

Dallas E.S.D. #327 What's Happening

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Contents

Principal's Corner	1
Early Childhood News	2
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	3
Third Grade News	3
Fourth & Fifth Grade News	3/4
Junior High News	4
P.E.	4
Title I	4
Art	4
Sports	5
Resource	5
After School Program	5
Breakfast & Lunch	6
Other Important Information	6
Community News	6

Principal's Corner

How can parents be successful with teachers and staff?

No child sails through his or her entire school life without at least a few rough waters. Sometimes it is an issue of how the teacher handles the class or treats a child. Sometimes it is a misunderstanding. And, yes, sometimes the problem is even with your child. No matter what the issue, there are ways to make dealing with problems at school much easier.

Start with the teacher or staff member. The best first step is to discuss the issue with the teacher or staff member. This can be done by calling but better yet a face to face meeting should be scheduled. Only if the problem is not solved should you take it to the next level - a meeting with the principal.

Don't be afraid. Many of us feel like children when we meet with school staff or administration. While these educators are in a position of authority, they are adults just like you who are interested in your child. Don't worry that raising issues with them will "hurt" your child in the classroom. Leaving problems unresolved can be a bigger problem.

Think positively. Before you come for a meeting with school personnel, envision that everything will work out for the best. A positive attitude and calmly discussing the problem will work out better.

Get the facts - from both sides. Sit down with your child and write down his or her version of the situation. If possible, bring along examples of the child's work to illustrate your points. Then discuss the issues with the teacher or staff. And above everything, listen to his or her perspective.

Take off the rose-colored glasses. It is tough to hear a teacher say that your child is having issues in class but how can things improve unless you understand the teacher's side.

Be respectful. Even if the teacher is "to blame" it is important that you and your child behave respectfully. Children learn what they live and should observe you treating others with respect at all times.

Decide on a solution together. This is pretty self explanatory. Be realistic. Not every school year will be perfect. Sometimes, children and teachers just do not "click". But by dealing with situations calmly and focusing on the solutions - not the problems - you will be making the best of the year for you and your child.

Upcoming Events

**01/15 Early Dismissal
12:37 p.m. - SIP Day**

**01/15 End of Second
Quarter**

**01/18 No School -
Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day**

**01/21 Regular Board
of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m.**

What's Happening in Early Childhood

Miss Weirather

We are so glad to be back at school again in the Early Childhood room! We will be working on getting back into the routine of the school day, as it will be a hard transition for us. Before we left for break, we spent a lot of time discussing the importance of giving. We made sure to talk about how giving is a way of showing how much you love or care for a person. I hope you all enjoyed your home made and purchased gifts.

The purchased gifts were chosen by your child especially for you! The home made ornaments were really fun and easy to make! We just used cinnamon, applesauce, and glue to create the dough, then rolled it out to use with various cookie cutters. We really enjoyed them because they smell so good! Again, we are glad to be back and hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break!

What's Happening in Kindergarten

Mrs. J. Olson

The holiday is over and its back to work. I hope you all had a great time with family and friends!

We are nearing the end of the first semester already and report cards will be coming home on the 22nd of January. Next quarter in Reading, we will be concentrating on making three and four letter words, writing simple sentences, and reading simple text. In Math, we will continue to work on number sense, simple addition, patterning, and shapes.

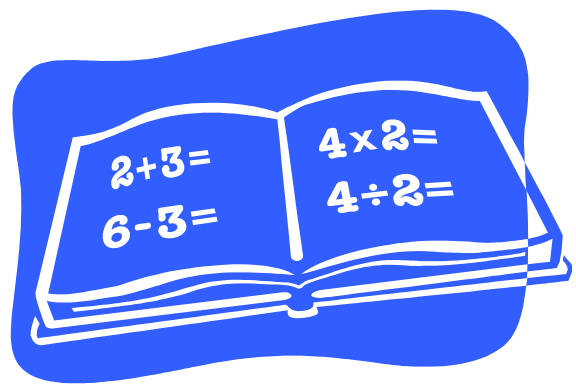
Mrs. Finch

I am so excited to see my kindergarteners! I hope everyone had a nice vacation. We will be finishing the rest of our alphabet this month. January is a fun month to do a snowman unit too! We are very excited as the 100th day of school is fast approaching! Please remember to send your child's towel for rest time. Keep reading and practicing those letters.

