

Mayde Creek Elementary November 2009



PRINCIPAL'S



CORNER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

November is a time for giving thanks for all the good things at Mayde Creek Elementary. I am thankful that we have outstanding students, caring parents, and dedicated teachers. Every day I witness great things happening in this building.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Juli Noeldner
Principal, Mayde Creek Elementary



KINDERGARTEN

November will be a busy month for kindergarten. We have many activities planned this month.

We will be going on our field trip to Dewberry Farm on Wednesday, November 11th. This will be an exciting adventure for our kindergarteners! Parents are welcome to join us. Be checking your child's folder for more information to come.

Our Kindergarten Feast is fast approaching on Tuesday, November 24th from 1:45 – 2:45. All parents are welcome to come. We will be learning about the First Thanksgiving and traditions our families have.

We are still introducing letters and sounds, please practice at home! There are multitudes of ways for us to apply our new knowledge! A great website to use at home is www.starfall.com. It helps students practice sounds and gives words beginning with those sounds. This is a website we also use at school.

Don't forget to keep practicing your sight words, handwriting (especially your name) as well as making sets!

Keep Reading!!!
The Kindergarten Team



We are looking forward to our upcoming field trip to the Houston Zoo on November 12th. Hope to see you at the zoo!!

Reading: First graders will learn even more reading skills in the month of November. They will be able to identify and describe the setting in a story. The students will be able to ask questions before, during and after reading a story. Students will also learn to use context clues to confirm the meaning of a word. Last month, students learned to make text to self connections through stories. This month, they will be making text to text connections. Please continue to read with your child at home. Ask your child questions about the story that they are reading. This will help with story comprehension.

Language Arts: In Language Arts, we are becoming authors. We will compose and publish a five-page book. We will do our own editing and illustrations. It is a very exciting time for us.

Spelling: First graders will continue taking a spelling and phonogram test every Friday. Please help your child by studying the words and phonograms listed on the weekly newsletter throughout the week. Students are still taking their orange spelling books home every Monday to complete the activities throughout the week. Spelling books will be due every Friday.

Math: We will be busy reviewing our addition and subtraction facts this month. We will continue to focus on using strategies such as number lines, manipulatives, and drawing pictures to help solve problems. We will begin studying two and three dimensional geometric figures, and using nonstandard units to measure and compare length of objects. This will be a great month for math! We will be doing many fun activities while we explore our new math lessons.

Science: In science, we will be finishing up our unit on animals. Don't forget about the field trip on November 12th to the zoo! First graders will be discovering differences between living and non living. They will learn about the basic needs of living organisms.

Social Studies: We will be learning all about Thanksgiving family customs and traditions throughout the month of November for social studies. Students will learn about celebrations past and present. Junior Achievement will also start coming into our classes and teaching students about family. Students will learn about goods and services.



What a busy month October was! The students did a wonderful job enduring the SAT-10 testing, and we all had a great time at the Outdoor Learning Center. A big thank you to all of the parents who helped out! With all of the learning that has been going on in the classroom, your child should be able to count coins up to \$1.00, tell you the jobs of each plant part, write in complete sentences, and use correct verb tenses.

Remember that your child should be reading a minimum of 60 minutes a week. That is the requirement in the reading log. Please consider that your child won't improve as a reader without constant practice. Just like a pianist, football player, or actor needs practice, so does a learning reader. This 2nd six weeks was spent learning all about history and some historical facts about Columbus, Pilgrims, Native Americans, and George Washington.

Exciting things coming up this month include the following:

Reading: We will be learning how to create summaries, examine similarities and differences, draw conclusions, and make inferences.

Language Arts: Using complete sentences will remain a major focus for the rest of the year. Your student should be elaborating sentences to make better mental pictures. Their sentences should "paint" the reader a picture of what is happening. Practice, practice, practice at home! We will also take a closer look at nouns, verb tense, quotation marks, synonyms, and the ever-favorite onomatopoeia.

Math: We will soon begin adding 2 digit numbers without regrouping. The third six weeks is the time for measurement. We will learn to use rulers, thermometers, clocks and containers to measure length, temperature, time, and volume. Perimeter and area will also make their debut! We will spend a few weeks on solving word problems and learning new strategies to help us solve.

