



# Dicken Data

Dicken Elementary School Monthly Newsletter

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## From the Desk of Principal Madison

November 14, 2011

October 2011  
Edition

### Dicken Elementary School

#### Be The Change!

“Raising the achievement of all students while closing the educational achievement gap between the highest and lowest performing students”

During the month of November we will be settling down to a three-week stretch of learning time before our Thanksgiving Holiday. Please help your child use this time wisely. This is also the month that all parents had the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher.



*Principal Madison*

### Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Patch

Weren’t both a blast? The weather was cool but at least it didn’t rain! Great costumes, fun parties, and good times. Thanks for following the Halloween Costume guidelines, keeping Halloween candy at home after Halloween, and donating so many wonderful costumes for Dicken students who needed a costume. Special thanks to the 5th grade parents for sponsoring Pumpkin Patch. Special thanks to Bridget Sherman and Tekesha Lee for chairing the committee.



***Exceptional Staff, Exceptional Students, Exceptional Parents!***

### The MEAP is Over!

Our third, fourth, and fifth graders worked very hard and have completed taking the MEAP tests for this year. Thanks so much for supporting your children during this time. As you have now heard, the state has raised the CUT scores used to determine if a student is Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Not Proficient. This year, the Michigan State Board of Education has adopted new standards and has raised the cutoff score or “cut score” that a student must receive in each of the rating categories. The new cut scores represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement and are intended to more accurately reflect a student’s progress toward college and career readiness. On some tests, students previously could have answered as few as 40 percent of the questions correctly to be considered “Proficient.” Under the new scoring system, students will have to correctly answer a much higher percentage of questions. Michigan is one of only three states in the nation, along with New York and Tennessee, to move into this top tier of test scoring. Like school districts across the state, Ann Arbor Public Schools MEAP and MME proficiency results for fall 2011, are expected to decline when actual scores are publicly released next spring. While we anticipate an initial drop in the number of students reported as “Proficient,” we are confident that ongoing school improvement and student support measures will provide an appropriate and significant response to the scoring changes.

### EASE (Energy Awareness & Sustainability Education Program)

On Monday, November 7th, our students had the opportunity to learn more about the Energy Awareness & Sustainability Education (EASE) program. This is a program designed to help save energy (and money). The EASE booth contained an idea tree for students to populate, a pledge for them to take, a building performance update and an interactive lighting display. You can find out more about EASE by visiting the AAPS web site at <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us> and choosing About... [Major Projects and Initiatives](#).



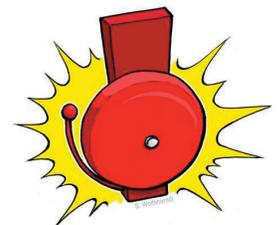
### Picture Retakes



November 15th is picture retake day. If you were not satisfied with your child’s school picture this year, simply send the entire packet (uncut) back and their picture will be retaken. If your child was absent on Picture Day in October they should also have their picture taken on November 15th.

### Preparedness Drills

During November we will continue to practice our Fire, Severe Weather, and Lock Down Drills. I want to thank all of you for your support in advance during these practices. The students have done a fabulous job listening to their teacher’s directions and staying calm. The staff has been stellar following our practiced protocol for Shelter in Place and Lock Downs. While the protocols may seem tedious we take our job seriously to ensure that all students are safe and accounted for. Again it is important to emphasize to your children that the drills we do (fire, severe weather, and lock down) need to be taken seriously.



### Fall Report Cards

All children will receive a report card on Wednesday, November 29th, 2011 in their backpacks. Hopefully you will take time to review this report with your child. To help you better read and understand the report letter, keep in mind the following:

