

# Brooks' Bulletin



October 2006

## MAP Testing

As you read this, we will have begun the first week of MAP testing. These results will be shared at November conferences, and Dr. Bev Smith will have an information night on MAP testing in late November. We look forward to having the results right away and being able to use them for instruction.

## Nurse's News

The nurse has asked me to remind everyone that students need to be kept home when they are ill. Also, a student must be fever free and non-symptomatic without the administration of fever reducing medicines for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. Remember that students who have been absent due to health related reasons are **not** to attend school activities or come into the school building to pick up homework on the day(s) of absence. Please see the Parent District Handbook for further information.

## Bravo

Mark Schwartz in fourth grade was recognized by the Illinois Arts Education Association. Out of 575 entries, forty works were accepted for this show. We're very proud of Mark.

## Walk to School Day

In our continued effort to promote wellness habits, we're choosing to participate in Walk to School Day. All students who walk or bike to school will be welcomed with a special sticker to show their participation. The classroom with the highest percentage of participants will receive a free lunch party from me. As I stated at our Curriculum Night, we're striving to educate the whole child, and exercise is a habit that we want to continue into adulthood. If you live too far from school to walk, please think about driving over to a close neighborhood and walking to school with friends. Thanks in advance for participating.

## New Parent Coffee

It was nice meeting new parents and hearing about how their children

are doing at Isaac Fox. I'd like to continue doing these periodically for all parents to discuss any topics that you'd like to learn about. Last year I held one about ISAT and will offer that again. However, I'd like to hear from you. Would you like to know about math instruction, reading instruction, or science? Please email me and let me know- [jill.brooks@lz95.org](mailto:jill.brooks@lz95.org)

## Helping Your Child Be Successful

1. Be generous with praise  
Observe your child carefully and comment on the things that are done well. When you see an area that needs improvement, find a positive way to talk about it with your child.
2. Encourage "personal best"  
Help your child by encouraging him or her to do the best in school and at home. Remember "personal best" does not mean "perfect" and "learning" is not the same as "high grades." Children, like adults, need the freedom to make mistakes and to learn from them.

3. Make learning a priority

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## Dates to Remember

October 3- MAP testing begins and lasts through Oct. 25

Oct. 4- Walk to School Day

Oct. 3-25- MAP testing

Oct. 11- Vision and Hearing Screening

October 18- PTO, 7:00 PM, IF Cafeteria

Oct. 25- Early Release, 12:50 PM

Oct. 25-27, IF Book Fair

Oct. 26- Family Event at the Book Fair

Oct. 31- Halloween

School attendance, education and involvement in the school makes a strong and lasting impression on your child. Show your child, by example, that learning is a priority.

4. Show interest in school work

- Talk about school each day.
- Ask to see the classwork.
- Have your child read aloud to you.
- Read to and with your child from a variety of material in your first language.
- Encourage your child to discuss new ideas and opinions.
- Show appreciation for good efforts.

5. Offer suggestions for success

Help your child use the following strategies to improve performance in school: read the assignment when it is given, keep a list of new vocabulary, proofread assignments to catch errors before writing a final draft, and review notes before a test.

6. Schedule study time

Set up an area for homework away from noise and

distraction. Post a family calendar that schedules school project deadlines, after-school activities, test dates, and report card dates.

7. Support 100% attendance

Some types of absences are unavoidable, but taking students out of school unnecessarily is disruptive for learning.

8. Help set goals

Help your child identify three or four goals for themselves. Post them in a place that can be frequently seen. Make sure the goals are specific.

9. Get involved

Attend school activities such as curriculum nights, conferences, and PTO meetings. When your children see that you are involved, they will also see that education is a high priority.

10. Make direct contact with the school

Try to make early and positive contact with your child's teacher. We encourage you to visit the school or phone your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

**Character Counts**

We're focusing on "Responsibility" this month. You can help teach responsibility at home by assigning chores and offering your child choices. Also, help your child learn that choices have consequences.

Thank you for all of your support,

Jill Brooks