



ALLEN SCHOOL'S E-NEWSLETTER

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Principal's Message

Signs of fall are everywhere and our enthusiastic Allen School students are excited about the many events planned for the month. With the approaching holiday, we recognize the importance of sharing our good fortune with others.

On Wednesday, October 26th, Allen School filled a pick-up truck with 44 huge boxes of **school supplies that are being shipped** to Pass Christian, Mississippi. The boxes were sent to New Century trucking where they will be loaded onto skids and shipped via tractor trailer to our new friends at Deliale Elementary School in Pass Christian. There, four elementary schools have combined into one due to Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Barnes (Grade 5) has been communicating with our newly adopted family to insure that the supplies collected and purchased best represent what is most needed. Our warmest thanks are extended to Ms. Barnes and her fifth graders, to all our generous families and donors, and to New Century trucking for supporting this effort. Watch for more updates about this new partnership! We appreciate your support of this most worthwhile cause!

Our belief in the importance of a strong home and school partnership as the cornerstone to success is summarized best in this verse. As a home and school family, we continue to share a special bond and the joy of discovery that will always foster great things happening in our school.

Unity

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools he used
Were books, and music, and art;
One, a parent with a guiding hand,
And a gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled,
With touch that was deft and sure
While the parents labored by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For this thing they had molded in the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed he would have failed
If he had worked alone,
For behind the parents stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

Author Unknown



Report Cards
Nov. 18th

Just a Reminder:



Please send students to school with winter jackets, hats, and gloves/mittens. Children will be going outside for recess during the cold weather days unless there is snow on the ground or an unsafe wind chill condition.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Christine Pukenas
Principal

Mrs. Mary Ann Condi
Secretary

Mrs. Mary Kondracki
Nurse

Dr. Deborah Haggett
Guidance

School Phone:
609-654-4203

If you know your party's ext.	Press 1
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Office	Press 2
Nurse	Press 3

Guidance	Press 4
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Media Ctr.	Press 5
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Absence Line	Press 6
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Allen Info.	Press 7
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District Office	609-654-6416
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Emergency Closing Number:

On behalf of our entire staff, I encourage you to enjoy this beautiful fall season. In anticipation of Thanksgiving and the holidays, we share our gratitude with you and our hope for world peace and tolerance.

Christine G. Pukenas
Principal

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Successful Parent/Teacher Conferences!

<http://www.nea.org/parents/ptconf.html>

Communication between parents and teachers is essential for student growth and learning. One type of communication is the Parent/Teacher Conference. This is the time for parents and teachers to discuss and share information about a student in a constructive and beneficial manner so that the teacher can do his or her best job of teaching. However, a conference with your child's teacher is similar to a doctor's office visit. You both may have a lot to talk about, but a limited amount of time. The better prepared the parents and teachers are prior to the meeting, the more beneficial the meeting will be for all parties involved. Here are some tips for a productive parent/teacher conference.

Parent/Teacher Conference Tips For Parents!

http://school.discovery.com/parents/teacherlink/articles/parentconferences_1.html

Before the Conference

- ✓ **Schedule early.** If you sign up early you will most likely find a good time that will work for both parents. If possible, go to the conference together. This lets the teacher know that both of you are involved in your child's education. It also helps to have an additional set of ears to compare notes on what was discussed. Also, because of the short amount of time, make sure you are there on time!
- ✓ **Talk to your child.** Ask specific questions such as: What would he/she like you to ask the teacher? What does he/she like best about school? Are there any subjects in which he/she is having trouble?
- ✓ **Write down questions.** When you are in the meeting with your teacher it is hard to remember what you wanted to talk about. Jot down your questions beforehand, prioritize the list in case time runs short, and bring them to the conference. [See the Guidance Page for a list of sample questions to ask.](#)

During the Conference

- ✓ **Stick to talking about your child.** The conference lasts only 20 minutes. This is your chance to get detailed feedback on your child, so grab it while you can. Don't hesitate to ask specific questions or concerns that don't come up. Let the teacher know of any changes at home that may affect your child such as a new baby, divorce, or a death in the family.
- ✓ **Listen but don't get defensive.** To get off on the right foot, you may want to listen first to what the teacher has to say, and then base your questions on what is said. The main function of the conference is to point out areas where your child has room to develop. The teacher may suggest special testing, special classes, or changes in your routine or behavior at home. Keep in mind that this is a part of all parent-teacher conferences. The point of the meeting is to look for ways to help your child do even better in school. Remind

yourself that the teacher is on your side and the two of you have the same goal: to help your children learn as best as he/she can.

