Are you planning an open house at your school this fall? Here are some great ideas from the Sixth International Conference on Positive Behavior Support on how to include Positive School Climate (PSC) during your gathering. Start by explaining to parents what PSC is, how it’s being implemented in their child’s school, and how the research indicates it has been effective. Next, clearly define your building’s expectations for student behavior. For example, “I will respect myself by listening while others speak” and “I will respect others by turning off my cell phone.” Really capture parents’ attention by presenting the fabulous privileges and rewards students will earn for displaying appropriate behaviors. Provide detailed information on your school’s monthly incentives such as roller skating parties, canoe trips, and end of the year events like a trip to exciting King’s Island!

Introduce the Student Code of Conduct and the “Three Bs”: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. Take parents on a building tour and point out where the school’s behavioral expectation matrices are located. Now’s your chance to remind parents about the data that illustrates how PSC has made a difference supporting all students in your school. Your parents may also find it helpful if you provide information on “Using School Pride at Home.” Explain what “school pride” means at your building and how it can be reinforced at home.

Provide additional information on activities that will help your parents utilize or reinforce PSC at home. Use your school matrix for expected student behaviors to assist parents in developing a behavior matrix for home. Be sure to focus on the power of positive language and provide examples of ways parents can “praise” their children. Help parents develop their own forms of praise that can be used in specific areas of the home. Work with parents and students to make a chart that changes commands and “don’ts” into positive “do” statements. Wrap up your PSC informational session with a grand prize drawing, while singing your school pride song or mission statement.

Next year, let your school’s Open House be the key to kicking off PSC with parents. Additional information regarding organization of the event that was also given out can be shared by contacting Melissa Ertsgaard at: mertgaa@dps.k12.oh.us

Volume 2 Summer 2009
Our Mission
Is to provide a safe, challenging, and supportive environment as evidenced by positive student behavior and increased academic achievement.

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Katrina Brown
Heather Steudler
Kathleen Taylor

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Be Safe       Be Respectful       Be Responsible
Edison Eagles' Reward System
Helps Students Be Responsible, Respectful and In Control
By Edison PSC Team Members

As we approach the end of the 2008-2009 school year, I asked some of the Building Level Team Members to reflect upon some of the successful Positive School Climate (PSC) events at Edison PreK-8 School. At the beginning of the year, Mrs. Vera Patterson, Student Support Specialist began training the students who were selected to be PSC Kids. These sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students functioned as peer teachers for the implementation of PSC. They were given a script to follow, as well as tips for working with groups of children. Mrs. Patterson also helped them to develop and improve their presentation skills. Once they had completed their training, they were responsible for reviewing the behavioral expectations with the younger students. This occurred during PSC Kick-Off and refreshers were offered after each intercession. The PSC Kids were also featured in a DVD that will be shown to new students at Edison who may be unfamiliar with the behavioral expectations. After the taping was completed, this wonderful group of students was treated to a very special catered lunch. They have done a phenomenal job and we are very proud of themselves. Hats off to Mrs. Patterson and the PSC Kids!

In addition to an exceptional implementation system, Edison also has a great array of rewards available to students who earn PSC tickets for exhibiting appropriate behavior. Students have participated in the following events: Movies with popcorn, Game Day in the gym with a variety of board games and sports activities, “Make your own Sundae” ice cream social, an intramural basketball game, a spring and fall dance, and an end-of-the-year skating party. The students and staff at Edison are looking forward to even more exciting PSC events in the 2009-2010 school year!

Positive School Climate Teacher Spotlight
By Antoinette Adkins, Principal, Edison PreK-8 School

This month’s spotlight is focused on Mrs. Anna Earley, Physical Education teacher at Edison PreK-8 school. Mrs. Earley is an enthusiastic member of Edison’s Positive School Climate (PSC) Leadership Team. Her customized “game days” in the gym are always a crowd pleaser for students earning PSC rewards. However, this is not her only contribution to PSC at Edison. In the spirit of giving back, Mrs. Earley has used her own funds along with the assistance of community sponsors to supply monthly PSC rewards for students. Those earning weekly tickets for good behavior are eligible to have their names placed in the drawing for the monthly reward which has included the following: a treat every day in the lunchroom for a month, a complete turkey dinner for a family, a $100.00 shopping spree at a local mall, winner’s choice of a pair of gym shoes, up to $150.00, a portable DVD player with DVDs, a boom box, and a season long pass to King’s Island. Students who were eligible for every monthly drawing earned a pass to “Earley World” in June. They participated in outdoor games and were treated to tacos and soft drinks. In addition, when Mrs. Earley learned that the Student Leadership Academy was raising money to purchase livestock for a family in Africa, she donated $120.00; enough to purchase a goat. Her generosity and optimistic attitude is certainly an asset to the students and staff at Edison PreK-8 school, and we appreciate it!

Thank you Ms. Earley.

