Duncan Lake Connections

November 5, 2018

Mission Statement:
In pursuit of excellence, Caledonia Community Schools will empower and equip all persons to achieve their best by ensuring the highest quality system for learning.

Important Reminders:

½ day of school 11/9

Thanksgiving Break

11/21-11/23

Please Note:
This elist is NOT meant to be a complete list of all activities. The goals are to improve communications with parents and students by providing another avenue to highlight as many activities and events as possible.

9757 Duncan Lake Rd
Caledonia, MI 49316

Phone:
(616) 891-1380

Fax:
(616) 891-0833

E-mail:
Mrs. Rittenger, Registar

Mrs. Boyum, Attendance

We are on the Web!

www.calschools.org

Duncan Lake Student Recognized at HATS OFF Recognition Event at MSU!

On Saturday November 3rd, Anna Fanco was honored as one of the highest achieving middle schoolers in Michigan at the 20th Annual HATS (High Achieving Talented Students) OFF Recognition Ceremony. She, her parents, and DLMS 6th Grade teacher, Ms. Cizauskas, were invited to MSU to participate. Dr. Floyd Hardin was the keynote speaker and was very entertaining as he encouraged the students to be objective perfectionists. Anna also wrote an essay honoring Ms. Cizauskas that was on display along with essays about fourteen other amazing teachers. Great work Anna! Remember that you have multi-potentiality!

Principal's Corner:

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

We would like to thank all of you for coming to Parent Teacher conferences and your continued support of Caledonia, Duncan Lake Middle School and to your own child's growth. This last month has been filled with professional development for our staff in ELA, Science, and Mathematics as we continue to learn and implement our findings to better students knowledge and academic outcomes. We look forward this year to continue to learn as a staff and to be able to implement with fidelity new programs soon.

The Holidays are fast approaching so I feel it is important to say thank you for all the wonderful things that surround us. We are extremely lucky to have wonderful families, students, teachers, and staff serve this community. Thank you, everyone, for making Caledonia a special place for our students and our families.

Support Room (SSC):

Please have your student check out the Lost and Found in the hall by the PAC. There are many clothing items, lunch boxes, water bottles, etc. that need to be claimed. All items that have not been claimed by the end of the trimester will be donated to a local charity. Thank you for taking the time to look through the items and for claiming what belongs to your family.

Enrichment News:

Enrichment Office - Elizabeth Alexander- 891-1380 x7502

Students at the middle school level are encouraged to pursue and enhance their talents and interests. Each year programs are offered to enrich and integrate academics. Available opportunities are published in the *DL Connection*, communicated through daily announcements and posted outside the Enrichment Office.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY TABLES–
This awesome program is available for students who want to stay after school to get homework completed or need additional study help. The Study Tables will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Before Students May Stay…parents must complete and return the *After School Study Table* form found in the Main Office or Enrichment Room **AND** your student must receive their confirmation from the Enrichment Room.

In working with our transportation department, we can provide after school busing for most of our in-district students. Most students will either catch a bus at Caledonia Elementary or ride the Kettle Lake shuttle and pick up a bus at Kettle Lake Elementary.

8TH HOUR PROGRAM –
8th Hour Classes are in full swing! We had a few cancellations this week due to Parent/Teacher Conferences AND we will not have 8th Hour classes on Wednesday, October 31st due to the ½ day.

8th Hour teachers have the option of holding their 8th Hour classes for an extra week to make up any missed days. Students will be notified if their class will go for an extra week from their 8th Hour teacher.

Mrs. Bravata's 8th Hour Classes have begun! Knitting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 6th Grade Girls Basketball will be meeting for the next several weeks. We do have openings for the basketball class! It's not too late!

8th Hour Makerspace Club working on their Egg Drop Devices! Pictured are 7th graders -Hudson Nichols and Coreena Marsiglia

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY – Advisor Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander
NJHS is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. NJHS website: www.njhs.us

The next NJHS meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th. Committees will be working on their projects such as Angel Tree, Operation Christmas Child, holiday cards for veterans, staff appreciation, and much more.

