

Parent October Newsletter

Fall is here, bringing cool breezes and the colors of the changing season. It is also time for parent-teacher conferences. As a parent, you are your child's first teacher, and you share the responsibility for your child's education at school. You and your child's teacher have something in common – you both want your child to learn and grow to his or her full potential. When parents and teachers communicate, each can share valuable information about a child's talents and needs and focus on how to best help the child.

Parent-teacher conferences are a great way to start the conversation with your child's teacher. Take this opportunity to find out if your child is meeting grade-level expectations and academic standards. Also share with your child's teacher your child's interests, needs and dreams. The following questions are suggestions to help you make the most of the parent-teacher conference.

- How is my child progressing?
- What can I do to help my child?
- What questions should I ask my child's teacher?

The PTA has a helpful tip sheet on ways to make parent-teacher conferences a positive experience. It can be found at <http://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1710>.

October also is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Some signs of bullying are obvious and easy to spot, while others are more subtle. Educate yourself on how to talk to your child about bullying. Below are some questions to consider.

- How do I know if my child is being bullied?
- How do I know if my child is a bully?
- How can my child's teacher help if my child is being bullied?
- How can I protect my child against cyberbullying?
- What does my child's school handbook say about bullying?

Be sure to check out the resources on the Arkansas Department of Education's website: <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/safety/anti-bullying>. The Stomp Out Bullying website also has a vast array of helpful information and tip sheets to help you ask the right questions and take appropriate action if you suspect bullying is an issue: <http://www.stompoutbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/tip-sheet-signs-your-child-being-bullied/>.

October also is the beginning of flu season. Keeping your child healthy through flu season will help ensure good attendance and a successful school year. Think about the following:

- What are some precautions my family can take to avoid getting the flu?

- When is my child too sick to attend school?

Be sure to check out the Arkansas Department of Health's flu resources:

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/infectiousDisease/Immunizations/SeasonalFlu/Pages/Resources.aspx>.



<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>