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*IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
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# **100<sup>th</sup> Day Of School Celebration Means Year Is More Than Half Over**

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – As I look out my window today, it is snowing. It is hard to believe we are only a few short weeks away from spring. The point I am making is this school year is more than half over, and it may be time to rethink and revisit the goals you may have set for your child or yourself.

Students are in school 180 days each year. On February 8, we will be celebrating one of the big milestones for our kindergarten and first graders – the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school celebration. This day is a big deal, and is treated as such. There will be parties, an assembly, and special work assignments, based on the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school.

This celebration was actually born out of the idea of teaching children math concepts in a way that was fun and meaningful. Starting with the first day of school, our youngest learners begin the countdown to the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by displaying the current number. For example, the first day of school, the number 1 would be put on a bulletin board or other area where the teacher is doing the countdown.

During the morning routine of getting a lunch count together, saying the pledge to the American flag, and other things a teacher does to get her class started, the students also count how many days they have been in school. For kindergarten children, learning to count to 100 is a big deal.

Teachers also use this numeric line to teach children to count by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

Students are in the process of preparing for the “big day” now. Students are writing about what they have learned during the first 100 days of school. For those who do not have children or like me, have grown children, you may not know (or have forgotten!) that 100 is difficult for a child to grasp.

That is why kindergarten and first grade teachers typically assign the task that a child must collect 100 of anything to be displayed in the class. It gives all the children a better idea of just how many 100 is.

Many times, the 100s of various items are then glued to a piece of paper and made into some kind of artwork. You certainly can tell some parents get very creative when it comes to finding 100 of anything around the house.

Some people go to a craft store and buy 100 small pompoms that are then glued to a piece of construction paper. The best ones are the ones that make you smile because you can tell that the child told them about the project the night before it is due. I have seen 100 strands of uncooked spaghetti, dried beans, and even cotton swabs. It doesn't matter as all of these items teach a child just "how many" 100 are.

All of these activities are fun for the students and teachers. But they also are part of our board-adopted curriculum that help teach important math concepts to our students. As parents, I would encourage you to find similar type activities at your home to re-emphasize what they are learning at school.

For all of us, the 100-day of the 2006-2007 school marks the beginning of the end of this school year. In less than four months, school will be out for the summer, and any opportunities to meet goals set for the year will be over. Please consider this your reminder that time is quickly flying by, and the time to pay attention to those resolutions is today.

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