6th grade is a qualifying year for NJHS. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average and participate in at least 6 hours of volunteer service for the community and/or schools to be invited to apply. ***Current members must also maintain the 3.5 GPA and complete 6 hours of service for the year to remain members in good standing.***

STUDENT COUNCIL –
Duncan Lake Middle School has a Student Council. Our council's purpose statement is to be a positive influence in our school and community, promote spirit and participation, as well as provide an active student voice while representing the entire student body.

Our next Student Council meeting will be Thursday, November 1st at 7:30am in the library.

DLMS Student Council kicked off our **Box Top** collection competition in October. Each focus class will be competing to see who can collect the most Box Tops to raise money for our school**! Money raised will be used for Duncan Lake programs and curriculum needs that enhance and improve educational opportunities for all students. The Focus in each grade who collects the most Box Tops will win an ice cream party!**

Please **CLIP, CLIP, CLIP!**

Box Tops should be sent in with your student to their Focus Class. If you want to help more, please bundle the Box Tops in groups of 50 before sending them in – the Box Tops can be sent in baggies or envelopes. Thank you!

DLMS STUDENT STORE – Mrs. LaValley, Student Store Manager
Open on Thursdays during student lunches!

Come take a look at all of the exciting things and pick up some spirit wear to show your Cal pride for homecoming week! We offer new items almost weekly so that you never get bored! If you are looking for something in specific, ask Mrs. LaValley.

KIWANIS BUILDER'S CLUB – Advisor Elizabeth Alexander
Duncan Lake has a very active Kiwanis Builder's Club...What do we build? Leaders!
Builder's Club provides leadership development and guidance and is a way for members to form sound personal values based on experiences in meaningful community-service activities. Our Builder's Club is a student lead organization. The members decide, with the assistance of the Advisors, what service projects they will "take on" throughout the school year.

All students are welcome to join the DLMS Builder's Club. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 28th at 7:30 – 8:00 in Room 301. In October, we handed out Trick or Treat for Unicef Boxes to our members and decorated placemats for the Senior Citizen Thanksgiving luncheon. **Trick or Treat Unicef boxes are due back to the main office by Friday, November 2nd.**

If your student is interested in attending have them come to the next meeting or stop in the Enrichment/Activities Office for more info**.** Builders Club meeting dates will always be shared over morning announcements as well.

NUMATS 2015-2016 – Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search
Students from 3rd-9th grade can access above grade level tests (9th Grade EXPLORE, SAT, ACT) and receive feedback and assistance in interpreting test results and planning your child's future education path. If you would like additional information, visit the MATS website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu or see Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander in the Enrichment Office for an information packet.

Sixth and seventh grade students who demonstrate exceptional ability in math or language arts on the NUMATS ACT or SAT tests ***may*** qualify for the Kent ISD Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP). ATYP offers programs in math and language arts that allow students to work at an accelerated pace, depth, and breadth. Please contact Mrs. E. Alexander for more information.

Science Olympiad
Have you ever thought you would like to be able to build an invention out of junk? Be able to solve a crime like on CSI? Build a catapult-like device or airplane? Study fossils or bugs? These and many other areas in science are explored in Science Olympiad. Better yet, at the end, you will compete against other middle schools to prove the Duncan Lake's team is the best! If this sounds interesting, pick up an application from Mrs. Alexander in the Enrichment/Activities Office.

Science Olympiad registration is still available. We will be starting practices in November. Students who have registered for the team will receive event practice schedules by November 1st.

We are always in need of parent volunteers to coach. Please contact Mrs. Alexander at alexandere@calschools.org if you would be willing to help out.

Math Olympiad-
DLMS will have a Math Olympiad team this year! Our new coach will be Diane Poff. She is planning to hold Math Olympiad on Mondays to start in November. Registration forms will go out to kids soon! Make sure to have your student watch for it if they are interested in being on the team! Contact Mrs. Alexander if you have any questions. alexandere@calschools.org

Sports News:

Cheer

Cal Cheer Competitive Cheer Clinics/Tryouts for 7th/8th graders.
Monday November 5, 6, 7, & 8, 3-5 pm, upstairs in the DLMS Balcony
Must have Physical, Athletic Fee turned in to athletic office by November 5.

