



STOWERS STALLION—OCTOBER 2009



Our Mission is to create and foster an environment which promotes self-motivated individuals who strive for academic excellence and exemplary behavior in order to be successful and contributing members of a 21st century global society.

Check out our Website: www.am.dodea.edu/benning/stowers

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we have almost completed the first quarter of this school year! Most of the students have settled into the routine of school and are working hard academically, and demonstrating responsible citizenship. However, there are students who are still having difficulty adjusting to school and the demands that come with it. We want and need every child to be able to do his or her personal best; therefore, we are asking for your help so we can better help your child.

If children struggle academically, they often display problems with behavior, problems with getting along with their peers, or even develop physical complaints. If you notice any of these issues with your child, it is important to talk to the teacher to find out where your child is performing. Is he struggling in reading? If so, this is going to affect all subject areas, even math. Is he struggling with writing (sentence structure or paragraph formation, not necessarily penmanship). If so, this too will impact all subjects. Maybe it's only math providing him with some challenges. Based on the data we have collected, we know we have a large number of students experiencing difficulty in one or more of these areas. Keep reading to see what we are doing to help our students.

As part of the North Central Accreditation/AdvancED process, all DoDEA schools focus on continuous school improvement. This year we will host our first visit from this particular accreditation agency. The goals we have set for our students (and for ourselves as well) are: (1) to improve students' writing skills across the curriculum and (2) to improve students' math communication with emphasis on problem solving. As you can see, our goals are in the areas of writing and math. There isn't a goal for reading; however, if students improve in the two areas (along with other changes we are making in our reading instruction), we should see noticeable gains in reading as well.

Parents, in order for our students to improve in these areas, we really need your help. Research shows that when home and school work together, students make greater gains. If your child is struggling in any area, please talk to the teacher to ask for suggestions you can do at home to help your child. Also, since we are working on improving our students' writing skills; reasoning skills, and their ability to analyze, evaluate and solve problems, we will periodically send home suggestions. Pick and choose the ones that may work best for your child. When using these suggestions at home, please make it fun and keep the mood light. Children learn more in a fun, less stressful environment.

Thank you so much for the help and support you provide to your children and to our school. Our vision for all of our children is to prepare them to be **future ready!**

Respectfully,

Angie L. McPherson

Safety is a Priority

In an effort to protect our students and employees, we take safety very seriously at Stowers School. We hope you will not be offended and will cooperate with us when we ask for your identification, or remind you of a safety precaution that you may have forgotten or were unaware of. This may take more time than you expect when you are in a hurry, so please give yourself extra time when you come to the school to check out your child, and **always have your ID card with you.**



Safety on Walking Paths

Over the last few years we have been fortunate to have the support of Military Police and DA Police to monitor the paths students use to walk to and from school. Unfortunately this year, that support is not available to us. As a result, we are getting an increased number of reports of bullying and other inappropriate behavior occurring with students on the paths. For example, we have had students threatened and harassed verbally and physically while walking to and from school. This is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Each incident brought to the attention of the principal or assistant principal will be investigated. Students found to be engaging in such behaviors may be suspended from school, suspended from using the paths to travel to and from school, or provided other consequences as deemed appropriate by the administration.

We have had some offers from parents to be Path Monitors. They are willing to walk the paths while keeping an eye on the behavior of all students. Any behavior observed that is not acceptable will be reported to the administration for investigation. Parent Path Monitors will not have authority to handle problems they observe. They will simply report the behavior to Mrs. McPherson or Mr. Wise who will do the investigation.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Path Monitor, please call the school at 706-544-2312 to give your name and contact information to office personnel. A meeting will be held to discuss expectations and duties prior to you taking on this volunteer role. Vests for volunteers will also be handed out.



Speed on Stowers Drive

Please keep your speed to **5 MPH** during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We would rather be proactive and prevent an accident, rather than having to be reactive to one that occurs. The safety of our students is a top priority for all of us at Stowers School, and we hope it is your priority as well. Please do your part by driving slowly while on school grounds and watching closely for children and adults.