- In the K-2 report letter, B-Beginning, D-Developing, and S-Secure at fall, winter, and spring intervals, reflects writing progress. Children are unique and sometimes master the outcomes quickly. Other times they need more practice and opportunity for learning. When a student masters an outcome, it will be marked S-Secure. Students are expected to master the grade level outcomes by the end of the year. You will notice the shaded boxes, which indicate the time of year the outcome will usually be assessed.
- Progress in writing on grade 3-5 reports is reflected by B-Beginning, D-Developing, and S-Secure at fall, winter, and spring intervals. The outcomes should be secure by Spring marking period.
- The K-2 report letters also show your child's instructional reading level. A description of the text level appears in the dialogue box to help parents understand the level of text difficulty. The last box on the page will indicate whether a student is "on target," "below target," or "above target".
- Reading levels are not reported after second grade. Instead, grade 3-5 report letters list end of year outcomes in parentheses. Each reporting period will indicate progress as B-Beginning, D-Developing, and S-Secure at fall, winter, and spring intervals.
- Your child's "Attendance" can be found in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the report card. It shows absences and tardies so you can check your child's attendance in our school through the first report card marking period. If your child had no absences or tardies, he/she will have 0s in this area.



It is important for you to point out what you are proud of as well as make sure your child understands what areas he/she needs to improve upon. Setting realistic goals with children now can help keep them focused. Your support can make a big difference in your child's success at school. As always, if you have questions about your child's report card, please contact their teacher.

### NWEA MAP Assessment

In September, your child took the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in both mathematics and reading. This adaptive, computerized assessment is given three times per year in the fall, winter, and spring for students in grades K-5. You can expect to see your child's data throughout the 2011-2012 school year: Assessment Results to Parents will be sent home November 29th (with report cards). On this report home you'll see a RIT score, which is used to measure your student's academic growth and progress throughout his/her career with the Ann Arbor Public Schools. RIT stands for Rausch Unit and is a scale developed by a Danish mathematician to measure growth over time. Please note that the RIT score is a snapshot of how your student performed on the MAP assessment on a single day in time and is one of many pieces of data we use to develop the whole picture of your child. Items such as student familiarity with a computer, perceptions about testing, anxiety, and student engagement can impact assessments. This data is just once piece of the picture; other measures of academic progress include: report card outcomes, Benchmark Running Record Assessments, Checking Progress unit assessments in math for grades 1-5, MEAP results and individual teacher assessments.

To find out more information about the MAP assessment within the Ann Arbor Public Schools, visit our community site: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/ins.technology/nwea>.

## READ 180 and System 44

Reading is an important foundation for success in every academic area. Students who struggle as readers can experience frustration and lack of success in a variety of subjects. In response to this problem, our district has selected READ 180, a groundbreaking intervention program proven to improve reading achievement for students who are reading below grade level. READ 180 uses cutting-edge technology to deliver individualized reading instruction, provide valuable skills practice, and motivate students to become confident, successful readers.

In order to implement this program, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers have met and are working together to enhance reading instruction for all of our students. The Balance Literacy block in all of these classrooms will take place at the same time of day. Ms. Liz Bauman, Special Education TC, along with Ms. Mary Ann Whitmer, our Title 1 teacher and Ms Colette Logan, our English Literacy Learner teacher will teach the READ 180 and System 44 programs. We have begun both READ 180 and System 44 programs this past month.

We are excited about this opportunity to challenge all of our students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade to grow as readers and writers. Although some writing will be part of this Balanced Literacy Instructional block, all students will still have Writer's Workshop with their regular classroom teacher.

## Dicken All School Potluck

Please join us for our Annual Potluck, which is scheduled for November 17th, 2011 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We have an amazing and diverse community so you will be able to sample many dishes and meals from the many cultures that Dicken School represents! In order to ensure enough for all, please keep in mind the following when preparing your food item:

- No peanuts or tree nuts
- Please prepare enough to serve 12
- Mark your serving dishes and utensils with your name or consider using disposable utensils.
- Remember if your last name ends in A- L, bring a Main Dish (i.e. casserole, rice dish or any favorite); if your last name ends in M-Z, bring a Side Dish or Salad.
- Arrive before 6:00 pm to set up dish on buffet table.

Any questions, contact Naela Jenkins at [naelajenkins@comcast.net](mailto:naelajenkins@comcast.net) or 709-1908.