Ski Club

The Caledonia Middle Schools Ski Racing Club is open to 7th and 8th grade students that would like to learn to ski race. We will have a meeting Wednesday Nov 7th at 7:00 pm in room 703 at Kraft Meadows. If you have, any questions contact Coach Petrosky at Kraft Meadows.

Boys Basketball

Schedule: (subject to change at any time)
"A (purple) "teams play first on Mondays; "B (gold) " teams play first on Wednesdays. First game begins @ 4:00 followed by the second game, which will begin after an 8:00 minute warm-up, unless otherwise noted**.**

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Wednesday	**11/7/18**	**Lowell MS**	**Home**	**4:00 PM**
Monday	**11/12/18**	**Kenowa Hills MS**	**Home**	**4:00 PM**
Wednesday	**11/14/18**	**East Grand Rapids MS**	**Home**	**4;15 PM**
Monday	**11/19/18**	**Wyoming J.H.**	**Home**	**4:00 PM**
Tuesday	11/20/18	Wayland MS	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	**11/26/18**	**Thornapple/Kellogg MS**	**Home**	**4:00 PM**
Wednesday	11/28/18	Lowell MS	Away	4:00 PM

Community News:

Santa Clause Girls

Santa Claus Girls (SCG) is a non-profit organization that provides both toys and clothing items to children ages 12 and under in time for Christmas. Gifts collected are gift wrapped, discreetly bundled in plastic bags and delivered to the children's residence on Saturday, December 15 to be received by a parent or caregiver.

All donations we receive stay within Kent County and over 5,000 families and 14,000 children are served annually.

- Attached are flyers for families in English and Spanish that explain the registration process
- Online registration, in both English and Spanish, is currently available at www.santaclausgirls.org
- Families may also register by phone (616.957.7335) beginning October 16
- Ongoing updates are posted to the Santa Claus Girls Facebook page.
- Please feel free to forward this information to any additional organization or program that serves families who may benefit from Santa Claus Girls

If you have any questions regarding the program or gift distribution, please call 616-957-7343. You may also email me at mauralamoreaux@gmail.com or SCG chairperson Diane Brown at dianejean45@gmail.com.

Resource Center Classes

We have Classes starting this week and next week!
so if you were considering signing up, please do not delay :)
Remember that registering 7 days before some class starts, gets you the early bird discount on most classes!
You can do it easily online at www.inspiremenow.org
Click on the big blue register now button for all dates, times, costs and locations.

Tuesday - October 23
Fitness Fusion @ DLMS 5:45 - 6:45 pm

Wednesday - October 24
Probate, Ladybird Deeds and Joint Ownership @ DLMS - 7-9pm

Thursday - October 25
Tai Chi @ Caledonia Ele. - 6-7pm
Wills and Trusts for the Family - 7-9pm@ DLMS

Saturday, October 27
Boys 5th & 6th Basketball - First Showcase @ Caledonia HS

Tuesday - October 30
Play date with Christine @ DLMS 9:30am- 1pm
Hatha Vinyasa Yoga @ DLMS 4:15 - 5:15pm
Mermaid Tumbling - ages 3-5 @ Caledonia Dance Center

Thursday - November 1
Beginning Fencing for Teens & Adults @ West Michigan Fencing Academy - 6:30 - 7:30
WERQs @ Caledonia Ele - 7 - 7:50pm
Power 30 @ DLMS - 5:45 - 6:15Aquatic Fitness classes @ Kentwood aquatic center (times vary)

Saturday, November 3
Boys 5th & 6th Basketball - Second Showcase @ Caledonia HS
Caledonia Arts & Craft Show 10am - 3pm

ZIG ZAG ULTIMATE

PLAY COMPETETIVE

Ultimate Frisbee

Fridays 4-6pm on INDOOR TURF

$60 includes disc and shirt @ Elite Baseball and Softball

4th-12th Grade. Nov 9-Dec 16

inspiremenow.org

Mike@ZigZagUltimate.com
616.606.DISC

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2018-19

What is OM? The world's oldest international creative problem-solving competition.

