



CENTRAL ELEMENTARY NEWS

Character Word of the Month:
Caring

Principal's Message



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The New Philadelphia City Schools District recognizes the importance of developing the whole child. One of the eight strands of our Strategic Plan is character development. The strand reads as follows, "We will take a proactive approach to the development of key ethical values that define behaviors for all members of the learning community." Through this initiative each month has a designated character trait; a trait that requires instruction and practice. The character focus for the month of December is *caring*. Recently, our students, their families, and our school community have embraced being good citizens who demonstrate care and concern for others. We at Central Elementary School will always make every effort possible to engage our students in ways that make *caring* come alive!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

John R. Zucal

Central Elementary Students of the Month



December



Upcoming Events:

- December 7: Mid-Term Progress Reports (Grades 3-5)
- December 14: Second Grade to the Senior Citizens Center
- December 15: Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m. (Grades 4-5)
- December 16: Grades 4-5 to the Senior Citizens Center
- December 16: Classroom Christmas Parties at 3:00 p.m.
- December 19: Christmas Sing Along
- December 20: Christmas Break Begins

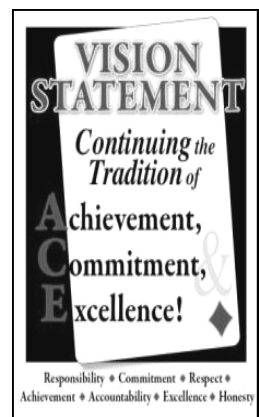
Students of The Month

Name: Jacinta Kelly and Brooks Weyandt

Grade: Five

Teachers: Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Pipes

Both Jacinta and Brooks are outstanding leaders in the classroom and community. Each has demonstrated a commitment to working hard in the classroom, a willingness to be of service to our community, and a desire to help others grow as people! We are proud of Jacinta and Brooks for being "Quakers for Excellence!"



Calamity Days and Moodle

The New Philadelphia City Schools District has been provided three additional calamity days for the 2011-12 school year. In order, though, to be compliant with the Ohio Department of Education mandates, the district must develop an alternative instructional plan for students should any of the three additional days be utilized. Through the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Debra Kennedy, a plan is in place using the web-based Moodle site. In order to access Moodle, parents and students must be attentive to the following procedures:

Log-In Name: The log-in name is the year the student will graduate from high school followed by the last name and first name initial. (Example: 12zucalj)

Password: The student's password is the lunch pin number.

Please Note: When logging into Moodle for the first time, students will need to set up a user profile. An email address is required on the profile page. Since the New Philadelphia City Schools does not provide email addresses for students, please enter lastname@fake.com. (Example: zucal@fake.com) Please check with your child's teacher as to whether or not this step in the process has already taken place. You may also want to practice accessing Moodle prior to the actual need for site use, meaning calamity days 6-8. You can find this information under the **Students** tab on the district homepage. Once at the tab, use the drop-down feature to access **Snow Day Lessons**. Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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From The Assistant Superintendent

Creating Positive Attitudes & Increasing Attention Span

Concentration is not simply an act of the will that becomes positive through practice, rather it is based on our interest in the topic. If we are interested in cooking, we can focus our attention on a show that features a chef. Our children are no different. This is the main reason it is important to find books that interest your children. So the question remains is how to develop interests. Some interests seem to develop naturally, perhaps born into a person while others are developed over time. Children may develop these interests by watching those around them, competing in school, or watching tv.



Since reading is directly related to school and job success, we want our children to see reading as one of the most valuable tools. This is an attitude that sometimes needs developed as well as wanting them to find pleasure and learn about life through reading. To begin use what you know about your child's interests. If they bring home a rock, leaf, or like my younger brother, a hurt bird then use the opportunity to suggest books, internet searches, or magazines to further explore the topic. Start an interest inventory list on the refrigerator and let them know that this will help them organize their interests by putting stars next to favorites as well as expand on their topics.

It may frustrate a parent to see that a child who has issues with attention can sit in front of a video game for a whole day. This is simply because it interests them more than other things. Here are a few simple ways to help hold your child's interest. 1. Vary the type of activity: Read part of the story and then talk about it before moving forward 2. Use games: practice power words by playing a BINGO game 3. Model Reading: Let your child see you read



Mission Statement: New Philadelphia City Schools will provide all students the opportunity to achieve their highest potential to become educated, self-sufficient, and responsible citizens. We are committed to providing every student a diverse, quality education within a safe and secure environment through a dedicated, innovative, and highly qualified staff in partnership with parents and the community at large.