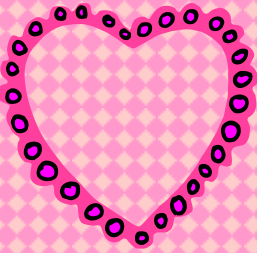


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From the Principal's Desk

This month we will kick off our Mustang Derby event, which will occur on Friday, March 16. This fun event serves as our Spring Fundraiser. We invite you to join us for this exciting, healthy event, and we appreciate your support.

This month, our students are completing practice tests in class in preparation for our upcoming school-wide testing. You should have also been seeing Iowa/iLEAP packets coming home. These are to help our students be confident with the format and types of questions that they will face. We want them to be very confident, and we need your help to be sure the packets are getting completed. Testing is scheduled for April 12, 13, 16, and 17. Please do not schedule any appointments for these days.

Our students will also be participating in lots of exciting events this month. Our 3rd graders will be visiting the planetarium and our 2nd graders will be learning about economics with the help of Neighbor's Credit Union and a visit from Nate the Squirrel. Also, on Friday, February 17, we are treating our students to a visit from the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre's Ballet for Children's performance of Into the Swamp. I know they will love it!

Jennifer Marangos

News From Around the School

DID YOU KNOW?

When you are on our campus, tune to AM-1380 to hear about our Coastal Roots program and ways we can all become better stewards of our state. As part of the LSU Coastal Roots program, Zachary Elementary School 3rd graders will be traveling to Grand Isle in April to plant bitter panicum grasses grown right here in our caryard. You can hear all about this exciting program and much more on ZES Coastal Roots Radio AM 1380.

P.E.

The Mustang Miler program is still going strong; we just completed race ten. The Miler program was started in an effort to prepare our students to run the mile for the Presidents Challenge Physical Fitness Test, and the test will be administered in February and March. The test includes the mile run, pull ups, curl ups, the shuttle run, and the sit and reach. These events measure a child's overall fitness as compared to a national average. More information about the averages can be found at www.presidentschallenge.org/challenge/physical/benchmarks.shtml.

GUIDANCE

I am so excited to be back and see everyone! Guidance class will be all about "spreading seeds of kindness!" There are many ways to spread kindness throughout your day: a simple smile, a compliment, or even offering to help someone speaks volumes about your character! I encourage you to **intentionally** say or do something to show kindness to someone every day. Remember—a happy smile is contagious!!!!

We are continuing to work on basketball, soccer, and football skills as the weather permits. Rope jumping is another part of the P.E. program that has come a long way this year. Some of our students are jumping with two to four jumpers at once with a long jump rope. Our students are also improving on short jump ropes, partner jumping and some are doing crossover jumps. www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/index.html

REMINDERS

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 2 | Papers Go Home |
| Feb. 3 | Free Dress |
| Feb. 8 | Progress Reports Go Home |
| Feb. 13 | Mustang Derby Kick-off |
| Feb. 16 | Papers Go Home |
| Feb. 17 | Ballet for Children @ ZES |
| Feb. 20-21 | NO SCHOOL—MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY |
| Feb. 28 | Cane's Night |

Thank you parents for sending your children with tennis shoes for P.E. If they wear another type of shoes, please send their tennis shoes so they can change into them. Thank you parents for your support and continue to encourage your children to do their best.

SECOND GRADE NEWS

Wow! We have been in school 100 days! Time is moving quickly, and state wide testing will be here before you know it. You will have noticed the IOWA packets coming home with your child each week. Use these to help your child with test taking skills. We are also beginning double digit addition and subtraction. The method we use may be unfamiliar to you. Your child's teacher will be sending home information as to how to help your child.

Addition is pretty easy for the second graders, but subtraction seems to be trickier. Part of the reason may be they don't get a lot of practice subtracting. We ask our children to add all the time: how many fingers and toes they have or how many people in their family, but we don't give them a lot of experiences with subtracting. We will be studying money this month and that would be a great way to start. Provide your child with experiences in "playing store" where they count money and subtract to give change. This should help subtracting come more easily to them.

We are wrapping up our verb unit in Language and moving on to adverbs and abbreviations. Please make sure your child is spending a little extra time studying spelling words. Our words are getting harder with more complex vowel combinations. In reading, we are learning how to use parts of a book such as the index, glossary, and table of contents. We will also be talking about the plot of a story. Encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes every night.

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Third grade students have been working diligently to prepare for the i-LEAP test in April. Please continue to review and sign the practice material that is sent home each week. We are looking forward to our Astronomy Unit in which students will be learning fascinating information about the objects in our solar system as well as conducting and creating their own rocket experiments! The unit will culminate with a trip to the planetarium in Baton Rouge. More information on this trip will be forthcoming. In Mathematics we are moving on to telling time, but please continue to have your child practice his or her multiplication facts nightly. In Language Arts students will be reading nonfiction literature selections about our solar system. We are continuing to improve our reading fluency and comprehension skills by working together in small reading groups. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

STAR STUDENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Hunter Dale | Emily Kidd | Terry Johnson | Landon Walls |
| Chad Sanchez | Caleb Daigle | Blaine Kutz | Morgan Mason |
| Leah Landry | Payton Moore | Catherine Norris | Wyatt Myers |
| Chad Berry | Abbiegaye Long | Olivia Hughes | Todd Goudeau |
| Jakenzie Thymes | Janae D'Arensbourg | Madison Upton | Kennedi Hilton |
| Laila Krewinski | D'Shawn Winfield | Carrington Spears | Blake Smith |
| Adrain Polite | Lane White | Miles Bell | Brooke Logue |
| Ashlyn Meyer | Matthew Clayton | Joshua Morris | Kristian Maddie |
| Gary Morris | Garrett Beadle | Landon Oakley | Niya Rowe-Williams |
| Levi Deville | | Tyler Mabry | Gregory Torrence |