What is the purpose? To develop team building, divergent thinking, presentation, and organization skills, all of which help foster academic and professional success.

How does it work? Teams of 5-7 students solve a problem and perform their solution in competitions across the region, with the opportunity to advance to states and worlds! See below for a preview of this year's problems.

2018-19 Problems

Problem 1: OMER to the Rescue Again - Divisions I, II, III

Who better to help those in distress than OMER? In this problem, OMER and his trusty Sidekick travel to different places with suitcases holding all of the parts of an OMER-mobile vehicle!

Problem 2: Hide in Plain Sight – Divisions I, II, III

Teams take a cue from nature in this problem where they create and build a team-made mechanical creature that hides in plain sight. The creature will change its appearance three times to avoid being detected by a Searcher Character trying to find it.

Problem 3: Classics… Leonardo's Workshop – Divisions I, II, III

Imagine how inspiring Leonardo DaVinci's (LDV) workshop must have been. Teams will portray his workplace in an original, creative performance that includes LDV, a patron, and a naysayer.

Problem 4: Structure Toss – Divisions I, II, III

Step right up and put your structure to the test! Teams must strategize risk for points and "toss" their structures in this year's problem-turned-carnival. They will use a device to propel the structure in a carnival game.

Problem 5: Opposites Distract – Divisions I, II, III

Disagreements can distract groups from seeing the bigger picture. Teams will create and present a humorous performance about a sneaky character that distracts others while trying to take control of anything the team wishes.

Primary: Museum Makers

Kids can see the extraordinary in the ordinary. Now they will use that ability to create their own museum! The team will create and present an original museum and its exhibits. *Grades K-2 only.*

Primary (K-2nd): $35
Division I (3rd-5th): $50
Divisions II & III (6th-12th): $65

Visit caledoniaom.weebly.com for information on problems, schedule, and registration. Register by Oct. 19!

Caledonia Women's Club

Poinsettia Sales

2018

Dear Caledonia Business:

The Caledonia Women's Club is having its annual fund raiser for Caledonia High School Senior Girls scholarship Fund. We are selling beautiful poinsettias to businesses, churches and individuals in the area. Last year we were able to award five one thousand-dollar scholarships.

The colors of the poinsettias will be red, white, marble and pink. They come in two sizes: 6 ½ " pot ($8.00) & 8" pot ($16). I will pick up your order or you may email me by Monday, Nov. 26th. Payment is due upon delivery. Delivery and payment will be Wednesday, November 28, 2018. Checks should be made out to: Caledonia Women's Club.

Thank you for supporting the Caledonia High School Senior Girls Scholarship Fund.

Name_____

Order: 6 ½" pot Red_____ White_____ Marble _____ Pink _____

8" pot Red _____ White _____ Marble _____ Pink _____

Total 6 ½" pot @ $8.00 _____ Total Cost _____

Total 8" pot @ $16.00 _____ Total Cost _____

Total Due _____

Name of contact person: Joan Barrett
Phone number: 616.891.7581 Cell: 616.540.6311
Email address: jijbarrett@gmail.com
Address: 6200 Red Haven Pt. SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Celebrating 10 Years

the Nutcracker

presented by

Caledonia Dance & Music Center

Saturday, December 8

2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, December 9

3:30pm

Duncan Lake Middle School Performing Arts Center

9757 Duncan Lake Avenue • Caledonia, MI 49316

Get your tickets online at

CaledoniaDanceAndMusic.com

Caledonia Dance & Music Center

131 E. Main Street SE, Suite E • Caledonia, MI 49316

616-891-1606

A holiday family tradition for all ages

BECAUSE PARENTING TODAY ISN'T EASY, SIGN UP FOR

RAISING A STRONG HAPPY AND CONFIDENT CHILD TODAY

AND GET SOME PROVEN COACHING TIPS THAT WILL GO ALONG WAYS TO MAKING FAMILY LIFE MORE ENJOYABLE.

In this four-evening program we will coach you in how to:

-Listen so your kids will talk to you.

-Talk (without yelling) so you kids will listen.

-Build trust so when there is a problem your kids will come to you.

-Help your kids learn how to solve problems.