- ✓ **Take notes.** After the meeting you may forget what was discussed, so jot down things as you go along that will help you to jog your memory later.
- ✓ **Leave with an action plan.** Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better. You may think of other questions later so find out the best way to follow up with the teacher. Review decisions that you've made together and if necessary request another meeting.

After the Conference

- ✓ **Talk to your child.** Let your child know how the conference went and the things that were discussed. First make sure to pass on the praise before bringing up issues of concern. Follow up on anything your child talked about before the meeting.
- ✓ **Initiate the Action Plan.** Start immediately on the plan that was discussed by you and the teacher. Discuss the plan with your child. Make sure that he/she knows that you and the teacher care. To see if the action plan is working, watch your child's behavior and check your child's class work and homework.
- ✓ **Stay in touch with the teacher.** Call or email the teacher in the few weeks and update him/her on something that was discussed during the conference. Keep the door of communication open!

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Upcoming Events at Allen School

November is packed full of great happenings at Allen! [Here are just a few events that are coming up!](#)

- **No School—Nov. 8th, 10th, and 11th**
- **Visit our Schools Day—Nov. 16th and Nov. 17th**
- **4th Grade Art Night—Nov. 17th**
- **Favorite Sports Day/Papa John's Pizza Day—Nov. 18th**
- **Report Cards—Nov. 18th**
- **Early Dismissals & Conferences—Nov. 21st and 22nd**
- **Conferences (No School)—Nov. 23rd**
- **Author Visit for Grades 3-5 (Elizabeth Winthrop) —Nov. 29th**

[Check out the 2005-2006 Allen School Calendar for a complete listing of all activities throughout the year!](#)

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All in a Gator's Day!

Great Gator Happenings in the classroom!

- **Kindergarten: Puppets Show; Scarecrow Walk; Johnson's Farm Trip-Pumpkin Picking; [Pumpkin Scientists!](#)**
- **1st Grade: [Pumpkin Day \(Pumpkin Centers\); Chicks](#)**

Hatching: Visit to Springdale Farms

- **2nd Grade: Speech Pumpkins (learning about sounds): Cedar Run Refuge Trip (Animal Habitats); Every Day Math (Games to reinforce math Facts)**
- **3rd Grade: Flat Stanley**
- **4th Grade: Art Museum Visit (Art in Action); Pumpkin Activities**
- **5th Grade: Veteran's Day Essays; Community Service Project (Hurricane Katrina); Shopping Spree (Tech lab and math integrated project using Excel)**

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What's New on Allen's Website?

The Allen School website changes often! Make sure you check it daily!

- **Halloween: Check out photos from the Halloween Parade and parties!**
- **The Counselor's Corner: Additional materials for Parent/Teacher Conferences; Ways to get involved in your child's education; Clifford's Big Idea: Work Together**
- **November Lunch Menu: The lunch menu for November has now been posted!**
- **Nurse's Page: Kids Talk about Halloween Candy; Candy tips for Parents; Food Pyramid Blast off Game; and Dole 5 A Day**
- **Media Center: Award Winning Author, Elizabeth Winthrop, will visit Allen!**

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Fun and Educational Sites for Kids

These are some of our kid's favorite sites and they are educational, too. Shh!!! Don't tell them!

- **Power Proofreading (Grades 2-8) Houghton Mifflin has created this great site to help students with proofreading their written work. The power has gone out at the Radio Station so they need a "proofreading technician!" Choose a grade level folder and then a passage to correct. There is even a grammar help section with examples to assist students!**
- **Basic Math Addition (Grades K-2) These bugs will help students learn basic addition! Count the bugs on the first leaf and type in your answer. Then count the bugs on the other leaf and enter your answer. Finally, watch all the bugs move to one leaf and count the total amount of**

bugs!

- **[Adventures at Dry Creek](#)** (Grades 3-5) *Embark on a true scientific adventure based on paleontology research studying life in Montana about 60-70 million years ago! Students go through the scientific process using real data and research questions! Really cool!*
- **[History Mystery](#)** (Grades 4-5) *Professor Carlotta Facts challenges you to a history mystery. Choose from various history topics such as Vikings and explorers, Presidents, Ancient Egypt and more! Try and figure out the answer to the question is as little clues as possible to earn the title of Investigator!*
- **[Bam! Body and Mind: Physical Fitness](#)** (All Grades) *This awesome sites allows you to make your own fitness and activity calendar! Hear from experts on how to play certain activities and the gear you will need! Play "I Heard the Hurdle Race" to learn about the myths of Physical Fitness!*

[For more fun links and resources click here!](#)

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