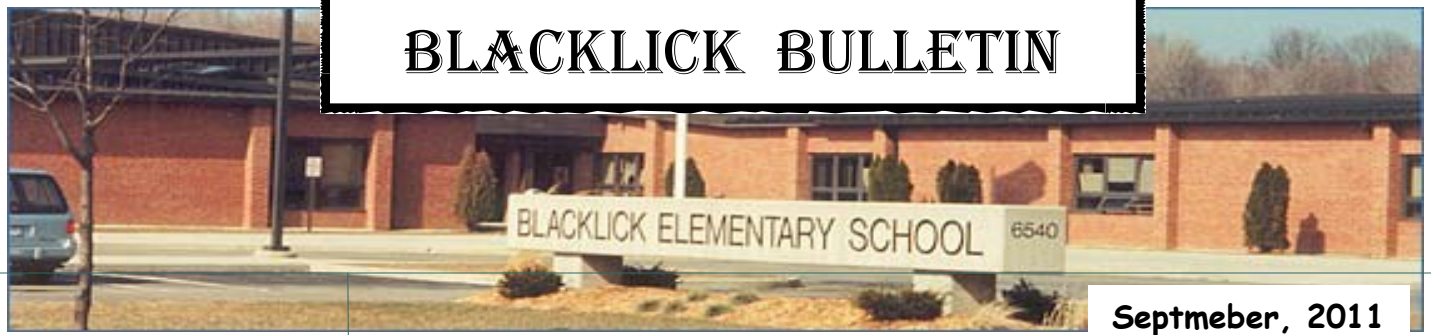


BLACKLICK BULLETIN



Septmeber, 2011



Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- 9/13 PTO @7:00 p.m.
- 9/16 Bus Drivers' Day
- 9/21 Picture Day
- 10/4 3rd Grade Reading OAA
- 10/4 PTO@7:00 p.m.
- 10/6 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30
- 10/11 Parent/ Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00
- 10/13 &10/14 No school

To report
absences:



Message from Mrs. Schmidt

Welcome back to what we hope will be a great school year for our students. This year's theme is "Make it Matter." As a staff we talked about "What Matters to us at Blacklick." Here is "What Matters": our students, our staff, our tireless PTO, growing diversity with a sense of community, kids feel important, welcomed, and empowered, and Blacklick is a welcoming warm place where everyone is supported to grow and develop.

Blacklick's rating on the School Report Card is **Excellent with Distinction**. Students, staff, and parent volunteers worked hard to achieve this goal. We will continue to strive as a building to meet the needs of all students.

This year Blacklick has approximately 470 students enrolled! We want to welcome the new students grades K through five. The ice cream social and student walk-through was a huge success. **Thank you**, PTO, for the Rita's ice cream!

The students have made a positive transition back to school. Blacklick staff also welcomes all new families to our community. Each classroom is developing a sense of community while emphasizing Blacklick PRIDE: Respect, Responsibility, Positive, Prepared, and Safe. School-wide we continue to incorporate a positive discipline program which promotes responsibility and learning. The staff will continue to honor students through the Blacklick Pride Matters. Students will be nominated by demonstrating Blacklick PRIDE.

Our first days at Blacklick have gone very smoothly. To keep this up, we need your help with lunches and lunch money. **Please** write your child's full name and 6-digit code on all envelopes and checks. Also, remember to practice the number with your child, so he/she can learn it quickly!

CAR TRANSPORTATION...SAFETY FIRST!

Parents, thank you for following the traffic patterns at Blacklick. We are asking all parents to park in the back parking lot between 7:50—8:30 a.m. With 8 Gahanna and 8 Day Care Vans arriving in the morning, we are trying to limit the congestion. If you are having someone else drop off or pick up your child, please review the procedures with them. Please adhere to the following rules:

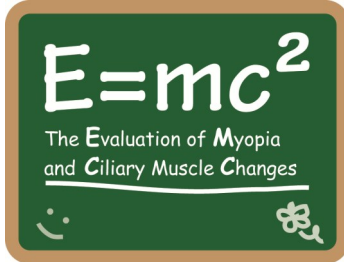
- Car riders must be dropped off and picked up at the **REAR** entrance of the school.
- Please stay in the car line when picking up your child after school.
- If your child isn't present when you arrive at school to pick him/her up, you should continue to drive around the circle so that others in line do not have to wait.
- Children not picked up by 2:35 p.m. will be sent to the office to wait.
- Any changes to your child's transportation (buses, car riders, Kidscape, and daycare) requires a written note to the classroom teacher by 1:00 p.m. **Phone calls are not acceptable unless it is an emergency.**



SMILE!

PICTURE DAY IS COMING SOON!

WEDNESDAY, 9/21/11



Dr. Melissa Bailey is an assistant professor at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. In the fall of each school year since 2008, she has examined children at elemen-

tary schools in the Gahanna-Jefferson Public schools as part of a project to learn more about the ciliary muscle and how it might be related to nearsightedness, or myopia. As part of that project, she has now tested 228 children.