NOVEMBER 6,13,20,27

6:30 – 9 CALEDONIA RESOURCE CENTER

Register by Phone:
Call us at (616) 891-8117
Or go to www.inspiremenow.org

Offered by Caledonia Resource Center and The Family Coaches

The Family Coaches
Happy Healthy Families

Thefamilycoaches.com
coachlen@thefamilycoaches.com
Leonard Paauwe M.S. CPC, ELI Master Practitioner
Certified Master Trainor and Parent

Make a free call to discover what a difference we can make for you and your family

616 238 2351

Want to have a great conversation with your teenager?

———

Tired of yelling and feeling like an ogre just to get a little cooperation?

———

Want your kids to come to you when they have a problem?

———

Want to change your child's unacceptable behavior?

———

Want to mend a troubled relationship?

———

Not sure how to handle a situation with your child?

The Family Coaches will help you feel confident about your parenting

November 2018

Duncan Lake Middle School

MiddleYears

Working Together for School Success

Short Stops

Conferences in middle school

A parent-teacher conference is the perfect opportunity to work with the school to support your child. You may meet with one of his teachers who will share information from all the others. Or you might spend a few minutes with each teacher. If you have questions for specific teachers or need more time with them, call or email to follow up.

Fit in fitness

An hour of daily physical activity promotes good health. Suggest that your tween calculate how many minutes of exercise she gets each day. She could include walking to school and participating in PE. Encourage her to add more exercise, perhaps by meeting a friend to swim at an indoor pool or by following along with a Zumba video.

Promptness, please

Being at his desk when the bell rings means your middle grader won't miss class instruction or important announcements. Have him add a five-minute "cushion" to his morning so he has time to deal with the unexpected (missing shoe, early bus).

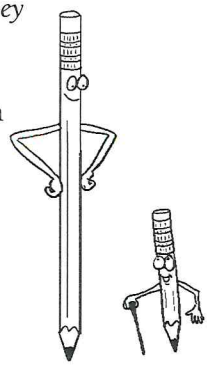
Worth quoting

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions." *Stephen Covey*

Just for fun

Q: What's tall when it's new and short when it's old?

A: A pencil.



Study secrets—revealed

Anna knows what she needs to accomplish when she sits down to study. She stays focused and tends to remember the material. Her secret? Strong study skills! Share these strategies with your tween.

Skill: Set goals.

Strategy: Encourage your child to jot down specific goals for each study session and check off each one as she meets it. She should be as detailed as possible. *Example:* "Learn 30 vocabulary words before Friday's Spanish test." It may also help to make deals with herself. ("I can take a break after I've learned 15 words.")

Skill: Stay focused.

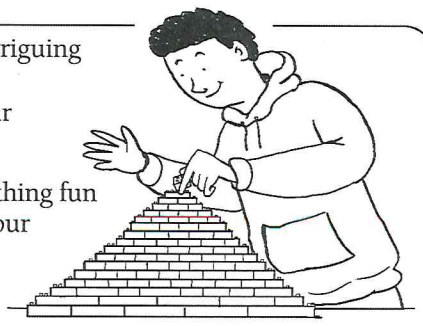
Strategy: Suggest that your middle grader eliminate distractions before she studies. For instance, she should silence her phone and put it in another room. Hunger and fatigue can also make her mind wander, so she could eat a healthy snack or go for a quick jog before she buckles down.

Skill: Monitor understanding.

Strategy: After your tween reviews her notes, handouts, and textbook, she can make up a quiz. Taking the quiz and checking her answers will show her what she still needs to work on. Have her write anything she doesn't understand on a sticky note and ask her teacher for help.

Spotlight on history

History is full of fascinating places and intriguing people for your child to discover. With these ideas, he can step into the past—right in your living room:



- Work separately or together to create something fun that represents a time period. For instance, your family might build a Lego model of an Egyptian pyramid. Or tape large sheets of paper to a wall, and draw or paint an Aztec mural.
- Have each person secretly pick a historical figure to research, maybe Benjamin Franklin or Amelia Earhart. Then, host a game show where everyone asks yes-or-no questions to guess each other's characters.

