

NEWSLETTER



**Deep Creek Cubs
Are Leaders!**

Growing Great Leaders

Deep Creek cubs are off to a fantastic start! Our theme for the year is "Growing Great Leaders"! Deep Creek has a long standing tradition of excellence in academics while maintaining balance in teaching respect for others and the preservation of our environment. Dedicated staff members have created a climate where trust and collaboration are the norm. We believe in providing a strong foundation in the three "R"s while making learning exciting and meaningful. Staff members are proactive in their realization that it is impossible to teach all the subject matter that will be relevant when our students enter the workforce. Therefore, our focus is on teaching children to think critically and on encouraging our students to become lifelong learners and leaders.

Deep Creek staff members are acutely aware of the importance of rigor and relevance in the curriculum. Today's students will soon become tomorrow's leaders. This year we plan to take a different direction in addressing student learning. We are introducing the Covey "Leader in Me" curriculum. Students are learning about "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids". As students begin to practice these strategies, they will assume new leadership roles. Emphasis will be placed upon another set of "R"s. Students will learn to be "Ready, Respectful and Responsible".

Deep Creek is committed to providing a meaningful, rigorous curriculum while meeting the individual needs of our students. We are grateful for parental support and the assistance of our local business partners. We have a clear vision of what our students need to learn to be successful in future years. We are busy at work "Growing Great Leaders". The seeds are planted and starting to sprout!

Debbie Carney
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/14	Midterms
9/15	Fall Pictures
9/19 - 9/23	Book Fair
9/21	Book Fair Parent Night 5:00 - 7:00 pm
9/30	First Grade Field Day
10/7	End of the first Quarter
10/10	Teacher Planning Day No School for students
10/11	Teacher In-service Day No School for Students
10/14	Report Cards Go Home Family Night 6:30 pm
10/16 - 10/17	Third Grade Data Day
10/18	PTO Mtg. 8:45 pm
10/19	Fall Picture Retakes
10/20 - 10/21	First Quarter Awards
10/24	First Grade Data Day
10/26	PTO Family Fitness Night
10/31	Third Grade Field Day

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Deep Creek
Cubs Learn
About “The 7
Habits of
Happy Kids”

“Begin with the End in Mind”

“Begin with the End in Mind” is a quote from *The Seven Habits of Happy Kids*, *The Leader in Me*, and *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. All three books are incorporated into Deep Creek’s character education program that is being endorsed by staff and students this year.

The first habit is to be “proactive” -- to establish a goal and to keep “the end in mind” which is the second habit. Simply put, being “proactive” is to respond to responsibilities positively. It is taking charge of a situation and completing a step toward a second habit goal.

“Putting First Things First” is the third habit developed to achieve our second step goal. One example would be to complete homework before playing video games.

To “Think Win-Win” is the fourth habit. That and the fifth habit to “Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood” are perhaps the habits that take the most discussion before they can become part of one’s behavior.

Deep Creek students are already following the sixth habit – to “Synergize.” It means to work together. One can even hear kindergarten students saying they are synergizing!

Habit seven – to “Sharpen the Saw” is also heard by students. It is finding balance in one’s life. One student explained it as doing something that is relaxing to him.

This newsletter has examples of what kindergarteners through fifth graders have already done to demonstrate [The Seven Habits of Happy Kids](#). We are finding leaders in all areas of learning. Read on to be amazed at what has been accomplished in only a few weeks in the area of character education at Deep Creek. Expect to learn more about the “seven habits” as your children talk about the habits at home.

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Kindergarten Learns to be Proactive

Kindergarten has been busy learning about “The Seven Habits.” Kindergarten students are learning to “Be Proactive” by taking charge of themselves and their work areas. They are learning to be proactive by making their own choices of positive actions and taking care of their school supplies every day. Kindergarteners sing a song and repeat a chant that help them learn the first habit of being proactive.