The E=MC² Study is the first study of nearsightedness to look at the ciliary muscle, a muscle inside the eye that allows the eye to focus on things that are close to us. It is used during reading, looking at a computer, and anything else that requires close vision. It has been known for decades that children with nearsightedness under-focus when reading. Some think this causes nearsightedness, but no one has figured out why children with nearsightedness do not focus properly to begin with. That is why Dr. Bailey has taken over 1000 pictures of the ciliary muscle in the 228 children who have enrolled in the E=MC² Study!

In the last three years of this study, we have learned that the muscle is probably thicker in children before they become nearsighted. We need to continue measuring children each year, however, because we know more of the children may become nearsighted each year. Once we know who becomes nearsighted over the next several years, we can figure out if the size of the ciliary muscle can be used to predict which children will be nearsighted before it happens.

We would like to thank all of you who have allowed us to measure your children's eyes. We will be measuring your children's eyes again this year. The children in the Gahanna Jefferson Schools are wonderful. We really enjoy our testing each fall! If you have not had us measure your child's eyes in the past, and you and your child would like to sign up for the study, please return the paperwork that will go home the week of Monday, August 29, 2011.

What is new for this year?

This year, we would like to add a short, five minute testing session on a second testing day where we will take pictures of the ciliary muscle while the children are reading. We are still very interested in how the ciliary muscle is involved in nearsightedness, but we would also like to learn more about how the muscle is involved in reading. Because some children are better readers than others, we will compare the size and shape of the ciliary muscle during reading to how well each child reads on standardized reading tests. If your child is already enrolled in the study, watch for permission forms related to this new testing.

What are the prizes for returning permission forms?

This year, each child who returns his or her paperwork will be given a free small ice cream cone at Dairy Queen. We want to make sure we can plan for how many children will be tested in each classroom, so we need all permission forms turned in on time. We will give all children the a gift certificate for a free small ice cream cone at Dairy Queen, even if the permission form says "No, I do not want my child to participate." **The permission forms must be returned by Friday, September 9, 2011.**

Home and family environments have a major impact on children's educational achievements. As a parent, you can make your home educationally stimulating and conducive to educational success. Here are

Education in the Home

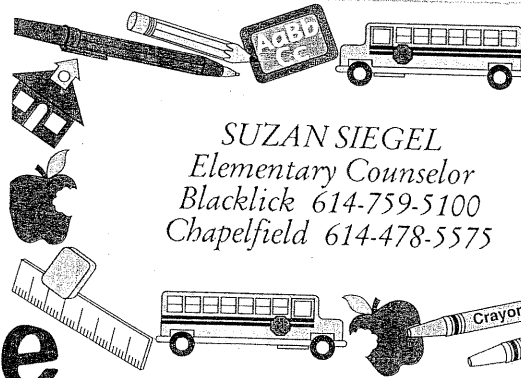
some ways to help promote education within your home.

Help your children create and keep schedules.

Most people are more productive if they set aside time for study, chores, work, and fun on a weekly basis. Be sure the schedules you create and monitor are flexible enough to allow tradeoffs and shifts when necessary. Make schoolwork and other learning experiences high priorities in your home schedules.

Set a good example for your children.

Show your children that learning, reading, and studying are important skills they will need throughout their lives. Let them see you reading and doing quiet study work at the same time they are studying or doing after-school work. Make items available in your home that stimulate your children's interest in learning. For instance, subscribe to magazines suitable for their ages, interests, and reading skills.



*SUZAN SIEGEL
Elementary Counselor
Blacklick 614-759-5100
Chapelfield 614-478-5575*

Use daily activities as learning experiences.

Chores as simple as finding a number in a telephone directory and sorting clothes by color for washing can help children practice important skills and reinforce what is being learned in school. More complex chores such as balancing a checkbook or making a shopping list may foster skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and using resource materials. You can also use family trips to provide valuable learning experiences for your children. Family trips, both short and long, provide a good opportunity to help your children become astute observers and share their ideas and experiences with other family members. Trips are also valuable ways to have your children practice skills such as map reading and using computation skills (e.g., computing mileage and travel time).

Monitor recreational activities.

Some television programs are educational and can help your children develop vocabulary and general knowledge. Yet, too much television can be harmful because it makes children passive receivers of information, much of which is of

questionable value. Encourage children to watch informative, fun programs with values you endorse, rather than shows with excessive violence or other questionable messages. Eliminate unplanned and incidental viewing to make sure your children limit their television viewing to a reasonable amount each day. Help your children develop interests, hobbies, and pastimes that can replace unplanned and incidental viewing. Choose toys and games that encourage your children to be active and creative. Word games can help build their vocabulary. Other toys and games can build your children's math and reasoning skills.

Encourage your children to share information.

Set aside some time for family members to share something they have read or done in school. While you are preparing the meal, eating, or cleaning up, encourage your children to talk about school. Discuss what they are learning, any new ideas, or current events they have recently studied. Ask questions, correct mistakes, and encourage appropriate attitudes and behaviors; yet, be sure you are positive and diplomatic.

By **helping** your children create and keep schedules, **setting** good examples for appropriate behaviors, **turning** home experiences into learning experiences, **monitoring** leisure activities, **encouraging** your children to share their experiences, you can help promote education in your home. ▲