Uninterrupted Instruction

It is very important for classrooms to have uninterrupted instructional time. This is why we don't allow unscheduled visits to classrooms between 8:30 and 3:15 unless an appointment has been scheduled with the teacher. The smallest distraction can get children off task and take the teacher several minutes to get them going again (or the class may be in the middle of a test). If you wish to observe in your child's classroom, please contact Mrs. McPherson or Mr. Wise and they will arrange a time for you. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we try to keep instruction undisturbed for our students.

Meal Application and Cafeteria information:

Your meal application from last year expired on September 5, 2008. If a new application is not received, your child's status will be changed to full price. You can pick up applications in the office.

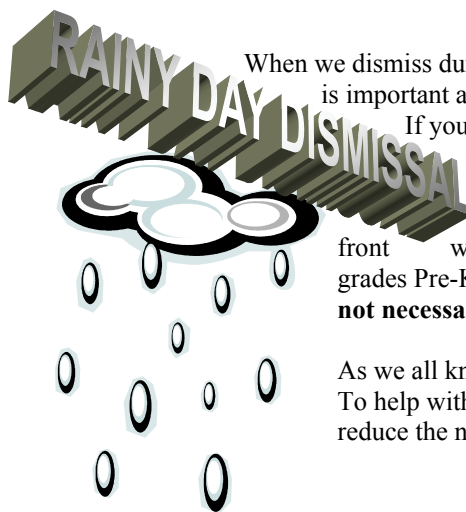


In order for the cafeteria to run efficiently, we urge you to keep money in your child's account to prevent charges from occurring. The cafeteria manager will provide a reminder to students and parents when the student's account has a charge balance. **Please pay charges immediately.**



Parent and Emergency Contact Information

We have discovered that many of you have phone numbers for home, work, and/or cell that have changed since you registered your child; however, the school has not been provided the new information. If you have not provided this information (or are unsure), please call the school to make sure we have contact information for **parents** and for an **emergency contact**. (Please make sure the person you are listing as the emergency contact knows you are identifying them as a person to call in the event of an emergency and the parents cannot be reached.) **Valuable time is lost during an emergency when we do not have correct information**



When we dismiss during inclement weather, we will not allow students to walk home or ride bikes; therefore, it is important and necessary for you to have a severe weather plan for your child(ren) for days like this.

If you have not already given this information to your child's teacher, please send a note to school with your child as soon as possible, to let the teacher know who your child will ride home with on these days. If you have a child in grades PK – 1st and another child in grades 2-5, please let the teacher in grades 2-5 know that your child will need to go to the front when we call for those students who are picked-up in the front with their brother or sister in grades Pre-K, Kdg. or first. **If you always pick-up your child(ren) and the teacher knows this, it is not necessary to send in another note.**

As we all know and expect, dismissal will take longer on days when the weather is not cooperating. To help with the possible traffic congestion on these days, we strongly encourage you to carpool to reduce the number of cars in the line.



BOY SCOUTS (Reginald Thompson 327-2634 ext 14)

- We are always signing up new scouts and adult leaders!
- Is your American flag getting tattered or faded, but you don't know how to respectfully dispose of it? Troop 27 will now be offering a flag disposal service – our boys will respectfully dispose of torn, soiled or badly faded flags by burning.

Cub Scouts

Pack 27, Cubmaster, Deb & Terry Sellers 706-610-8957.

5-4-3-2-1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters recently began handing out "5-4-3-2-1" health pamphlets to families of children of all ages, recommending:

5 servings of fruits and vegetables:

- Choose whole fruits and vegetables over juice.
- Keep fresh cut-up fruits and vegetables around for snacks.

4 servings of water:

- Give your children water bottles and keep them filled.
- Keep track of how much they drink, especially during play or sports.
- Put a pitcher of water on the table at dinner.
- Avoid soft drinks and sweetened drinks.