## Thanksgiving Meals



Dicken is fortunate to have three partners in excellence who have volunteered to supply Thanksgiving Baskets for Dicken families: Knox Church, Comerica Bank, and Cooley Law Schools will deliver these dinners to Dicken on Monday, Nov. 21st, 2011. If you are in need of a Thanksgiving meal, please call the school and let Principal Madison know. He will reserve a meal for you.

## Lost and Found

The lost items are piling up in the boxes near the main office. There are some very expensive pieces of clothing that need to be claimed and brought home. Please check out the items and claim your items before we turn over the remaining unclaimed items to the Salvation Army or Purple Heart on December 19, 2011. Also, if you have time, always label your child's clothing items so that we can easily notify you of lost items.

## Gift Policy

With the approach of the holiday season, it is important for us to remind all parents and families that School Board Policy prohibits gifts to teachers other than those of a token nature. Even though students sometimes exhibit excitement and eagerness during this time of year, we must remain focused on learning in the classroom. Our Winter Break is scheduled for December 22nd, 2011 through January 8th, 2012. School will resume on January 9th, 2012.

## Parent Participation

Parent participation is crucial to student success. It is wonderful to see so many families here in our school throughout the week. Please continue to support your child and their teaching team through the many ways available. You are supporting your child's education when you:

- 1) Read to your child
- 2) Communicate important information to your child's teacher
- 3) Volunteer in the classroom
- 4) Attend school wide family activities
- 6) Have conversations with your child about their day
- 7) Become involved in parent committees/governing boards

The list is endless.



## Dicken Staff and Students

I would like to thank the Dicken staff for doing an excellent job in educating our students these past several months. The staff is dedicated to teaching our kids, and their efforts are paying off. They also spend numerous hours participating in other activities outside of the classroom that give students a complete educational experience.

We also need to acknowledge our students who, for the most part, are exhibiting excellent work habits and behavior in classrooms, hallways, and school activities. Most of our students strive to do their best each and every day. They place a premium on getting a quality education and establishing healthy relationships with their peers.

Thanks!

*Principal Madison*



**“Dicken School’s positive, safe environment and strong measurable academic focus empowers our diverse community of students to achieve their full potential as lifelong learners.”**

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## Upcoming November/December Notes

Monday, Nov. 7th-18th	Student Council Food Drive
Monday, Nov. 7th-21st	Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser
Friday, Nov. 11th	Kindergarten Movie Night at 6:30-8:30 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 15th	Multi-Cultural All School Potluck at 6:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23rd-25th	Thanksgiving Holiday Break
Tuesday, Nov. 29th	Written Student Report Cards sent home by backpack
Thursday, Dec 1st	Madison's Monthly Mocha at 8:30-9:30 am
	Comerica Youth Savings Banking Day at 8:30-9:00 am
	PTO Meeting at 7:00-9:00 pm, Location TBD
Friday, Dec 2nd	3rd & 4th Grade Movie Night at 6:30-8:00 pm
Friday, Dec 2nd-22nd	Grand Traverse Pie Fundraiser
Monday, Dec 5th-16th	Dicken Service Squad Mitten Drive
Friday, Dec. 23rd-Sunday, Jan. 8th	Winter Break (school resumes on Monday, Jan. 9th)

## Innisbrook Fundraiser

The Innisbrook Company offers a variety of holiday and non-holiday, reasonably priced, products to our families, while generously donating 40-50% of the sales back to our community. These funds help us to provide field trips and valuable enrichment opportunities for ALL Dicken Students. Last year, we sold approximately \$4,000 of products and made over \$1,800 for the PTO. Our goal this year is to have \$5,000 in sales, which would give us a profit of approximately \$2,500.

Students brought home catalogs with an informational letter in the packet. Please read these carefully. Orders can be entered online, but if you don't have access to a computer, you can send in your paper order and the Fundraising Chairperson will enter the order for you. You can also direct out-of-town relatives to the Innisbrook web site to place orders, and they will be shipped directly to them. Check the informational letter for more details on how to do this.

All orders will be delivered the first week of December in time for the holidays! Please consider participating in this important fundraiser. If every student sold just two products, we would have no problem meeting our goal!