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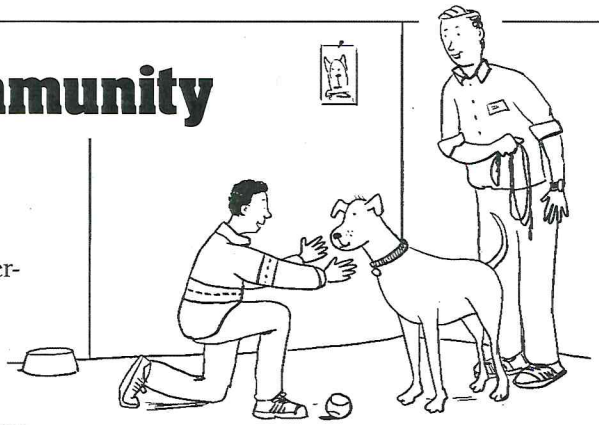
Serving our community

Volunteering as a family can teach your middle grader about empathy and helping others. Here's how to get started.



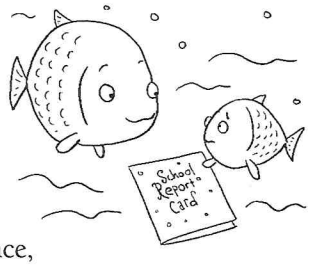
1. Have your tween research community service opportunities for families. He should list ideas that match the ages of family members, and also jot down the time involved for each job. He could visit websites such as *createthegood.org* and *volunteermatch.org*. He might also call or email community centers, shelters, and places of worship to ask if they need help.

2. Review your child's list together. Talk about possibilities that interest everyone, and pick one to sign up for. If your family loves animals, maybe you could feed and play with dogs and cats in a shelter. Or if you like to cook together, maybe you'll volunteer at a soup kitchen or a fire station's spaghetti dinner.

3. Talk about those you'll be helping, such as people who don't have enough to eat or animals who need attention and comfort. Considering how others feel will show your middle grader how important it is to help out—and make your volunteer experience more meaningful.

Parent to Parent: Report cards: Find the positives

My sixth-grade daughter just got her first report card with letter grades. In elementary school, she always received "Excellent" or "Good," so I was surprised to see a C in English.



I decided to focus on the positives first. I pointed out Chelsea's good attendance, an A in science, and a nice comment from her chorus teacher.

Then, we discussed her English grade. Chelsea said she had fallen behind on assigned readings. As a result, she struggled to answer comprehension questions and participate in class discussions. We brainstormed solutions, including reading a certain number of pages each night and jotting down points to make in class.

Chelsea said that when she gets her next report card, she hopes that one of the first things I can point out will be a B in English!

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Same answer, different strategies

There's often more than one way to approach a math problem. Try these tips for using family game night to help your tween talk through math strategies—and see that for herself!

Monopoly. When a player decides to buy (or not to buy) a property or add houses or hotels, have her share her thinking. Your child might calculate how many times an opponent would need to land on her properties to cover the cost. Or she could total her cash, subtract the cost of the hotels, and consider her liability (the rent she would owe if she lands on other players' properties before getting "paid" again).

Yahtzee. Let family members explain how they determine where to record their rolls of the dice. Say your middle grader gets four sixes and one five. Will she score it as four of a kind or as her sixes roll? Perhaps she'll consider the probability of rolling four of a kind again (unlikely) and decide to check off four of a kind rather than risk scoring zero in that spot. Or maybe she'll count it as sixes, which will put her on the path to earning a bonus.

Q&A: Concern about anxiety

Q *Several of my friends and neighbors have mentioned that their kids have anxiety. My son gets stressed out sometimes—could he suffer from anxiety, too?*

A It's normal for middle graders to feel stressed from time to time about school, friends, or growing up. But if they're excessively anxious for long periods of time and miss out on activities because of it, that may signal a bigger problem.

Anxiety disorder symptoms include worrying persistently for weeks or months, trouble sleeping, frequent headaches or stomachaches, and avoiding school or friends.

If you notice any of these symptoms in your son, contact your pediatrician. She can refer you to a specialist if necessary.