



STRIDE Pride Newsletter

November 12,

PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students)

Wondering how the Scholastic Bookfair went? Or how many people made it to the Silent Auction? Questions about upcoming events at school? Maybe you'd like to know how much fundraising money goes back to our school for field trips, special class projects, and so many other great things here at STRIDE? Maybe you'd like some input or first hand knowledge of what the next field trip might be. You and your ideas/suggestions/comments are so very welcome to discuss these types of things and more at the next PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students) meeting! And for a nominal fee of just \$1,000 per year.....only kidding - (wanted to

be a P do le behind the scenes conversations that help to shape our school \$1,000 per year.....only kidding - (wanted to be sure I in so many little ways. The time you invest in a PATHS



First Grade Happenings

The first graders have been working hard and learning about many things during our first 60 days of school. Here are a few of the highlights:

Core Knowledge phrases, "Treat others how you would like to be treated."

"Practice makes perfect." "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

Ancient Civilizations of the Americas: Maya, Aztec and Inca. We learned how the Mayans did math and grew corn. We learned that the Aztecs had a huge empire in what we now call Mexico. We learned that the Inca were farmers who lived in the mountains of what is now Peru. We are now learning about the early explorers and settlers who came from Spain and England to the Americas.

In science, the first graders learned about the human body. We studied the skeletal, muscular and organ systems of the body. We learned how to keep our bodies healthy. We are starting a unit on matter: gases, liquids and solids.

We made tie, fleece blankets to donate to the Silent Auction Fundraiser. We will be making holiday cards in December to deliver to area nursing home residents.

The first grade teachers have started a blog for parents to follow. Please go to our school website, www.strideacademy.org, and find the link on the blog page. We will use this to update parents on upcoming events and news. We will also begin posting weekly spelling lists on the blog.



Volunteer Opportunities

The best place to find volunteer opportunities is to look at the Stride website;
www.strideacademy.org

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. The staff at Stride Academy thank the volunteers for the following help;

- *Filling Thursday Folders
- *Math projects
- *Typing
- *Lunch Room Sup.
- *Donations; supplies/\$
- *Planning/Preparation/Participation in the Silent Auction
- *Preparation & Participation in the Knowledge Bowl
- *Repairs to the building
- *At Home projects
- *Copying, Cutting, Sorting
- *Classroom Help

Let us know if you have an opportunity to add.

Volunteers not only add to the progress of our school; they add to the progress of educating each student.

Thank you very much for your continued participation!

Contact Person: Lynn Imholte www.limholte@strideacademy.org

Parents:

The Afterschool Program (all day program) will not be run the week of Thanksgiving. The school is going to be disinfected to hopefully begin a clean, healthy environment when the kids and staff return.



There are facets of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) that need reform. A positive consequence of NCLB is the attention paid to closing the achievement gap between cultural groups, students with special needs, students who speak English as a second language and socio-economic classes. STRIDE Academy has taken an honest and open look at the data over the past four years. There is a clear and obvious gap in test scores between black students and white students. This gap in achievement levels between different cultures is unacceptable and we need to remedy this situation as soon as possible. The lack of proficiency in reading, writing and math amongst black students is a symptom of deeper problems that have gone ignored, unaddressed, and unmet for far too long (Kafele, 2006).

STRIDE teachers have been meeting one time per week to participate in professional development and strategic planning to specifically raise proficiency amongst black students. The book that we have used as our tool to improvement is *Motivating Black Males to Achieve in School and in Life* authored by Baruti Kafele (www.principalkafele.com). The main points of the book and our training include:

- Learning about black male students to meet their classroom needs
- Learning about ourselves to meet our black male students needs