3 servings of low-fat dairy:

- Blend low-fat or skim milk or yogurt with fruit or ice.
- Add low-fat cheese to soups and salads

2 hours or less of screen time:

- Work with your children to select age-appropriate shows and turn the television on only for those programs.
- Limit overall television, computer and video-game time.
- Make TV a reward, not a daily routine.

1 hour or more of physical activity:

- Scatter activities throughout the day
- For short trips, walk instead of driving, and take the stairs when possible.
- Enroll your children in after-school or weekend activities, or plan for active family time.

Important Dates to Remember

Wednesday 21 October 2009	Fall Picture Day — Retakes	
Tuesday 27 October 2009	Stowers' Reading Night	4:30 P.M.—5:30 P.M.
Friday 30 October 2009	Report Cards Go Home (If parent has attended parent/each conference)	
Wednesday 4 November 2009	Honor Roll Assembly (4th & 5th grade)	9:00 AM
Wednesday 11 November 2009	Veteran's Day Holiday (No School)	





ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE (ACS) CENTER
(Holly Gifford, Director, 545-7581)



Army Emergency Relief (AER) Lionel Grant, AER Manager, 545-4043

- **What can AER Do?** Help with emergency financial needs for:
 - Food, Rent or utilities
 - Emergency transportation and vehicle repair
 - Funeral expenses
 - Medical/dental expenses
 - Personal needs when pay delayed or stolen
 - A spouse of a deployed Soldier may receive AER assistance with a Power of Attorney.
 - For additional information on how AER may be of assistance, contact: Lionel L. Grant, Army Emergency Officer (AERO), or Donna Carter, Assistant AERO at 545-4043. We are here to serve the Fort Benning Community.
 - **Who Does AER Help?** Active duty Soldiers, Army National Guard/Reservist, retirees, their spouse with power of attorney, surviving spouses and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.
 - **Commanders Referral Program**-Active duty Soldiers (none other) may request AER funds up to \$1000 (loan only, no grants) by submitting a completed DA Form 1103 to their immediate Commander.
 - The Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program (SSEAP) is a need-based education assistance program designed to provide spouses of active duty and retired Army Soldiers, and widows(ers) of Army Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, and residing in the United States, with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals.
- If you have questions or concerns about AER Assistance, contact Lionel L. Grant or Donna Carter at: 545-4043.

• **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!!!**

The First Steps Program provides emotional support, parenting education, referrals to community resources, and follow-up contact to parents with newborns, thereby helping to develop healthy Family relationships to reduce the risk of child abuse/neglect. Each mom receives a tote bag filled with educational materials to include: a First Steps Calendar, nursery rhyme cassette tape for baby, "101 Ways to Praise Your Child" magnet, etc. Volunteers are assigned to work with new parents for up to one year after the baby is born. First Steps is located at Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH). For more information, contact the First Steps Program Coordinator, Carolyn Harris, at 706-544-2020.

Financial Readiness Program (FRP) (Ann Pratcher, FRP Manager, 545-7517)

- The Army Community Service (ACS) Center Financial Readiness Program (FRP) offers a wide range of services to assist active and retired military, their ID card family members and Department of the Army civilian employees with their financial affairs. Our goal is to help you live within your means, address emergencies that arise, save money, and invest for the future. We want to prevent financial difficulties BEFORE they arise.
- We offer a myriad of consumer and financial classes to make you better informed consumers. We offer individual assistance in consumer complaint resolution and consumer advocacy, debt liquidation, emergency financial assistance, screening and counseling for the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA), financial management planning.
- An Accredited Financial Counselor can help you make wise consumer and financial decisions for both today and tomorrow, solve debt problems, resolve a complaint with a company, and determine your eligibility for FSSA. FSSA provides an extra BAS amount for Soldiers with households with incomes less than 130% of poverty.
- To get more information about available classes or available assistance, please contact the FRP at 545-7517/4043, or stop by Building 2624, Soldiers' Plaza.

Book Fair in Media Center

Our first Book Fair of the year will be the week of September 15—September 19. The Book Fair will be open every day from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. It will also be open during Open House night. 4:30—6:30. Come with your child(ren) and support our media center.

Start Christmas shopping early

