

# Helen Davis Huskies Newsletter



Back to School Edition  
September 1, 2015

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## Principal's News

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Here we are at the beginning of a new school year! I hope all of the students have a positive and rewarding year at Helen Davis. We have several new students this year and I have also had the pleasure of meeting their parents. As always, parents & guardians are welcome to visit school and talk with staff about their child's education. We are fortunate to have a staff that has many combined years of experience and dedication to the school.

Last Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, we had our Back to School Night & PTO meeting. We had a large turnout and everyone had the opportunity to visit classrooms and enjoy a pizza dinner. Thanks to the PTO for providing the pizza, salad and ice cream and to the staff for preparing everything.

*Sincerely,*

*Steve Andes, Principal*



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### Calendar Reminders

- ◆ No School September 7<sup>th</sup>—Labor Day
- ◆ No School September 22<sup>nd</sup>—Staff Development Day
- ◆ No School October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>—Staff Development Days
- ◆ End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter—October 23<sup>rd</sup> (*Report of Student Progress to Parents*)

## Home/School Connection Communication

It's the beginning of the new school year. This is a time of new challenges and positive change. With each new school year, teachers and staff at Helen Davis are ready to meet new students and challenge them to learn. Of great importance to us at Helen Davis is parent support and communication. Your child's communication book is one easy way to share daily information with the classroom teacher. Please check the communication book each day for

teacher notes and please provide feedback pertinent to helping the teacher support your child in the classroom.

You are always encouraged to call the school if you need to discuss concerns, have questions, or just want to find out how your child is doing. The IEP is typically done on an annual basis; however, you have the opportunity (*cont'd page 2*)

## Home/School Connection Communication *(Continued from page 1)*



to come for conferences or discussion at anytime.

Another important aspect of communication is providing up-to-date contact information to the school office.

For example, if you have a change in address, phone number, medication, emergency contact information, guardianship—please let us know as soon as possible. It is essential that we have current information to best serve your child.

## School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS) Beginning Year 5



Helen Davis has begun its 5<sup>th</sup> year of SW-PBS. Hopefully you are aware by now that PBS is a process of creating safer and more effective schools by structuring the learning environment to support the academic and social success of all students. It is research based, proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in schools.

On the first day of school this year, ALL students began earning PAWS for following expectations on the matrix that include **BE KIND, BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER**. Over the last few years this has been successful for many students. Earning PAWS for good behavior allows students to ‘shop’ at the PAW store each week and redeem for items of their choosing. Check your child’s backpack each Friday and you will

likely find a little token they have selected at the PAW store using the PAWS they have earned for displaying good behavior.

In addition to PAWS, students will continue learning important social lessons in school; such as ‘using good hygiene’, ‘walking’ (in the hallway), ‘sharing’ (in the classroom), and ‘keeping hands & feet to self’, just to name a few. Your child’s teaching staff has already begun reviewing these important lessons using positive, consistent language.

The positive approach of PBS has become a ‘way of life’ for Helen Davis & these techniques can be used easily at home too. Let us know if you’re interested in learning more. We will have updates on PBS at Helen Davis in our quarterly newsletter.

**Be Kind**

**Be Safe**

**Be a  
Learner**



## Recycle Collect: Box Tops, Ink Cartridges & Paper

Please continue to collect Box Tops, ink cartridges & recycled paper for Helen Davis. These are easy ways for us to generate funds for the school—simply save & submit!! Also, recycling paper and ink cartridges is good for the environment so it’s a win-win situation. We have a paper recycle bin on school grounds so drop off anytime. What a great way to earn money for Helen Davis and minimize the impact on our environment at the same time. Call the school if questions and thank you for your support!!



## Sensory Room updates...

We were happy to see a great show of support from Helen Davis families at *'Back to School Night'* this year. We think this helps set the stage for a great school year! We'd like to thank our PTO for their ongoing volunteerism and support.

At our back to school PTO meeting we discussed & approved sensory room upgrades, which includes a ball pit, and several interactive devices. There are three touch light panels with colorful lighting, texture, sound, and vibration. We also approved the flower wall mount, allowing students to push an oversized gel flower petal which then displays multicolor lights, plays music and vibrates. The gel petals will provide a wonderful tactile experience. We will also be getting some new and colorful bean bag chairs & a music player. In addition, we will be purchasing an item called

the 'steamroller' allowing students to crawl between four cushioned rollers. It provides deep pressure for those who need it and also allows children to work on motor planning skills, body awareness and shoulder stability as they work their bodies out of the device. There is always a hefty cost for assistive technology & adaptive equipment so these small upgrades will cost the PTO approximately \$6500, but we think it's worth it!

The Helen Davis sensory room was created many years ago with the assistance of the SJ Sertoma Club, but the room has not been updated in many years. We are excited to get new items to allow students more opportunities for interaction, learning as well as a calm sanctuary if needed. Once all updates are made, we will share the news so you can visit!

## Parent Volunteers Welcome 2015-2016

Each year we have a handful of parents that get involved with the school assisting in various areas including the student PAW store, serving on a committee (i.e. 5K fundraiser), or volunteering for special events and activities, or reading in a classroom, etc.

Support comes in various ways and even the little things count to us! We welcome parent volunteerism and involvement and feel it is essential in maintaining a positive school environment. If you're interested please contact Jennifer @ 387-2986.



# Parent Support Group

Helen Davis School  
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**Where  
Every Child  
Shines**

*If you have an interest for the quarterly Helen Davis School newsletter, please contact Jennifer Burns at (816)387-2986 or [Jennifer.burns@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Jennifer.burns@dese.mo.gov)*

*We invite Helen Davis parents to share articles or ideas for upcoming newsletters!!*

In mid-to late September we hope to reconvene Helen Davis' Parent Support Group, which typically meets 6 times per school year to have guest speakers, open parent discussion, and fun activities together. Last year we had some informative guest speakers, including Whitney Strong from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department sharing information regarding the Care Trak program in our community & we had fun making charms with photos of our loved ones. We also had some time to share ideas & resources and just gain support from one another. At our final meeting last spring, we had a balloon release in our outdoor garden to celebrate and reflect on our year.

This year I hope to have a panel of representatives from community agencies that provide disability services in our community, so these folks can answer parent questions and provide information about their programs and services, but if you have other thoughts and ideas for how you would like the meeting to flow or guest speaker suggestions, please call or email Jennifer so we can discuss your ideas. We are open to new and fun suggestions for our group! In addition, grandparents, caregivers & guardians are invited to the group! It's a very laid back group so we hope you will join us!



## Check Us Out!



*Students have been busy the first few weeks of school. From left to right: (Top) Maddie delivers items to classrooms, Jacob rides the adaptive tricycle, Lydia uses the gait trainer to walk down the hall, & Conner uses an interactive toy.*

*(Below): Andre uses the gait trainer to move about, Tayen observes a toad in action & Carson uses the gait trainer in class.*