What's Happening in First Grade

Mrs. Norvell

The holidays are over and we are into 2010. These last 2 weeks of the semester, we are reading about the community we live in and who works there. Our focus in phonics is on long i, silent e words and words that have ch, wh, tch. We have begun a new chapter in math; we are learning to read graphs, collect data, and make our own picture and bar graphs. Remember, keep working on addition and subtraction facts at home. We are looking forward to a great 2010.



What's Happening in Second Grade

Mrs. Hartrick

Mrs. Hartrick's class returned from break excited to see friends, share Christmas stories, and return to their familiar schedule. We began the week back celebrating Josie and Megan's birthday! We also started off Tuesday with a Happy New Year slurpie and making resolutions for 2010.

We are reading Mr. Popper's Penguins and learning lots of new words to expand our vocabulary. We are also building our reading stamina to 15 minutes. We are using the strategy "Check for understanding" to help with our comprehension.

In Math we are working on patterns and math facts. We are also reviewing place value.

What's Happening in Third Grade

Mrs. Ryner

Happy New Year! Third graders made New Year's resolutions for the rest of the school year. They are as follows:

In 2010, I will...

Chloe- read more

Santos- learn

Allan- read more often

Noah- work hard in reading

Sheldon- get good grades

Katie- start reading more

Jason- listen

Drew- read more books

Gracie- be focused and do my best

Isabella- listen

Yancey- listen to the teacher

Austin- make Mrs. Ryner happy

Jeremiah- not get any F's

Weslee- be quiet

Madison- pay attention

Shayna- learn math

Nick- keep my grades up

Hailee- work more on AC math

Hopefully, we can all work together to help all of these resolutions be met. Ask your child how they are doing on keeping their resolution and offer encouragement.

What's Happening in Fourth & Fifth Grade

Mrs. DeSotel

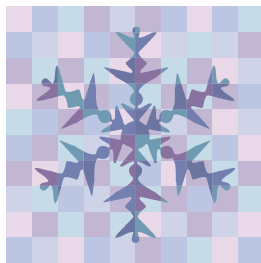
The 4th and 5th graders are working on achieving their Accelerated Math goals by January 5th. Several students have already met their goal and are looking forward to celebrating their accomplishments during math class. Also, both 4th and 5th graders are reviewing basic division facts and beginning an algebra unit.

The 4th grade recycling project is going well. Students pick up paper from the classrooms on Tuesdays and place it in the bin outside. Also, the students pick up the cans and cardboard from the kitchen and any plastic that needs to be recycled. The class earned \$3 from the clothes taken to Stage 2. Keep up the good work, 4th grade.

What's Happening in Fourth & Fifth Grade Cont.

Miss Billings

Happy New Year! The fourth and fifth grades are back and we have jumped right in! ISAT Practice is something high on our list and we started with a short passage today and we will move our way to extended responses. We will try to fit in a little bit of ISAT Practice daily so that when the test gets here we will be ready.



Just before break both classes wrote a paper for local assessment. The fifth grade had the highest number of exceeds in the whole school with 16% and the fourth grade was right behind them with 15% exceeds. Both classes did a great job and I have high hopes for their writing in the upcoming months.

Coming back from Christmas break I have decided to implement a new behavior plan. Some of the kids were getting quite talkative and inattentive before break so I made a chart that will keep them on task. Hopefully this will help us to get even more done and have a great second half of the year!

What's Happening in Junior High

Mrs. Walker

We are getting back into the swing of things and working hard to improve math grades by next Friday. The sixth grade is beginning to study fractions, seventh grade is studying percents and fractions, and eight grade is studying ratios and rates. Your child needs to be studying math facts to be more proficient with their homework.



What's Happening in P.E.

Mrs. Hall

This year is flying by quickly. The second quarter is nearly over. We have started a unit in volleyball. We are learning basic skills and are working to develop stronger muscles needed to be successful in volleyball. In the new year we will begin playing the game learning the rules, following procedures and enjoying the sport. The game of volleyball is growing in popularity as it can be played in a number of different environments. It is a recognized sport in the summer Olympics and is played at the collegiate, high school and junior high levels.

The state of Illinois Elementary Association has adopted the game of volleyball as a competitive sport that may be played by teams consisting of all boys as well as the current all girls teams. Although the idea of the boys competitive teams will not be enacted by the state for another year or two, it certainly is coming in the future. It is up to each district whether they implement this sport.

