

Dragon Tales

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Memo from McNally

Anyone remember the 19th century adage, “Sticks and stones can break your bones, but words can never hurt you?” I think we’ve all had an experience that has proven this wrong. Words can and do hurt and are unacceptable. But what if what we think the words we’re using are helpful? What if they aren’t? Research conducted by Carole Dweck from Stanford University makes the case that people develop growth mindsets or fixed mindsets based in part on the words they hear growing up. A fixed mindset believes intelligence is something you have, and can’t be changed much. A growth mindset believes that no matter what kind of person you are, you can always change. Success then is not about proving you’re smart or talented, it’s about stretching yourself to learn something new. Developing yourself. Failure then, becomes a learning experience and not something that confirms your intelligence. Dweck believes mindsets are a choice; they are beliefs that are shaped by the words we hear from others and internalize to ourselves.

Consider this phrase, “I’m proud of you”. As a parent and educator, I’ve said it many times. What could possibly be the problem? Consider a study by Melissa Kamins and Carol Dweck conducted with kindergarten students. They found that phrases like “I’m proud of you”, had the same effect on students as the phrase, “I’m disappointed in you.” It’s just the other end of the same conversation. The research goes on to state that if we say, “I’m proud of you” when children are successful, they often fill in the other end of the conversation and begin to believe we are disappointed in them when they are unsuccessful.

The moral of the story (says Peter Johnston in his book Opening Minds) is: don’t use person-oriented praise. Instead, use process-oriented feedback. So “I’m proud of you” becomes: “You tried really hard” or “You found a good way to do it; could you think of other ways that would also work?” Small changes in language can be significant in whether we see our lives (and performances) as “fixed” and therefore out of our control or “changeable” and in our control. We’re not suggesting that praise is always bad or that we stop completely. Rather, the suggestion is that we begin to look at feedback and critiques as opportunities to learn and grow. That we consider intelligence as something that can be improved with effort.

Little things can add up to make big differences. Consider giving feedback in place of praise. Norman Vincent Peale felt strongly about this and said, “The trouble with most of us is that we’d rather be ruined by praise, than saved by criticism.”



School Picnic and Field Day

Please join us for our annual picnic lunch and field day on Friday, May 17. See the reverse side for details on the lunch. Mrs. Hibma is looking for volunteers to help with Field Day, please return the form that was sent home last week if you can help.

Walk-A-Thon

Our Walk-A-Thon fundraiser is scheduled for this Friday, weather permitting. Our schedule is:

9:15-10:00	4th grade
10:05-10:50	1st grade
10:55-11:40	Kindergarten
12:30-1:15	5th grade
1:15-2:00	2nd grade
2:30-3:15	3rd grade



Join us for a fun day outdoors!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fri. May 3 - POPCORN Day, Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser
- ◆ Wed. May 8 - Kindergarten Visitation
- ◆ Fri. May 10 - Mother/Son Bowling
- ◆ Thurs. May 16 - Science Club
- ◆ Fri. May 17 - School Picnic and Field Day
- ◆ Tues. May 21 - PTC Mtg. 7:00 PM
- ◆ May 22-24 - Mobile DDS Visit
- ◆ Mon. May 27 - NO SCHOOL - Holiday
- ◆ Thurs. May 30 - 5th grade field day - EKHS
- ◆ Thurs. June 6 - 5th grade celebration 6:30 PM
- ◆ Fri. June 7 - Last Day of School, ½ day - 12:03 Dismissal

Discovery Elementary - A place to discover, develop, and dream. We strive to touch the lives of children in a way that prepares them to take their place as citizens with high academic skills and fine moral character.

Talent Show

Discovery's talent show will be held on Friday, May 31. Auditions begin May 17 and permission slips are due to Mr. Conniff by Monday, May 13. Slips are available from Mr. Conniff or in the school office.

Summer School

Summer school forms for qualified students were handed out at Parent/Teacher conferences. Our session is full. Any remaining students who are interested will be put on a waiting list.

Mother/Son Night

Mark your calendars now for Discovery's Mother Son Bowling Night at Eastbrook Lanes on Friday, May 10 from 6 PM - 8 PM. Cost is \$11.00 per person and includes 2 slices of pizza, two hours of bowling and shoes.

Dress Code

As the weather gets warmer, we want to remind you of the dress code as stated in the district Elementary Student Conduct Code:

Generally, students are prohibited from dressing, grooming, or decorating themselves in a manner that distracts others (including administrators, teachers, parents, and other students) from meeting or surpassing the academic and achievement goals established by the District and the State of Michigan.

Consistent with this policy, the following is a non-exclusive, illustrative list of examples of prohibited items:

Head coverings (for example, hats, visors, hoods, bandanas, etc.). Exceptions for religious head coverings.

Shirts or tops tied off above the waist, tank tops, halters, spaghetti straps, bare mid-ribs, etc.

Shorts, skirts, or dresses that do not reach to at least the top of the student's fingertips when arms are extended.

Pants that are worn below the waist.

Although sandals and flip-flops are allowed, children should not wear them if they are participating in the mileage club or plan on playing soccer during recess.

May 17 Picnic Lunch and Field Day



Discovery's School Picnic and Field Day will be held on Friday, May 17. The all-school picnic lunch will feature grilled beef hot dogs, fruit, chips, milk and a special treat. Please send your child's lunch money in as usual. In a separate envelope please send in the reservation form below with your money no later than Monday, May 13.

Also, Mrs. Hibma is looking for volunteers to assist with field day activities. If you can help, please fill out the form that came home or call Mrs. Hibma at school.

Discovery Picnic Reservation Form

Please reserve the following number of lunches for Friday, May 17. (Do not include Discovery students, buy their lunch tickets as usual.) Return to the office no later than Monday, May 13.

_____ number of Adults at \$3.50

_____ number of siblings at \$2.00

(additional hot dogs are \$1.00 each)

Total enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Student Name: _____



I.M.P.A.C.T.

It is time to apply for consideration in the IMPACT (Instructing Motivated Pupils to Achieve, Create, and Think) program for 4th and 5th graders. If you think your child is a candidate for this pull out program, please contact your child's teacher.