First Grade Keeps the “End in Mind”

If you notice first grade students pointing to the ground, next to the sky, and then to their temples; don’t be fooled into thinking it’s a new hand game. What you are seeing are the hand motions to help the children remember the second of the seven habits of highly effective people as described in the book by Stephen Covey. Pointing to the ground helps young students to remember to “begin;” pointing to the sky congers thoughts of “with the end;” and pointing to their temples is the last clue for “in mind.” To put this habit, “Begin with the end in mind” into practice, each first grade student has created a data notebook outlining academic and personal goals. The children are using these notebooks to track their progress. Please look for an invitation in October to visit your child’s classroom on 10/24 for the purpose of reviewing his/her data notebook. This “Donuts and Data” meeting will provide an opportunity for your child to explain his/her progress and allow you, as a family, to celebrate successes and to plan future goals.



Second Grade Creates a 7 Habits Video

Lights, camera, SYNERGIZE!! Second grade had an amazing parent night on Thursday, September 1. The students, with their teacher’s aide, created Deep Creek Elementary School’s first 7 habits video! Each class performed a little skit to show how they display one of the amazing Covey 7 Habits of Happy Kids. The students were nothing short of spectacular. It was a creative effort by all students and teachers involved. The second grade is also looking to expand the seven habits into our daily curriculum. As you walk down J building hall, you will probably hear a teacher commenting to a student on how PROACTIVE s/he is being or listening to stores about how they may SHARPEN THE SAW over a weekend. The entire school is really excited about this amazing program that is helping Deep Creek take a new and exciting shape.



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Third Grade Establishes Goals and Mission

In third grade, Mrs. Harris's class has talked about their goals and their mission for the year. They are being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, and synergizing! Mrs. Harris asked her class three questions;

1. What do you want to be known for?
2. How do we want to treat each other?
3. What is our goal?

The students said they wanted to be known for doing the right thing and for being good listeners. They wanted to be nice to each other and to treat each other with respect. Their goal for this year is to work to get to fourth grade and to become better readers. From their ideas, a class mission statement was created. The final product was signed by every student in class. It is used as a reminder to the students to do the right thing and to use the 7 habits.

Fourth Grade Synergizes to Win-Win

Fourth graders from Deep Creek Elementary have been thinking WIN-WIN as a new class was formed. The fourth grade classes became so large that we had to form a new class! Ms. Thistle has moved from STEM Lab and is bringing her expertise to a fourth grade classroom. This may be a difficult transition; however, our students are thinking positively and are encouraging each other. We are fortunate to have a strong team of fourth grade teachers who use SYNERGY every day as we work to make this fourth grade year an awesome experience for our Cub family.

Fifth Grade is Becoming Great Leaders

Fifth graders at Deep Creek are well on their way to becoming "Great Leaders." The school theme of "Growing Great Leaders" was embraced by students and staff alike. All fifth graders were introduced to the "7 Habits" in a variety of ways. Some students have created an interactive notebook where they keep track of their lessons learned. Others have created personal goals based on the "7 habits," while still others have drawn trees and labeled their personal tree with the foundations of the "7 habits." Some classes have already created their personal "Data" notebooks where students monitor and track their own successes. Students may use these notebooks to conference with parents throughout the year. The most exciting first step to the "7 habits" was watching our students take on the leadership roles and responsibilities of our fifth grade open house which was scheduled for September 13 from 11:45AM to 12:45PM. Students were in charge of sharing information typically shared by teachers. This is a real switch in roles that we believe will be a great leap toward "Growing Great Leaders."

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Tips for Busy Parents To Help Succeed in School

Use the time in your car to talk about school or to practice spelling words and math facts. Spend one-on-one time with your child. Make an appointment to spend some time alone with each of your children. Write it on the calendar to help remind you.

Find your child's "prime time" for studying. Some children need a little play/snack time before completing homework.

Exchange notes with your child. Keep a journal of the day's happenings and share with each other.



Our goal is for students to learn and achieve. We invite you to give your input on our instructional program. If you have suggestions that will help our faculty improve instruction or services, please feel free to complete an Input Form which is available in our school's main office."

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