

THE GIRAFFE JOURNAL



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Dear Meridian Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to October! As the weather gets cooler please make sure that your child has a jacket for school. Students will go outside as long as the weather permits.

Teachers and staff members have spent time discussing and modeling “what it looks like to **REACH** at Meridian” by showing **Respect, Enthusiasm, Ambition, Character, and Heart**. Students have been taught the behavioral expectations in the following areas; bus, cafeteria, hallway, restroom, inside recess, playground and dismissal. We are all very proud of our students and we know that all of them can **REACH** every day. Reach awards are given to one student in each class who display **REACH** characteristics every six weeks.

October is National Bully Prevention Awareness Month—Giraffe...Giving Intentional Respect and Friendship for Everyone!

On the back of this newsletter are activities that we will be participating in during National Bully Prevention Month.

Parent–Teacher Conferences: As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. You and your child’s school have something in common: You both want your child to learn and do well. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share important information about your child’s talents and needs. Each person can also learn something new about how to help your child. Parent–teacher conferences are a great way to start talking to your child’s teachers. This tip sheet suggests ways that you can make the most of parent-teacher conferences so that everyone wins, especially your child. What should you expect?

A two-way conversation. Like all good conversations, parent–teacher conferences are best when both people talk and listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child’s progress in school: Ask to see data about your child’s attendance, grades, and test scores. Find out whether your child is meeting school expectations and academic standards. This is also a time for the teacher to learn about what your child is like at home. When you tell the teacher about your child’s skills, interests, needs, and dreams, the teacher can help your child more.

Emphasis on learning. Good parent–teacher conferences focus on how well the child is doing in school. They also talk about how the child can do even better. To get ready for the conversation, look at your child’s homework, tests, and notices before the conference. Be sure to bring a list of questions that you would like to ask the teacher.

Opportunities and challenges. Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child’s progress and areas for improvement. Be prepared by thinking about your child’s strengths and challenges beforehand. Be ready to ask questions about ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

Your participation and positive feedback is so appreciated! Please feel free to contact me either by phone **448-8560, Ext. 2601** or email **phillipk@clay.k12.in.us** if you ever have any concerns or if I can be of any service to you, your child or the school community.

Educationally yours,

Karen S. Phillips

