March 2017 Newsletter

Hoops for Heart
Route Forty Elementary students raised $3,732.00. Olivia Garlitz, a student from Grade 3 raised $400.00 and earned her class a reward. We would like to thank PTO and Hill Top Fruit Market for supplying the healthy snack break for the students. Thank you to all who donated to this worthwhile campaign.

March 9 Professional Day
We have a noon dismissal on March 9 in order for our staff to receive training. On this day, our staff will be meeting with Dave Burgess, the author of Teach Like A Pirate. Our teachers will be learning effective strategies for engaging students.

Blood Drive
We are sponsoring a Blood Drive on March 23, 2017 from 12:00 – 6:00. At this time, we only have 12 spots filled. Please contact the school and share with your friends to gain participation.

Grade 5 Science Testing
Grade 5 Maryland Science testing will be on March 20 and 21 for grade 5. We start testing at 8:50 a.m. Please make sure that your child is here in order to start with their group. Children will have to make-up sessions if they are not present when we begin. Please avoid missing any time during testing.

Attendance Letters
Parents often get confused about the attendance letters that get sent home with our students for missing days. Students are not in danger of being retained unless they miss 16 days. Even when they have doctor’s notes, anyone missing 16 days can be retained if there is a concern with academic progress or lack of a requested conference. Throughout the year, a form letter is sent to parents of students missing days that suggest they could be in danger of going over the 16 day limit. If you receive the attendance letter and have questions, please feel free to call and talk to Mrs. Maust.

Love and Logic Tip
Motivating Our Kids to Try
Has someone ever said to you, "Just try it, it's easy!" and then you found out the task they coaxed you into trying was painfully difficult? Did this leave you feeling exceptionally capable or downright stupid…and embarrassed?
When this happens to the average adult, it doesn't take long for them to conclude two things:
• This person who's trying to help me is nuts...and definitely not to be trusted!
• Why should I try if I can't even handle the easy stuff?
Quite frequently I overhear well-meaning parents and educators using the "Just try it, it's easy!" approach in an attempt to urge a reluctant child into trying something they're afraid of. When the child finds the task easy, all is right with the world. When they don't, they're confronted with the pain of seeing they might be so slow that they can't
even do something really, really "easy"!
How often does this need to happen before
our kids lose faith in our word? How often
does this have to happen before our
children lose faith in their own abilities? Are
you willing to take this sort of risk with your
kids?
Experiment with asking your child:

*A lot of kids find this kind of challenging.
Would you try this and let me know what
you think?*

If you hear, "It's too hard. I can't do it,"
smile, pat them on the back and ask:
Aren't you glad that I don't believe that?

"Aren't you glad that I don't believe that?"
represents an exceptionally powerful way
of communicating to your children that they
have what it takes to succeed. Delivered in
question format its effectiveness becomes
supercharged. Remember: Questions create
thinking. Statements create resistance.
You may also experiment with asking
another question:

*And...aren't you glad that I'm going to love
you the same
even if you have to work really hard to
figure this out?*

Thanks for reading!

Dr. Charles Fay