

fromthedentists



Greetings Friends And Families,

We hope you've had a wonderful spring and summer! We apologize for getting behind in our quarterly newsletters, but hope you will find this issue informative. It's easy to get behind on things (like newsletters), but we want to encourage you not to fall behind on your regular dental visits, as prevention is the key to good oral health.

We greatly appreciate the trust you've shown in referring your friends and family to our office. It is our commitment to give them the highest level of dental care in a relaxed and friendly environment that you have come to expect.

See you soon!

*L. Douglas Gray, D.D.S. and
Kenneth K. Lo, D.D.S.*

turnthepage

You can get the look of luck!

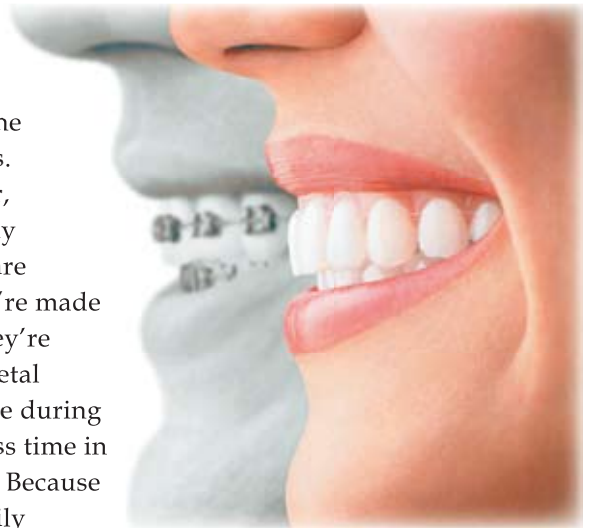
Make a connection!

Guilt-free habits to keep!

Forget About Braces...

With *Invisalign*®

We're very excited to introduce you to *Invisalign*®, a revolutionary orthodontic technique that has improved the smiles of thousands of patients. *Invisalign* uses a series of clear, removable aligners to gradually straighten teeth. The aligners are comfortable, and because they're made with medical-grade plastic, they're virtually invisible. No more metal mouth means you'll smile more during treatment, and you'll spend less time in our office having adjustments! Because the aligners are removable, daily brushing and flossing are not affected in any way, and you can eat anything you fancy!



We welcome you to arrange a consultation to discover how *Invisalign* can give you the smile you've always wanted!

invisalign®



CosmeticQuiz

- Do you feel awkward or self-conscious when you smile?
- Do you ever talk through your hands?
- Do you purposely smile for the camera with your lips closed?
- Would you like your teeth to be whiter or straighter?

If you answer
YES
to any of
these questions,
we can help.

Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!



Fight Oral Cancer

Is that a piece of food caught in your teeth? *Made you look!* And a good thing too. Sometimes patients are so nervous about what they'll find – especially oral cancer – that they just don't want to see. But visual monitoring is essential for early cancer detection. It's important that you check your mouth and let us know about sores or ulcers that bleed easily or do not heal, white or red patches or lumps that don't go away, and lingering soreness.

Show & tell

With early detection, most oral cancer can be cured, yet 70% are identified at an advanced stage. That's why we always check your tongue, lips, cheek lining, and gums at every regular visit.

Screening for oral cancer is a team effort. We rely on you ... and you know you can count on us.

Success! What's *luck* got to do with it?

Lucky people smile twice as often and engage in more eye contact than unlucky people do. According to scientists, this leads to more social engagements, which in turn generates more chances for positive experiences. Cosmetic dentistry can give you the confidence to smile more ... maybe that's all the luck you need!

Whether you're looking to network socially or professionally, here are some cosmetic options...

- **Sparkle-up your smile** with teeth whitening. If you're considering

cosmetic dentistry for the first time, this simple procedure can produce striking confidence-building results.

- **Illuminate the shadows** with white fillings. Replace dark, older fillings with new natural-looking materials that can be matched to your enamel.

- **Generate a younger, more attractive smile** with bonding or veneers which offer value-added benefits! They can cover the deepest stains, repair cracks, chips, and rough edges, plus disguise gaps, re-proportion, and balance the appearance of your smile without braces.

- **Add strength and beauty** to your smile with natural-looking crowns. If your teeth have been weakened by root canal therapy, multiple fillings, or trauma, porcelain crowns will restore strength and improve appearance.

- **Create a more balanced and symmetrical gumline** with veneers or gum sculpting. Whether your gums have begun to recede or you have been longing to reveal the beautiful enamel under too much gum, we have a technique that will work for you.



crowns & veneers

veneers

gum sculpting & veneers

IN A HEARTBEAT

Prevent periodontal disease

Periodontal or gum disease has been called the *Silent Disease* because initially there are no symptoms. If your gums are red, sometimes bleed when you brush, feel tender, or look swollen ... these are symptoms of periodontal disease. If your mouth tastes unpleasant ... that's another symptom. If your gums have receded... you may have had gum disease for some time. Receding gums, and bone and tooth loss, are unattractive alternatives to healthy gums. But there's more at stake! Gum disease has been linked to cardiovascular and other systemic diseases.

