



**Dixie News!**  
**Principal Newsletter**  
**October 7, 2005**

**October LifeSkill: Responsibility**

Each week we focus on a “Character Goal” that is in line with our monthly LifeSkill. Throughout the week of 10/10 through 10/14 are asking Dixie Students to work on the following goal: Take responsibility for your actions. If you make a mistake, acknowledge the mistake, apologize and move on in a positive manner.

**Praise and Self-Esteem**

Plants need water to grow. Children need praise to thrive. There has been a lot written recently in the media about promoting self-esteem in children; others argue that too much praise leads to sloppy work habits and inflated egos. All this contradictory advice can leave parents a little confused when it comes to knowing the best ways and times to compliment children. The truth is, virtually all child development research shows that the right kinds of praise is essential for healthy social and emotional growth in children.

The right kind of praise:

• **Comment on specific behavior.**

Adults need to focus on exactly what was done well, with words like “I noticed you took a lot of extra time cleaning your room today, and you even lined up all your books on the shelf.” Comments like these help children learn to monitor and assess their own behavior.

• **Look for patterns of good work, rather than isolated incidents.**

For a child who is notoriously pokey about getting chores done, setting the table without being asked one night might be noticeable—setting it three nights in a row definitely deserves some praise.

• **Nudge children to learn from their mistakes.**

Coaching a child through homework errors, rather than just commenting on the final answers, helps a child develop confidence in their ability to learn from their mistakes.

Parents know the value of complimenting and praising their children’s achievements—and the more focused these words of support are, the more they will help your child. By seeing what you choose to praise, your child will gain a sense of why working hard and overcoming obstacles is so important for growth.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

The week of October 10 through October 14<sup>th</sup>

12:25pm Dismissal for grades 1-5

During this week there will be:

No Morning Sports with Zane

No After school classes (like Chess, Spanish, etc.)

No Dixie Diner Lunches

No Kindergarten Bus

## **Parent Conferences**

Whether you are attending your first parent conference or your tenth, it is helpful if you do some preparation before you meet with your child's teacher. Next week we will hold formal conferences with each family. The key to a successful conference, parents and teachers agree, is communication. By exchanging information, parents, teachers and students can work together for continued success this year. Before the conference:

\* Review your child's schoolwork. Write down any questions you have.

\* Think about your child's strengths and weaknesses so you can talk about them with the teacher.

\* Talk with your child about what is going on at school: what they like best and least, what parts of school are easy or hard for them.

## **The Dixie School District Directory is Ready!**

The Dixie School Directory will be sent home on Friday, October 7th, to all families who returned a directory card. The directory will be sent home with the youngest child in the family.

If you did not receive a directory or would like to order one, please contact the Dixie Children's Fund at 492-3500 or email [dcf@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:dcf@marin.k12.ca.us). We appreciate a fully tax-deductible donation of \$25 per directory, which helps support programs at your child's school.

## **Mark Your Calendars...Coming Up**

10/8/05 Book Fair Open on Saturday 12pm to 4pm

Coffee with the Principal- Every Wednesday 8am to 9am in E-7

10/10 to 10/21/05 Mrs. von Glahn's class has Traffic Loop Duty

10/10 to 10/14 Parent-Teacher Conference- 12:25pm Dismissal

10/10 to 10/14 Book Fair Open 11am to 4pm

10/31 Dixie School Halloween Parade 1:30pm

