions, it is important to ensure that you and your child do not feel pressured or overscheduled. (Gavin, September 2008)

So what can you do? First, talk to your child. See how they are feeling. While every child is different, some signs that your child may be too busy include:

- Feeling tired, anxious or depressed
- Complaining of headaches or stomachaches – these could be due to feelings of stress, missing a meal, or a lack of sleep
- Falling behind in their work; dropping grades

Ask your child how they are feeling and how they are coping with their schedule. If they are participating in an activity that they don't really enjoy going to, perhaps this can be cut back some to allow more room in their schedule.

Second, exercise is important for the whole family. Exercising is a great way to relieve stress, so be a role model and make exercise a priority in your house. Show your children that you enjoy being active and try to find fun things to do as a family like going on a walk, bike ride or a hike.

Additionally, try to set aside some family time. Make an effort to have dinner as a family. This can be tough especially with work and practice schedules, but eating together is a nice way to stay connected as a family. Perhaps your family can make an effort to play a board game or card game together. Try to find something your family can participate in and relax on a regular basis. Be flexible with when this can occur, but don't be willing to give this time up. It is important for your family to spend some time together and stay connected!

Resources

- Gavin, Mary. "Is Your Child Too Busy?" http://kidshealth.org/PageManager.jsp?dn=KidsHealth&lic=1&ps=107&cat_id=10007&article_set=21928. September, 2008.
- Lyness, D'Arcy. "Stress" http://kidshealth.org/PageManager.jsp?dn=KidsHealth&lic=1&ps=207&cat_id=20124&article_set=20400. August, 2010
- Pappas, Stephanie. "Busy Kids: Overscheduling Worries Overstated" <http://www.livescience.com/13642-kids-overscheduled-extracurricular-activities.html> April 10, 2011.
- Salamon, Maureen. "Are Some Kids Overscheduled?" <http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=142551&pf=3&page=1> Thursday, March 31, 2011

CHILDREN ENTERING T/E ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEPTEMBER 2012

Registration for kindergarten and first grade students new to T/E will be held during the week of **January 30, 2012**. Children who plan to enter the T/E School District in grades two through four in September are also encouraged to register at this time.

◀ AGE REQUIREMENTS ▶

Children are eligible to attend kindergarten if they have reached the age of five years on or before September 1. Children who have reached the age of six years on or before September 1 will normally be enrolled in first grade. For students who reach the age of six between September 2 and November 30 and who have completed an academic kindergarten program, the principal, in consultation with staff and parents, will determine whether the child shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade.

◀ REGISTRATION DATES ▶

Registration will be held in each elementary school on the following days:

JANUARY 30-31 (MON & TUES):
Beaumont (Phone: 610/240-1400)
Hillside (Phone: 610/240-1500)

FEBRUARY 1-2 (WED & THU):
Valley Forge (Phone: 610/240-1600)

FEBRUARY 2-3 (THURS & FRI):
Devon (Phone: 610/240-1450)
New Eagle (Phone: 610/240-1550)

Hours for registration for all schools will be from 9:15 to 11:45 AM and from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Questions regarding elementary school attendance boundaries may be directed to the Transportation Department (610/240-1680).

◀ ITEMS NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION ▶

Verification of birth date (*original documentation*), 2 proofs of residency and all records regarding dates that vaccines were administered **must be presented at the time of registration**. Documents accepted as proof of age include birth certificate, notarized copy of birth certificate, baptismal certificate or copy of the record of baptism - notarized or duly certified and showing the date of birth, notarized statement from the parents, guardians or relatives indicating the birth date, prior school record indicating date of birth - if none of the aforementioned proofs are obtainable - or a valid passport. Documents accepted as proof of residency include two (2) of the following provided address is clearly indicated in or on document and provided document is validly issued and genuine as to the resident presenting the document: deed for home, current lease, current credit card bill, property tax bill, PENNDOT identification or driver's license, PENNDOT vehicle registration, Affidavit of Multiple Occupancy, current utility bill for home, copy of a current paycheck stub with the address of employer as well as employee, or copy of state/federal program enrollment. Legislation enacted by the state of Pennsylvania on April 11, 1974, amended on May 28, 2010, and effective on August 1, 2011, makes it mandatory for children entering school for the first time to have the following immunizations:

- 4 doses of diphtheria and tetanus vaccine with 1 dose on or after the 4th birthday
- 2 doses of mumps vaccine given after 12 months of age
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine given after 12 months of age or verification that child has had chickenpox
- 3 doses of polio vaccine
- 2 doses of measles vaccine given after 12 months of age
- 1 dose of rubella vaccine (German measles) given after 12 months of age
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine

It is important to note that under the law, children who have not received the above immunizations may not attend school. Provisions are made for exceptions for certain medical or religious reasons. Further explanation regarding the exceptions may be obtained from the school principals.

Please share this schedule with a friend or neighbor who may not have access to this information.