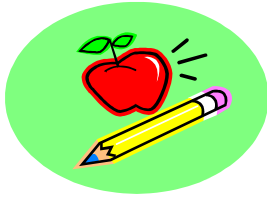


# Polk Elementary School

## “News from the Pride!”

August 2009

Principal Cheryl Matthews  
“Goal Directed In Our Golden Year!”



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## From the Principal's Desk...

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. The year is off to a great start. Your boys and girls are settling in well. We are glad to have them at Polk Elementary. They are learning the school routines and procedures and they are having a great time at school. As we move forward into the new school year, start the study habit with your child. Studying is a habit that children must learn and develop over time. What can you do to help?

### Start a Habit

Encourage your child to treat studying as a daily assignment, regardless of the grade level. Set aside time everyday, no less than 15 minutes, to study. Studying may include reviewing notes, studying spelling words and learning math facts. **This would be in addition to regular homework.**

### Tackle the Textbooks

If your child has a chapter to study, have them preview it by looking at all boldface headings in the chapter. They can also check graphics and photos, and check the glossary. Picture clues can be helpful also in understanding the reading passages.

### Mix it Up

Help your child study in a variety of ways. Use flash cards. Index cards are good tools to use for this purpose. Allow them to spell words aloud and recite each fact.

Remember as parents you have power.

- Spend time every evening looking over handouts that your child brings home.
- Communicate often with your child's teacher.
- Make sure your child's teacher knows that you appreciate all they are doing to help your child. An occasional thank you note would be a nice gesture.
- Contact your child's teacher immediately if you see a problem.
- Attend parent meetings and conferences. Let your child know that their education is important to you.

This can be the best year for all of us. Let's continue to work together for the benefit of our children.

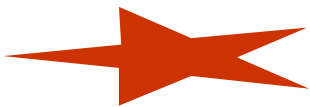


## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Open House Thursday August 27,2009  
School Auditorium
- ◆ Early Release Wednesday August 19,2009  
12:30PM
- ◆ Work Packets go home August 28,2009
- ◆ September 7, 2009 Labor Day Holiday No  
School!
- ◆ Muffins with Mom Parental Workshop  
8:00AM September 25, 2009
- ◆ Work Packets go home September 25,2009
- ◆ September 16,2009 Early Release Day  
12:30 Pm

## Reminders to Parents

- September 9, 2009 Mid-point of First  
Nine Weeks!
- September 11, 2009 Progress Report  
and Work Packets go home!



“Goal Directed In Our Golden Year!”

## Teacher's Corner

Dear Parents and Students, Welcome Back! Our First week into the 2009-2010 school year was great! Our classes have shown they are ready to work hard and are eager to participate. This year we are concentrating on motivation, dedication and realization of success. We can do it we will do it, and it will get done! Let's have a great year!

## Student Highlight

Are you a star student? If so, you can have a chance to have your picture and biography printed in the Polk Elementary School Newsletter! Be on your best behavior because we're on the prowl for stars!

## Homework Tips

- Set a specific "homework time" such as right after supper. Require that homework be complete before your child can watch TV, use the phone, go to football practice, etc.
- Be sure your child understands new assignments before he or she starts working on them. This one tip can save lots of late-evening tears!
- Do homework in a quiet place that does not have distractions!

## Bus and Walking Home Tips for Students

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early, so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Never push when getting on or off of the school bus.
- Know safe places you can go to on your way home if you have trouble.
- Stay alert to what is going on around you to avoid being surprised.
- Try to walk with others. It's much safer when you're with a group than by yourself.

## Attendance Corner

Wow! Another school year is well under way, and we are off to a great start. Just a reminder to parents, District Attorney Hillar Moore has made a commitment to the school system to support attendance and combat truancy. His office will begin contacting the parents of students on their third unexcused absence. The absences do not need to be consecutive. In the event that it becomes necessary to call a parent/guardian to court, the schools have been instructed to keep detailed attendance records in the office. Possible consequences for not complying with the attendance laws include; but are not limited to, a \$250.00 fine or 30 days imprisonment.

