An Irish Blessing from us to you: “May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.” The Malenius Kingdom wants to increase your luck of not experiencing any oral health problems! Until April 1, 2012 we are having discount Thursdays. Cleanings, exams and x-rays are 25% off the regular price! Two excluded dates are March 22 and March 29. Payment is due at the time of service for this offer. Of course you can always request an appointment on our website.

The Malenius Kingdom continues Buzzing with news and excitement! Yes we have another Raffle Winner. The lucky owner of Sonicare’s new Air Flosser is Christina Yau! Because of the thrill of the Raffle, we are going to do it one more time to get through winter! So come on in and enter. Who knows what the prize will be this time! Another winner is our very own Kingdom hero, Cinnamon the Husky, who recently participated in the Adopt a Husky event at the Morton Arboretum with proud mom, Sue Simmons. More information is available for huskies who are needing of a home at www.adoptahusky.com. Welcome to the World! Congratulations to Judy & Bill Gallagher, not only does Grandpa Bill celebrate his birthday on March 9th, but the celebration is extra special with the arrival of their granddaughter, Autumn Gale, born to daughter, Peggy on January 15, 2012. Ellie McGuigan, made her debut on December 9, 2011, born to Emily & Chuck making 20 month old Henry, a fabulous big brother! Howard & Lane Bruskin’s 18 month grandson, Joey, also got a new brother, Jake, born to son, Adam & wife, Katie on January 26, 2012.

Happy Birthday To You! Dr. Mark’s Niece, Princess Sidney Hughes is having her royal day on March 22nd. Front Desk Deanna’s nephew, Jeff Blazek gets his day to kick back on March 19th. Zoe Craane, is having her big 4 year old party on March 7, while the King Family has celebrations all month with Jonah celebrating on March 1st and brother Tavis celebrating on March 27th! Ashley Billhymer also has her day to enjoy lots of cake on March 27th! Suzanne Scherold had her day to be waited on March 1st, while daughter, Emily gets her turn on March 15th! Christopher Minter gets his special day on March 18th. Sarah Gilbert turns 6 years old on March 27th, while golf champ, Charlie Tate has his swinging day on March 12th! Michael Berendt gets his day to put his feet up on March 31st! Jan Soule-DeCoursey gets her birthday surprises on March 29th. Pat Fullriede we are sure will enjoy a fabulous birthday dinner made by hubbie, Bill, on March 30th! Linda Gale has her day to shop till she drops on March 12th! Ray Hale gets his turn to celebrate on March 24th. Brothers, Brad & Bryan Tyzenhaus, have their duo birthdays on March 9 and March 23rd! Laura Zettinger, we are sure will have the a fabulous Zettinger Celebration on March 15th! Ron Polzin can have his cake and eat it too on March 14th! Julia Wenig has her day to shine on March 13th, while new mom, Twana Rundle had her day to sparkle on March 3rd! And new papa, Eric Hoff gets his day to celebrate on March 20th! Allison Ioli has her chance to put up her feet and get waited on March 27th! Not only is Allison Tomaras celebrating her birthday on March 22nd, but also is a GGA (Gorgeous Gum Award) Winner this month! Wow! Dalia Ambriz was also a big GGA winner this month! Great job! Outstanding Award Winners are abound! Jarius Shannon won sectional & took 3rd in State for Glenbard South Track Team! While sister, Ashley, is active in Glenbard South’s Cheerleading competition. Andrew Grossklaus has more to celebrate, making the Montini Catholic High School’s honor roll again! And happy birthday to Annie,
Lauren Ackermann’s doggie who had her day to woof it up on February 8th.

Dr. Bob’s Corner: Thanks to Teresa Hoffman, who provided this amusing cartoon. I thought it was time to discuss the many reasons why you may want to consider replacing those old “silver” (amalgam) fillings.

Worn out! Many people had their amalgam fillings placed as children and we are seeing the miles! The best time to replace these old and run down fillings is before experiencing discomfort. Amalgams expand and contract, fracturing themselves, the tooth or “leak,” allowing bacteria to fester in between them and the tooth, leaching out further and further into the enamel. Early signs of fracturing can more easily be visible with our intra-oral camera, but as you can see, eventually the darkened line coming off the old filling becomes more obvious with just the naked eye. Signs of leaking amalgams are represented by a greyness that extends from the amalgam into the tooth. When I remove many of these old fillings is when I often uncover more extensive hidden recurrent decay and fracturing.

Danger of Leaking/Fractured Amalgams.

Because there is no pain in the early stages of breakdown these problems are often ignored. But even the smallest fractures and earliest signs of leaking amalgams can be a sign of much more hiding around that amalgam. Early recurrent decay and fractures can even hide from x-rays. Early intervention often can result in the amalgam filling being replaced with a white, composite filling. Composite restorations not only look better but actually reinforce the tooth by helping to “hold” it together.

Saved by the Crown.

Some times even with early intervention the damage can be far-reaching and I find the advanced damage leaves more tooth gone that remaining. When more tooth is gone for any reason a filling is no longer an option, because it is no longer sufficient to withstand the daily functional stress. The treatment recommendation in this case, is a crown, also some times referred to as a “cap.” Crowns strengthen the remainder of the tooth and guard against future deterioration, and they look great! If you need a crown, I need to know if you may be considering bleaching. Crown color is permanent, so if you think at any time you may want to lighten your teeth with bleaching it is something we would want to do before we begin on the restorative process. Crowns are completed in two visits. The first visit, the natural tooth is prepared by reducing and/or reinforcing so that the new visible crown will fit properly. The “orders/instructions” are then sent out to a dental lab where the crown is constructed and delivered back to our office. A temporary crown is placed, and in approximately two weeks at the second appointment I permanently place the permanent crown.

Once dental crowns are placed they also need monitoring to check for recurrent decay where they are attached onto the prepared tooth, and any extensive damaging wear.

Still hope for severely damaged teeth. There are times when I find a tooth is infected/abscessed, or remove the old filling I find decay or fracturing reaches down close to the nerve of the tooth. In this case, to avoid or relieve pain and restore the tooth, it is necessary for the tooth to have a root canal. Depending on the tooth and the extent of the damage I will sometime prescribe an antibiotic to fight the infection and/or either perform the root canal myself or refer the patient to an endodontist who specializes in root canals. Up to one to three visits can be needed for root canals. The first visit consists of removing the decay, nerve/pulp and cleaning and preparing the inner root canals for the second visit, the final reinforcement. Because removing the pulp means removing the nerve and blood supply to the tooth, it can become brittle, and a crown is needed to reinforce a root canal tooth.

When a Root Canal is Not Enough.

Some times the damage is so extensive the only option is extraction. But all is not lost! Most times a missing tooth or teeth can be replaced with either a dental bridge or implant(s). Dental bridges consists of three or more crowns connected together. Teeth on either side of a space are reduced in order to receive the “anchored” crowns. Some times there isn’t a tooth available on both sides of a missing space, or the desired result doesn’t include reducing a healthy unrestored tooth, especially in the case of congenitally missing teeth, dental implants may be an option. Titanium posts are placed within the bone allowing the existing jaw bone to eventually grow into them, integrating the post into the jaw. After sufficient bone growth a crown is inserted into the post. Implants are becoming more popular due to the success rate and comfortable process, as well as the benefit of not needing the added restorative process of surrounding teeth.

No matter which treatment is right for you, we are ready, willing and capable of providing prevention and if needed, the restorative process that is best for your oral health.

Always, it is our goal as well as our mission statement to “Serve patients as a knowledgeable, fun, and gifted team, inspiring trust while making a difference with our patients