👉 **Studies have found oral bacteria from gum infections in arterial plaque, and have also shown that therapy for periodontal disease lessens inflammation throughout the body.**

👉 **Poor oral health has been identified as a stronger predictor of heart disease than other risk factors such as low levels of good cholesterol, high levels of a clotting agent, and high levels of certain fats in the bloodstream.**

👉 **Long-term and short-term studies continue to clarify the links between oral bacteria, inflammation, and systemic diseases.**

The Surgeon General in his *Report on Oral Health in America* said that the mouth is the gateway to the body, that you cannot be healthy without oral health, and that oral and general health are inseparable. Together, we can prevent and sometimes reverse gum disease. Brush, floss, and keep regular preventive, diagnostic, and maintenance dental appointments.

Sjogren's Syndrome?

Saliva has been called the barometer of the body. Among many things, it can reveal cavity and gum disease risk factors. For some individuals, like those with *Sjogren's Syndrome*, it's the lack of saliva that creates challenges and discomfort when speaking, eating, and swallowing.

Sjogren's Syndrome is an autoimmune disease caused by inflammation in the glands of the body. Inflammation of the salivary glands can lead to mouth dryness which can lead to swallowing difficulties, dental decay, gum disease, and mouth sores. While Sjogren's Syndrome appears to be inherited, about 20% of adults experience *xerostomia* – or dry mouth – that can be triggered by more than 650 drugs and several diseases, and which appears in some menopausal women. Are you one of the 20%? Let us help.

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Great Habits...

Will keep your smile happy!

You know that excessive sweets and big second helpings aren't good for you. Neither are dental cavities. If you really have a sweet tooth, try to remember that cavities don't respect age or attitude... only good habits. Once you get into a routine, you may not need to worry about cavities again!

- 1 **Brush** at least twice a day – to remove food and plaque film from your teeth, gums, and tongue.
- 2 **Floss** once a day – to remove the plaque film from between your teeth where your toothbrush can't reach.
- 3 **Rinse** – plain water can be a great help after snacks or meals when you simply can't brush. It helps saliva, your natural buffer, to keep cavity-causing bacteria to a minimum.
- 4 **Visit us** – your dental team – regularly. Prevention is the best way to keep cavities away.

Cause For Concern

Why should you be concerned about periodontal (gum) disease?

Periodontal disease is so common that estimates of those affected range from between 75% to more than 90%. It is an insidious bacterial infection that begins with no symptoms and can progressively affect the appearance of your gums, cause bad breath, and eventually lead to tooth loss which can affect your ability to chew, speak, and socialize. It causes progressive bone loss which can alter the proportions of your face. Periodontal disease has also been linked to cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, osteoarthritis, premature

births, kidney disease, oral cancer, lung disease, and Alzheimer's.

What causes it?

Plaque, the soft thin film you may feel on your teeth, is a natural biofilm with its own ecosystem of bacterial environments. If this film is allowed to build up, it hardens into calculus (or tartar) which can cause gum inflammation and bleeding. Calculus can damage the natural seal formed by your gums against the migration of oral bacteria into your bloodstream. The earliest and most common stage of



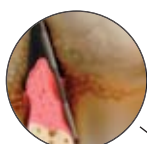
gum disease is called gingivitis. As it progresses, it is called periodontitis.

How can you prevent or manage gum disease?

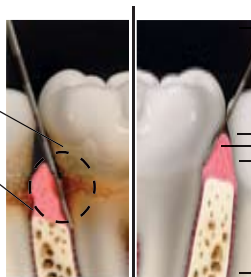
It's very important that you maintain a home care routine to prevent plaque from becoming calculus. Maintaining adequate nutrition and avoiding stress, teeth grinding and clenching, and tobacco can help. Keep your regular appointments so we can keep on top of things, because once calculus is formed, only your dental team can remove it. Thanks to modern dentistry, periodontal disease can be managed – and even reversed!

Periodontal Disease vs Healthy Tooth & Gums

Gingival pockets are the small spaces between your teeth and gums where debris collects. If plaque and tartar aren't removed from these pockets, gums become inflamed and the pockets of bacteria extend deeply between the root and gum. Bone and gum tissues deteriorate and, if left untreated, the tooth becomes loose and falls out or has to be removed.



Tartar



Periodontal disease

Healthy tooth

The crown is the visible part of each tooth.

The gums are the soft pink tissues that cover your tooth and bone.

The root of each tooth is lodged in your supporting jawbone.

officeinformation

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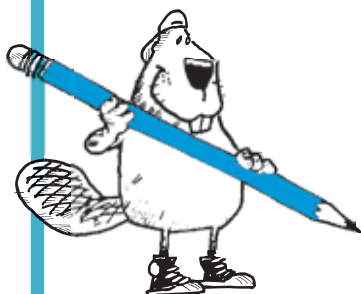
Brush • Floss • Smile



Sudoku!

Time For Some Fun!

We've got the best response from our Sudoku puzzles, so here's another. Fax, send, or drop by your completed puzzle by November 30th. We'll pick a winner from the correct entries to receive a \$30 Starbucks® gift card. Good Luck!



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