Be Safe
Students and staff at Edison PreK - 8 are embarking on their second annual "Peace Campaign". As we enter the warmer weather of spring and summer, we want the students to focus on the importance of building a culture of peace in the school community as well as within the community at large. The peace campaign is sponsored by the Edison Eagles Leadership Academy. This group of bright young people consists of third through eighth grade students who have demonstrated leadership skills by making good behavioral and academic choices. The advisor for the group is the Behavioral Specialist for the building. The students and staff have participated in a variety of activities designed to foster a culture of peace. On Wednesday, May 6th, students in the Leadership Academy visited the Dayton International Peace Museum. In addition to learning about local and global peace efforts, they also had the opportunity to work on a peace mural with internationally renowned artist and author, Phil Yea. This wonderful field trip was organized by Ms. Nina Scroggins, Neighborhood Site Coordinator for Edison. Other peace activities included "Peace Links". Leadership Academy students gave paper strips to all classes. Students were asked to sign their name and pledge to be more peaceful at school, at home and in the community. The strips were linked together to form a peace chain. Academy members also made posters showing how following Edison’s Positive School Climate behavioral expectations (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be In Control) can lead to a more peaceful environment. As part of our door decorating contest, each class was asked to decorate their door using a peace theme. The students and staff did an outstanding job! Montgomery County Sheriff Phil Plummer and Officer Larry Lane, Chaplain with the Sheriff’s Department presented the winning classes with a certificate. Sheriff Plummer also talked to the students about the importance of fostering peace in the community. In addition, class winners in the primary and upper grades received a pizza party. We hope that our campaign will lead to a more peaceful summer for all of our students.

"Peace Links" Linking the Community to PSC
By Kathleen Taylor, Behavioral Specialist

Tips from Your Behavioral Specialist
Helping Students to Become Self-Motivated Learners
By Katrina Brown

Educators can play a key role in helping students become self-motivated lifelong learners. Students can be motivated in a variety of ways, one of which is praise. Verbal comments and nonverbal body language can impact students’ motivation level positively or negatively. Positive comments or praise communicated effectively can be used to promote highly desirable self-motivating student behavior. Generally, students will show some self-motivation if they (1) know what is expected of them, (2) think the effort is worthwhile, and (3) feel they will benefit through effective performance. Educators can encourage self-motivating behaviors by:

1. Using the non mechanical or exaggerated “I” statements listed below to convey honest appreciation for a student.
   - "I appreciate that."
   - "I like the way you said that."
   - "I sure like your taking that risk."

2. Communicating the empathetic acceptance or understanding "I am with you" statements listed below to show the student he/she is not alone and his/her efforts are appreciated.
   - "I might make that same mistake."
   - "Lots of us feel that way."

(continued on page 4)
Self-Motivation (continued)

- "I can see how you would do that."

3. Providing some attention without praise as listed below:

- Use non-threatening physical touch like a pat on the arm or shaking hands.
- Use sincere eye contact that shows you are truly listening.
- Simply give students time so that you can listen or communicate with them about a situation.

4. Using the plain "corrects" or "in-corrects" non-exaggerated or overstated responses listed below:

- "Yes, that's right."
- "Yes, that's just what I wanted."
- "Thank you for taking a risk to answer that, even though it was the wrong answer."

Praise should be fairly distributed and all students should receive praise. Look for positive things to say about a student's work even when pointing out problems or mistakes with the work. Teachers should also give praise to the class as a whole to encourage the class and build team unity. Praise should not be exaggerated as it can quickly devalue honest relationships between students and teachers. Too much praise can also lead to students becoming dependent upon it. The overall goal is to use praise to help students become self-motivated, lifelong learners.

Behavioral specialists are school psychologists who help school staff improve student behavior and create a more positive learning environment. Each quarter, the newsletter will feature an article dedicated to creating a Positive School Climate for every student, every day.

Professional Development Opportunities

| June 12 & 15 | Developing a PSC Action Plan & Reward System |
| June 15   | Positive Behavioral Support in an Urban Setting |
|           | Creating a Positive School Climate for Every Student |
| June 16 & 17| Conflict Management & Inclusion Strategies |
| Aug. 10 & 11| Data-based Decision Making & Targeted Interventions |
| October 16 | Classroom, Universal & Targeted Behavioral Interventions |

Call 542-3409 for more information on the sessions listed above.

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Positive School Climate (PSC) has been embraced by Longfellow staff and students alike. Students at Longfellow earn Eagle Bucks when they display Safe, Respectful, and Responsible Behavior(s) in the common areas of the building. These areas include the gymnasium, cafeteria, media center, bathrooms, and hallways. For instance, examples of positive behaviors in the cafeteria may include taking a seat, sitting properly, eating only your own food, using utensils for eating only, keeping hands and feet to self, and cleaning up your area when you are finished. After earning Eagle Bucks, students deposit them in the Eagle Bank located in the building’s media center. Each month eagle bucks are drawn and the winners’ names are announced over the intercom. Students who are selected receive a special reward/privilege and a certificate of appreciation.

February’s reward was a social gathering complete with pizza and beverages. Due to spring break, the months of March and April were combined and two separate incentives were provided. Grades 1 through 8 participated in a pizza party, while grades 9 through 12 enjoyed a movie and a snack. The staff at Longfellow report positive changes in the behavior of students since the program’s implementation. Students appear motivated to earn the Eagle Bucks and there is a general atmosphere of respect within the building. The Eagle Bucks are not only being utilized by teachers but by the building’s administrator, security officers, media specialist, guidance counselor, mental health technician, clerical staff, and many others. Congratulations Longfellow staff and students...You Soar!!!

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Longfellow Eagle Buck

Safe-Responsible-Respectful

Congratulations __________________________

(Student Name)

You are Soaring Toward Success!!!

________________________

(Teacher/Date)