



AUSTIN CREEK BULLETIN



Michael Kellison, Principal

Dec 1, 2011

Dear Austin Creek Families,

Coming back from the Thanksgiving Break to see the smiling faces of your children was quite a treat for me. I so enjoy working with your children, and the time off allowed me to reflect upon all that I treasure about Austin Creek. I thought about our talented and dedicated staff who work diligently to ensure that your child's school experience is a positive one. I also recalled the many positive interactions that I have had with the children at the school. From observing them working hard in their classrooms to watching them laugh and play on the playground, I have the privilege of being part of their lives every single day and I am so grateful for this opportunity. Lastly, I reflected upon our school community and the dedicated parent body that we have here at Austin Creek. No matter what is needed, we can always depend on you, the parents of the school, for your support. I thank you for your ongoing support and for the opportunity to work at such an amazing school.

Prior to the Thanksgiving Break we introduced a new tool for our Toolbox. We are now discussing the *Empathy Tool*. I have attached a parent letter from the Toolbox curriculum to provide you with more information about the *Empathy Tool*. We will work on this tool for the next two weeks prior to the introduction of our next tool. Currently, we have four tools in our toolbox. They are the *Breathing Tool*, the *Quiet/Safe Place Tool*, the *Listening Tool* and now the *Empathy Tool*. Please review these tools with your children as they will be reinforced here at the school.

In closing, I would like to take time to remind you of the importance of traffic and pedestrian safety. In the morning and during the afternoon approximately 400 children enter and leave our school. It is crucial that the adults slow down and make safe decisions to protect the safety of the children. Here are a couple of reminders to help keep everyone safe at drop-off and dismissal:

- Walk to and from school using crosswalks. (No illegal crossing of the street.) We are a neighborhood school that was designed for people to walk to and from. Take advantage of this opportunity and use this time to connect with your child while walking.
- If you must drive, enter and exit the school zone slowly and cautiously. An extra minute here and there is worth your child's safety.
- If you need to park, you must do so in the designated parking areas. Do not park illegally and do not park in the handicapped parking spaces unless you have a placard permitting you to do so. In addition, be courteous to our neighbors and do not block their driveways.

As always, I thank you for your attention to this matter and appreciate your support.

Yours truly,

Michael Kellison
Go Hawks!