



DIVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER **DOLPHIN DISPATCH**

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OCTOBER 2, 2019
UPCOMING EVENTS

10/2 Fundraisers Due!

Please send your CherryDale and Yankee Candle orders!

10/4 Popcorn Fridays Begin

Help the DSO bring smiles to our scholars and staff! Send in a quarter for your little one to get a bag of fresh-popped popcorn made and delivered by parent volunteers every Friday morning.

10/11 Early Release

School lets out at 2:30pm.

10/14 NO SCHOOL

Columbus Day

10/24 @5pm

Night of the Wild Things

Dress in your favorite costume and join us for a night of crafts and fun. *Tanglewood Nature Center* will be bringing in some creepy and cute critters, too!

10/25 Picture Day



Like us on Facebook @DivenSchoolOrganization

SUPER POWER WORD: STAMINA

Our Super Power Word for October is Stamina. We'll be teaching the little ones that stamina is when you have the strength to focus and keep working even when things are hard. You can help your children develop stamina at home by encouraging them to keep trying, training your child to be more focused, and by not showing frustration when things get tough.

For a child who finds it hard to focus because of fidgeting, try doing tasks while the child is standing at a counter or sitting in a chair that allows them to gently spin back and forth. Some of our teachers use disc chairs or wobble chairs to help our children focus while being able to fidget (and not disrupt classmates).

You can also train your child to focus by rewarding stamina. Use a timer and ask your child to work on a task for as long as he can. How long was it? That's your baseline. Give your child a ten-minute break—moving around, not screentime—and then try to increase the focus time by 30-second to a minute. Work on this every day and you should see an improvement in your child's ability to stay on task. You can also break large projects into much smaller tasks. Instead of "Read for 20 Minutes a Day," try "Read for 5 Minutes" four times a day. Set an attainable goal and a reward for when that goal is reached.

LET'S LEARN ABOUT: NWEA TESTING

Your child may have mentioned NWEA testing to you. This is a special computer-adaptive test—MAP Growth—that we use here at Diven (and beyond) to measure your child's skills. Adaptive means that the test will adapt to your child: if your child answers a question correctly, the next question is harder. If your child answers a question incorrectly, the next one is easier. The cool thing about this test is that



it measures *what your child knows*, not a grade level. The test is not a pass/fail, just a way to track growth. You'll receive a RIT score that will show if your child is performing on, above, or below grade level. This helps you and your child's teachers decide where best to focus your child's education. You'll receive your child's RIT scores at Parent-Teacher conferences or with your report card, and we'll do the test a few times a year so we can make sure that your child is growing academically.

Head over to YourReadingPath.com and enter your child's age and RIT score for some great book recommendations!



NIGHT OF THE WILD THINGS IS COMING

This month, many of our classes will be decorating pumpkins, and all our pre-kindergarteners will be taking a field trip to Smithome Farms. Many classes will be hosting family events during the day, and on the night of October 24, we will be hosting **Night of the Wild Things**, a fun, free family night featuring arts and crafts, spooky treats, and a visit from several creepy and cuddly creatures from Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum.

We are seeking volunteers and donations for this family night. If you are interested, please check out <http://www.tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer> to see how you can help. If you can't volunteer, we still hope to see you there! 😊

FREE PARENTING CLASSES

Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Developmental Services, Inc. offers free parenting classes throughout the year. Located at 1580 Lake Street, Ste. 1 in Elmira, all that's required to participate is pre-enrollment. You can find a complete list of classes offered by CIDS at CIDSFamilies.com. Tonight, they'll be starting their FLIP IT classes at 5:30pm. This 5-week, 2-hour class meets every Wednesday at the Transformation Center at 314 W. Church Street in Elmira. You can pre-register by calling Karen, 607-426-4879 or e-mailing markarensweeney@gmail.com. The FLIP IT classes are for parents who feel like their children are pushing their buttons and nothing's working! "Don't FLIP OUT, use FLIP IT!" It's four easy steps to follow, and you'll learn all about it in these free classes. Free childcare is provided by the Transformation Center for this program.



WANNA THROW A PIE IN MRS. LEGARE'S FACE?

Mrs. Legare, our Vice Principal, will let your child's class build a whip cream pie and throw it in her face. All you have to do is help your child's class raise \$500 for the Diven School Organization by October 24. We will merrily record the pie throwing and post it to Facebook! All donations received support DSO activities like: PreK swim lessons, free books for our scholars, family events, and so much more. So far, we have:

- **Krause's Class: \$100!**
- O'Bireck's Class: \$50
- Ripley's Class: \$50
- West's Class: \$85

- Winsor's Class: \$30
- Schornstheimer's Class: \$25
- Patchett's Class: \$1

WANNA WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD FOR YOUR CLASS?

One of our parents has generously donated \$50 for the class with the most DSO members. To participate in this, you commit to volunteering two hours a year or donate to the DSO and fill out and return your DSO membership form. The class with the most DSO members who fulfill these requirements will be awarded \$50 to spend how they wish.

- **West's Class: 7!**
- Noonan-Meck's Class: 4
- Winsor's Class: 3
- O'Bireck's Class: 3
- Schornstheimer's Class: 3
- Burge's Class: 2
- Ripley's Class: 2
- Cornacchio's Class: 2
- Scharborough's Class: 2
- Billbe's Class: 1
- Krause's Class: 1
- Patchett's Class: 1
- Moshier's Class: 1
- DiRisio's Class: 1

Teachers note: DSO funding is available for your classes this year. Please send an e-mail to the Family & Community Outreach Coordinator with your project idea, supply list, and the amount of funding you need for your classroom project/supplies. We will do our best to accommodate.

Staff, teachers, and families may also write down and deliver their suggestions and wish lists to the Copy Room. You'll see an **Advice & Wishes Box** on the computer desk in room C101.



DIVEN'S VOLUNTEERS ROCK

I posted a picture of handy-dandy kittens here. If you enjoyed looking at it, I hope you'll reward me by reading this whole newsletter. :D

When you support the school, especially through volunteering, your child is more likely to be engaged, to want to come to school, and to view school as an important and safe place.

After you drop your child off in the morning—or any time—if you'd like to join me in my office to discuss ideas you have, concerns or questions you have, please reach out and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you and making your experience at Diven a wonderful one!

Liz Zilinski | Family & Community Outreach Coordinator | Diven Elementary School

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Website: <http://www.tinyurl.com/DivenDD>

Social Media: <http://www.facebook.com/DivenSchoolOrganization/>

Volunteer: <http://www.tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer>