

**READING FIRST!**

Sandusky City Schools believes that every child must learn to read. The teachers and administrators of all elementary schools in Sandusky are using a new plan for teaching reading in grades K, 1, 2, and 3, *Sandusky Kids Can!* It was created last spring by a team of administrators and teachers led by Dr. Sally Roth, Director of Curriculum. It is funded by a federal grant called Reading First.

Teachers will use a scientific approach to teaching reading. The new reading program, Harcourt Trophies, will be used in a 90-minute *uninterrupted* daily block of reading time. NOTHING, not field trips, recess, visitors to the classroom, nor the teaching of subjects other than reading, must interrupt a child who is being taught to read! Teachers will watch the progress of each child.

All teachers and principals will receive monthly instruction on how to help students. Every school has a literacy specialist and data manager/resource assistant to assist teachers. The only help teachers need now is the most important of all—the help of our community and our parents.

If you have questions about reading instruction, please contact the teacher. Do spend time each evening or morning reading to with your student. This investment of your time will pay off. Every child in Sandusky CAN learn to read!

**TUTORING**

We have received special funds to provide an after-school tutoring program for students in grades 3-6. Classes will begin in early October and continue through the end of February. Mills teachers will be meeting with these students from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The focus of these sessions will be reading and math instruction. More details and registration forms will be sent home. If you have any questions, please call the school.

**BREAKFAST / TARDIES**

Students who walk or are dropped off by cars need to be at school before 8:30 a.m. to get breakfast. Many students have been tardy to class at 8:45 due to arriving late for breakfast. If a bus arrives late, those students will be served without being counted as tardy.

**DISMISSAL CONCERNS**

Please do not pick your child up early from school unless it is an emergency. We try to avoid interrupting classes whenever possible. Also, please write a note to your child's homeroom teacher if you wish for your child to go home in a different manner than normal (bus rider or walker). A clearly written note makes it easier for teachers and students to know your wishes. Dismissal is at 3:00 p.m.

**RECREATION AT MILLS**

The Sandusky Recreation Department has developed a variety of after-school activities this year at Mills School. Students in grades 3-6 may participate in "open gym" days where they are supervised in basketball, volleyball, and other organized sports. Students use the gymnasium and outside play areas. Also, students will be able to sign-up for a variety of arts and crafts projects later in the year.

Students meet at the school on most Mondays and Wednesdays when school is in session. Parents must make arrangements for transportation, but there is no cost to participate in the open gym sessions. Open gym days run from November through January. Students have brought home an orange flyer from the Recreation Department with details. For information on activities, call Michelle Speer at 419-627-5886

**PARENT COUNCIL FUND RAISER**

Students are currently taking orders to raise funds for the Mills Parent Council. Money raised will be used to promote student activities in a variety of ways. All parents are encouraged to participate in the many activities of the Mills Parent Council. For information about how to help or get involved call Jackie Thatcher at 419-502-6186 or Stephanie Wood at 419-627-9617.

**LUNCH MENUS**

Daily lunch menus appear on the local cable TV, the District web site, and in the Sandusky Register each Sunday.

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER (Mrs. Bush)**

If you would like to talk with the counselor about your child, call the school at 419-627-8195, extension 1445.

**MOVIE NIGHT**

Parent Council will be sponsoring a monthly "Movie Night" in the Mills School gymnasium. The first movie will be "Garfield" at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Parents are asked to accompany their children for the free event. Popcorn and drinks will be provided, and people are encouraged to bring a pillow or carpet square if they wish to sit on the floor.

**COMPUTER CAFÉ FOR PARENTS**

Mills is planning a monthly opportunity for parents and other adults to visit the computer lab and be given instructions on how to use the internet and computers. We are calling it the "Computer Café" and will provide snacks and drinks during the sessions. The purpose is to assist families in using computers and the internet so they can encourage their children to use the technology for learning.

*"Be the Best you can be!"*

# MILLS HOME AND SCHOOL CONNECTION

October 2005

## OCTOBER

- 4<sup>th</sup> Tue Midterm Reports Go Home
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tue Parent Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mon Lifetouch Picture Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> Fri NO CLASSES- Teachers' Meet
- 21<sup>st</sup> Fri Movie Night, 7 p.m. in the gym
- 28<sup>th</sup> Fri End of the First Quarter!



**Mills Student Council**



**Summer Bridge Books Completed**



**Homecoming Parade**

## NOVEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tue Parent Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Fri NO CLASSES  
Parent Conferences, 8-11 a.m.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Tue Election Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Fri Movie Night, 7 p.m. in the gym
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Wed Thanksgiving Break Begins



**Homecoming Parade**



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