### Absences

Students may be excused for the whole or a part of a day absence for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness
2. Serious illness in the student's immediate family:
3. Death in the student's immediate family not to exceed one week;
4. Recognized religious holidays of the student's own faith;
5. Natural catastrophe and/or disasters.
6. Visit with parent prior to parent's military overseas deployment to a combat zone.

Following the guidelines set forth by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, excused absences will be granted for the above reasons only. Students will be allowed to make up any school work missed. All other reasons are considered unexcused.

A Written statement from a parent, legal guardian or physician stating a reason for absence shall be given to proper school personnel within five (5) school days after the student returns to school and may be verified for accuracy. After five (5) school days, the absence will have to be excused by the supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance.

### Tardies

Tardies are related to a student's attendance in school and will be addressed by the school tardy policy. A student who accumulates four (4) unexcused tardies is assigned to the Time-Out room or late lunch. Also, four (4) unexcused tardies is automatically computed in the school attendance database as an unexcused absence. Please make every effort to be on time for school.

Looking forward to a successful school year!

Yours truly,  
Mr. James Jackson III  
Administrative Clerk

## Reading and Math Tips for Parents

### Literacy Tip

*Get your child excited about reading. Try one of these helpful tips to inspire and awaken the reader in your child!*

- Find movies based on books. Then read the book and compare or vice-versa.
- Subscribe to magazines targeted at your child's interests.
- Have a reading light in your child's room so he/she can read anytime.
- Start your child on series books.
- Get children hooked on books by beginning a book and allowing them to finish on their own.

### Math Tips

*Try some of these activities at home with your child to get them interested in math!*

#### Math Is Everywhere

Whether you are at a restaurant or grocery store, in the car or on vacation, challenge your child to:

- 1) Estimate distance when traveling, and then verify it with an odometer or map.
- 2) Estimate the total bill at the restaurant before it arrives, or the cost of your groceries in the cart.
- 3) Estimate weight of produce, and then weigh on the scale to check.
- 4) Take apart cereal boxes to see how the 3-D shape is made from 2-D shapes.
- 5) Help you budget how much money to spend on your next vacation or shopping trip.
- 6) Count change at the cash register

## Tips on How Parents Can Support Teachers

1. **Get on the radar.** Introduce yourself to your child's teacher(s) at the beginning of the school year. Let them know you're planning to be involved in your student's academic life and you're looking forward to on going communication.
2. **Establish the best method for quick contact.** Ask the teachers about the best, most timely method for contacting them you, as well.
3. **Attend scheduled school events.** Show your involvement by showing up at as many events as you can, including open house, holiday events, and especially parents teacher conference.
4. **Volunteer.** If possible volunteer a few hours a week or a month in your child's classroom. Other possibilities include chaperoning field trips, school dances, car washes, fundraisers or other events.
5. **Share your expertise.** Organize a phone or email tree to parents in your child's class. Ask parents about their areas of expertise and see if they might be willing to donate some time to help out the school with any needs they might have. For instance, if they have technology skills, they might help them build a web presence.
6. **Spearhead a tutoring or homework help program.** Math tutors, writing coaches and adults or older students who can help walk students through their assignments can often be the difference between success and failure.

## Back to School Guidelines for Flu prevention

With the school year now underway throughout most of the state, health officials are urging students and parents to add one more item to the back-to-school checklist: a plan to avoid getting and spreading the flu and for what to do if someone in your family does get it.

People should try to stay healthy by using these hygiene tips:

- Wash your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw away the tissue after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.

## Parental/Community Involvement

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide specialized information to parent and our students. Within this newsletter we will include information about all upcoming events at Polk Elementary. Monthly highlights of students' achievement, updates and news from our teachers, as well as many other helpful tips to help make this year a successful school year for all of us, will be included in the newsletter.

I will be using this newsletter to keep you informed of all upcoming events and activities, and all volunteer opportunities. Our First big event for the school year is open house on Thursday August 27, 2009 in our school auditorium. Please come out and help us make this event a huge success. I look looking forward to meeting and working with each of you. Let's make this "golden" year one of the best years at Polk.

Mr. Jimmie Brown

*Parental Involvement Coordinator*  
"Goal Directed In Our Golden Year!"