What's Happening in Title I

Mrs. Leenerts

Welcome back, I am glad to hear that you all had a wonderful winter break. Now that we are back and into the swing of things again, there will be many new and exciting centers. The first new center is going to be math based. In kindergarten we are working on grouping and sequencing, in first grade the focus will be subtraction, and in second grade we are starting out reviewing two digit adding and subtracting.

Michael Heggerty is continuing to be a center to work on phonemic awareness. At the phonics station, second grade is working on r-controlled words, first grade is working on rhyming and kindergarten is working on segmenting and building words. We are also using a new program called Lexia Reading as a center every day. Lexia is a student driven program that works on phonics and phonemic awareness.

What's Happening in Art

Miss Scheetz

7th and 8th grade girls are finishing up their self-portrait. These portraits were painted similar to Chuck Close's work. Fifth and Sixth grade girls are finishing up 3-D collage self-portraits. Fifth and Sixth grade boys are making paper sculptures. Fourth grade is studying Paul Cezanne and recreating one of his still lifes. Third grade is finishing up self-portraits.

Second grade is finishing up the Eric Carle illustrations. First grade just finished reading about fruit and created fruit out of clay. Kindergarten read Alice the Fairy. They are drawing pictures of what they would do if they were a fairy. Pre-k is getting ready to do self-portraits after reading a book.

What's Happening in Sports

Go to www.dcbulldogs.com and select activities to see all sports schedules.

What's Happening in Resource

Mrs. Talley

Welcome back!! I hope you had a wonderful break. I know I sure did. Next week we will start benchmarking for Aimsweb. Your student will take a one minute timed test and that will determine his/her rate of fluency and how he/she is doing compared to other students their age. If you have any questions about this you can contact me at the school. Keep reading with your students and stay warm.

What's Happening in the After School Program

Mr. Gayton

In the After-School Program the children saw the movie "Eight Below". This was a Disney movie about sled dogs that were abandoned in the Arctic for three months. After the movie, they played games and had gym time.

We look forward to the second semester of learning and fun.

What's Happening in Breakfast & Lunch

Breakfast Menu - each day includes juice & milk:

01/11 Cereal, Pop Tart
 01/12 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa
 01/13 Cereal, Doughnut
 01/14 Pancakes, Syrup
 01/15 Cereal, Toast
 01/18 No School
 01/19 Cereal, Coffee Cake
 01/20 Breakfast Pizza
 01/21 Cereal, Cinnamon Toast
 01/22 Sausage Biscuit

Lunch Menu - each day includes milk:

01/11 Ham Patty on Bun, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit Cocktail, Cake
 01/12 Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Lettuce Salad, Applesauce, Hot Rolls
 01/13 Grilled Cheese, Baby Carrots, Banana 1/2, Cookie, Pretzels
 01/14 Chili, Cheese, Crackers, Pickles, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Cobbler
 01/15 Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Pineapple Tidbits, Bread & Butter, Cookie
 01/18 No School
 01/19 Hot Dog on Bun, Potato Rounds, Orange 1/2, Cookie
 01/20 Ham & Beans, Carrots, Celery, Fruit Cocktail, Corn Bread
 01/21 Tenderloin on Bun, French Fries, Grapes, Cookie
 01/22 Pizza, Lettuce Salad, Fruit Cocktail
Jr. High Choice Available On: 01/12, 01/20

Other Important Information

NOTICE - AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

After School Program hours are 3:05 - 5:30 p.m.

It is important that all students are picked up by 5:30 p.m. Beginning on December 14th, students picked up from 5:31-5:45 will be assessed a \$15 fee per family. A charge of \$15 will be assessed for every fifteen minutes the children are left in our care.

Please make arrangements for a back up person to pick up your children in case you are unable to get here on time.

The early dismissal SIP days are considered a full day of school. If your child does not attend on those days, they are counted absent for the whole day. Also, a student is only allowed to miss 10 days of school before they are considered truant unless they have a doctor's excuse or a pre-arranged absence.

Parents: Do not park in the fire lane when dropping off your students. Please pull into a parking space. Buses continue to arrive at various times in the morning and need to pull up to unload students.

Community News

The Hancock County Health Department & Home Health Agency will sponsor the 2010 Family Fair on February 6, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the University of Illinois Extension Center.

Matador Sunday - Dallas City Elementary School will be selling matadors for carry-out on Sunday, January 24th. Call the school office to place your order by Friday, January 22nd (217)852-3201. Cost is \$6.00 each.