Questions: Contact Jennifer Brogno at [jennbrogno@me.com](mailto:jennbrogno@me.com)

## Box Tops

We did a GREAT job collecting and sending in Box Tops and Labels for Education! With your help we raised \$1,018.50 for Dicken! Congratulations to Mrs. Carino's class on winning the contest! Over the next few months we will all be doing more cooking and baking, so please remember to clip and save your Box Tops and Labels. We will have another collection in the winter.

Current Promotion: Box Tops and Meijer - Buy any 5 or more participating Pillsbury Refrigerated Dough, Green Giant Frozen Vegetables, Progresso Soup Broths, Betty Crocker Baking or Gold Medal Flour products and get 20 (\$2.00 value) Bonus Box Tops! \*\*\*Offer valid 11/13/11 - 11/26/11

## Washtenaw County Health Department Fact Sheet

### When Should a Child be Kept Home or Sent Home from School for Illness?

Parents often ask when a child should be kept at home or sent home from school or childcare for illness.

Here are SIX reasons a child should stay home or be picked up from childcare or school as soon as possible.



1. **Fever:** If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees F or above (taken by mouth); 101 Degrees or above (taken by ear); 99 degrees F or above (taken under the arm).
2. **Two loose bowel movements:** even if there are no other signs of illness. Exception: This may occasionally be caused by new foods a child has eaten or teething.
3. **Vomiting:** Any vomiting is a reason to send a child home or keep a child home. Exception: babies may spit up following a feeding- this is not vomiting. Motion sickness (from use of play equipment or riding in a car or other vehicle) that goes away after motion stops would not be a reason to send a child home or keep a child home.
4. **Rash:** a health care provider should check any rash illness. Any fine red or blotchy rash on the face, trunk or arms and legs is a reason to send a child home or keep a child home. There are different rules for returning to childcare or school depending on the cause of the rash. A child with scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to childcare or school. If a health care provider diagnoses a child as having Fifth disease, the child does not need to stay home if s/he feels well. Exception: Allergic rash and mild diaper rash that are already known to the parent are not reasons to send a child home or keep a child home.
5. **Crying and complaining for a long time:** Anytime a child is not herself or himself and is complaining about discomforts; or the child is cranky and crying more than usual.
6. **Injury:** Whenever an injury is serious enough to need a health care provider's attention, a parent should be contacted to take the child home.

### Caregivers should:

- Isolate children if they have any of the above symptoms.
- Wash hands well to prevent the spread of disease to caregivers and other children.
- Use a paper towel to turn off faucets and open bathroom doors and then dispose of the paper towel in the wastebasket.
- Encourage parents to keep children home if they are ill. While not an emergency situation (no need to have the child picked up immediately), children with the following diseases should remain at home until successfully treated: impetigo, lice, pink eye, pinworms, ringworm, scabies, and thrush (candida).



This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self -diagnosis or as a substitute or consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider or call Washtenaw County Public Health at 734-544-6700. Visit our web site at: [http:// publichealth.eWashtenaw.org](http://publichealth.eWashtenaw.org) Or the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) Washtenaw County Public Health 555 Towner Ypsilanti, MI 48198 revised

### Volunteers Unite!

Dicken parents, thank you for your generous call to duty with the Time and Talent surveys. I will be personally contacting all those that returned them in the next couple of weeks. Please contact me directly if you haven't heard from me by Thanksgiving as some of the Time and Talent surveys are missing contact information. We will still be in need of volunteers, mostly for day of events, but I will place them on the [Dicken PTO web site](#) for your to review or Blast them. Thank you so much for your continued support of our school—without all of us helping out, this ship will not stay afloat!

*Maggi Kennel*

### Service Squad News

We must first thank the Dicken community for a very successful Sight Night eyeglass collection drive. We were fortunate to collect over 200 eyeglasses! That will certainly go a very long way to helping people who don't have glasses of their own in many developing countries! Thank you for your generous donations!

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends, Service Squad students talked about people who deserved our recognition and appreciation. Many students suggested that we should thank the men and women who keep our country safe. As a result, we made cards for soldiers that we will send to the "American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes" program. We will also be holding a card-making station at the Thanksgiving Potluck on November 17th to extend our initiative to all students and families who would like to make a card for a soldier thanking them for the many sacrifices he/she makes to maintain our safety. Hopefully we will send smiles to many men and women in uniform! Thank you to everyone in advance who participates.

