
C.C.N.--CENTRAL'S CURRENT NEWS

Central Elementary School

Shelby, Ohio

We, the Action Team at Central Elementary, worked very hard during the 1997-98 school year to improve the communication between our families and the school. We developed three practices to keep parents informed about school activities and events.

In the fall of 1997, we were able to begin broadcasting our school's "messages of the month" thanks to a donation of air time from our local cable TV company. Items that air include dates and times of events like parent/teacher conferences, student musical programs, guest speakers at the school, and report cards.

Another practice we have found to be useful is our newsletter trivia quiz. This newsletter, prepared by our administrators with input from staff, is sent home on the first day of the month and serves as an important source of information and news about our school. Each newsletter has a three question quiz with answers provided in the body of the newsletter. Families are encouraged to read the newsletter together, answer the quiz, and return the quiz to school staff. The name of each family who correctly answers the quiz questions is placed in a box for a drawing. One winner is drawn each month, and the winning family is awarded a gift certificate to a local pizzeria. This has proven to be successful as fifty families returned quiz answers for the February newsletter! In addition, we have seen an increase in readership of at least five families each month since we started sending out the newsletter, and staff have reported that the number of phone calls from parents asking for school information has decreased.

A third form of school/family communication implemented in the spring of 1998 is the refrigerator calendar. This monthly calendar printed on lime paper includes school activities at Central Elementary.

These services are made possible by donations, grants, and monies from the Board of Education. Plans for new forms of home/school communication include the development of a parent resource book (a handbook that includes a list of various local and national agencies relevant to family needs), a web site for the school, and a parent lending library.

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