

Counselor News October 2011
by Stephanie Kohlleppel

October is finally here! I am so thankful for the cooler weather. October also brings 'Homecoming' which will be celebrated at the football game Oct. 28. I love seeing all the homecoming mums that our students wear. Some of them are very extravagant and almost bigger than the student wearing it. With the cooler weather, students are starting to wear jackets to school. Please write your child's name in the jacket. We collect a large collection of jackets and sweaters that children leave on the playground, on benches, etc. We give those to our Parent Training Library.. If you need a jacket, our parent learning liaison, Mickie Schulze can help you with finding one. She has plenty of jackets.

We have finished the first six weeks of school, and the first round of report cards went out a couple of weeks ago. Hopefully, you had a chance to meet with your child's teacher last week for parent conferences. If you weren't able to make it, please contact the teacher to schedule a conference. Now is the time to discuss any concerns you may have. Communication between parents and teachers is essential to helping a student grow and learn.

October is a busy month for the elementary. We concentrate on fire safety our yearly visit from the fire department. They came last Friday, October 14th. The fire department did an awesome job covering all aspects of fire safety. Volunteer firefighters also bring materials for the kids. We would like to thank the fire department for this community service. We also covered fire safety in guidance class this past week. I told the students to go home and ask their parents to push the button on the smoke alarm. It is important they know what the smoke alarm sounds like. I did mention they should cover their ears because it was going to be loud!

We will also celebrate Red Ribbon Week where we have different days designated to create awareness for a drug-free life. That is scheduled for October 24th – 28th. More information will be sent out this week and is included in this edition of the newspaper.

As the second six weeks gets underway, I would like to remind you that school may be more challenging for students. The first six weeks is generally a 'review' and, as the weeks progress, more and more new learning will take place. Please remember to set a schedule for homework time, especially with the fall activities beginning. Parents are busy with extracurricular activities such as sports and dance lessons, so it is imperative that a schedule be established to allow time for schoolwork. This allocation of time for a student to finish any assignments will also alleviate the stress of 'finding time' to get them finished.

Just a reminder that you can check your child's grades online and also join our email listserv to receive emails about events happening on campus. Please contact the school if you need more information on how to check grades online. To receive emails at home, please sign up for the parent listserv by clicking the spinning envelope on the district's home page, www.devineisd.org.

If there is something I can help you with, please do not hesitate to call or email me. My contact information is stephanie.kohlleppel@devineisd.org or (830) 851-0395.