We are also looking ahead to our Good Hands, Warm Hands mitten collection drive that will be held in early December. Please stay tuned for more information to come home in the PTO Blast in the coming weeks!

We hope that you have a wonderful holiday with your loved ones. Thank you for all that you do to support Service Squad. We are certainly thankful for you!

*Laura Carino*

Service Squad Advisor

### Comerica Bank and Dicken School

Things you should know about our partner in excellence, Comerica Bank! In the past two decades, Comerica Bank has:

- Donated loads of school supplies
- Sponsored an annual winter chess club at Dicken for 4th graders
- Funded many Leslie Science Center field trips
- Supplied numerous Thanksgiving baskets to Dicken families
- Taught lessons about money in individual classrooms
- Hosted class field trips to Comerica Bank branches
- Helped students run a real bank at Dicken with real bank accounts to teach banking life skills!

Thanks, Comerica!

## Dicken Media Center News

Our Dicken students have been doing a great job in the Media Center. I would like to thank all the parents for helping students to remember to return their library books on Media Center day. If students do forget, they can always come to the Media Center on the following day to return their books.

The kindergartners have been exploring many different kinds of stories including folktales and fairy tales. We will begin using the computer lab to learn and practice basic mouse and keyboarding skills. The 1st and 2nd graders have been learning about the differences between fiction and nonfiction books. Also, 1st and 2nd graders are hard at work learning the basic tools of the computer programs Kidpix and Kidspiration. 1st graders created scary jack-o-lanterns, and 2nd graders created beautiful Johnny Appleseed trees. 1st graders have been reading books about the sun and the reason for the seasons. 2nd graders have been learning about community service providers. They used the program Neighborhood Map Machine to create a map representing various service providers in the community. The 3rd and 4th graders have been learning about how libraries are organized using the Dewey Decimal System. Also, we have been discussing the many genres available in the media center, and the characteristics of these genres. 4th graders are also involved in a Social Studies project relating to immigration and the movement of people in the United States. This is a group project involving researching a particular topic. Students will present their projects using the presentation program Keynote. The 5th graders have been learning about different aspects of the Internet using the site Welcome to the Web (<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/welcome>). This site contains an overview of the Internet as well as information on Web Browsers, Staying Safe, and Searching the Internet

Lastly, I would like to thank all the parents that volunteer in the library every week. Your help is greatly appreciated! If you would like to volunteer in the library, please let me know. I am always in need of parent volunteers.

*Connie Peurach*

Media Specialist, Dicken and Angell - (734) 994-1928



## Save the Date: Dicken Silent Auction on March 10

The Dicken Silent Auction will take place on March 10, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Lake Forest Golf Club (3110 W. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor, MI, off Ann Arbor-Saline Road), and this year's theme is an Island Getaway! The auction is our school's largest fundraiser, and all funds raised will directly benefit children who attend Dicken by supporting their field trips, assemblies, school supplies, and more. The annual auction offers many exciting items to bid on, including numerous gift certificates to local restaurants and stores, incredible teacher-donated items, sporting event tickets and more. The format will be mostly a silent auction with a few live auction items as well. The evening is casual, social, and most of all fun! Light hors d'oeuvre will be served, and a full cash bar will be available. Please note this is an adult-only event, so line up the babysitters in advance. You won't want to miss out on all the fun and excitement. We hope you will join us for this most worthy event! Please direct any questions to the auction committee at [dickensilentauction@gmail.com](mailto:dickensilentauction@gmail.com)

## Dicken Data Submission Deadline



Our next Dicken Data is expected to be sent out on Friday, December 9, 2011.

The deadline for next month's Dicken Data is Thursday, December 1, by the end of the day. Please e-mail articles to Dicken Data Editor Jennifer Marx ([jennifer@passport.com](mailto:jennifer@passport.com)). Preferred format is text only in the body of your e-mail. Suggestions and feedback always welcome. Thank you!