Science: The third six weeks finds us headed outdoors for science. We will take a look at our sky by learning about types of clouds, the moon phases, and constellations. We will use the water cycle to learn more about how weather works.

Social Studies: We will then continue our history with heroes, historic figures, and important inventors. We will also learn about our nation's landmarks and memorials.



HIRD

Time flies when you're having fun! Third graders sure have been busy.

- Please check and initial your child's Daily Folder every day. It is important to monitor your child's behavior in class. Also, please initial your child's Planner daily. Your child's homework will be written down in their Planners first thing in the morning.
- The Reading Log for the 3rd six weeks will be assigned next week. It is due on December 18th. At least 15 squares must be filled out and initialed. If your child completes the Reading Log correctly and turns it in by the due date, he/she will earn a 100 for a Homework Grade. 10 points will be deducted for every day it is late.
- We will have holidays on November 25, 26, and 27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Look at what our Third Graders will do throughout the month of November!

In Reading, third graders are continuing to read from various chapter books and completing related activities in small and large group settings. We will also combine several seasonal activities with reading skills, such as Turkey facts and opinions, Thesaurus Turkeys, Pumpkin Pie sequencing and various picture book summaries. We will conclude the month by reading from the National Geographic Magazine and practicing our TAKS strategies.

For Language, we will complete several fun seasonal activities in Language such as Preposition Turkeys, direct quotation Pilgrim cartoons, and Thanksgiving Feast Adjectives.

In Math, students will continue counting coins and bills, making equivalent sets, comparing amounts, adding and subtracting money, and solving money word problems. You can help at home by having your child count any loose change around the house or asking them to solve problems, such as, "How much change you will receive if you spent \$4.50 but paid with a \$10 bill?" After the money unit, students will begin telling time using analog and digital clocks. Students will also need to determine elapsed time, which is the amount of time that has passed. Telling time is another math skill that can be practiced at home. Please continue reviewing addition and subtraction facts with your child.

In Science, we will be conducting many hands-on experiments to help the students understand force and motion, and the six simple machines (inclined plane, pulley, screw, wedge, wheel and axle, and lever).

For Social Studies, the students will be learning about free enterprise. They also will be learning about individuals who helped shaped our nation's capital. Junior Achievement starts the week of November 10th.

In AE, we started the month of November working on TAKS practice passages to learn our reading strategies. We will continue to practice these strategies in some of our daily class work. Ask your child to tell you about the Reading Strategies we use at school! We will also be working on main idea during one of our reading weeks. For Math, we will continue to practice subtraction with regrouping problems, as well as money word problems. Please continue to review the skills at home.

OURTH

Reading

We are currently doing Guided Reading groups according to your child's reading level. Some skills we are working on are; Summarizing, Main Idea and Details, as well as, Drawing Conclusions. Fourth graders will soon be starting literature circles, and classes will be reading a variety of novels. In their literature circle groups, students are responsible for a certain job.

Ask your fourth grader about the jobs they've been doing in class: Discussion Director, Artful Artist, Character Connector, Word Wizard, Travel Tracer, and Literary Luminary.

Language

Students are writing on a daily basis. We are continuing to go through the writing process, starting with prewriting strategies and ending with the publishing stage. In addition, fourth graders are practicing proofreading, revising, and editing their own and their classmates' writing. We have studied types of sentences, fragments, and run-on sentences and will continue focusing on parts of speech and correct grammar. Students will take a Writing Benchmark test on November 11th.

Math

Fourth graders have studied multiplication and now we are moving on to division. Students will learn long division (with and without remainders) this month. It is so important that your child has mastered his/her multiplication facts through 12x12 so he/she will be successful in math class. Everything we do this year will build on the basic skills and operations, and knowing multiplication and division facts is a must.



(Fourth Continued)

Social Studies

Students are learning a lot about the Native Americans of Texas. They have a Native American Project due on November 13th. Please ask your student about what tribes they are studying. During the second six weeks, fourth grade has had Junior Achievement volunteers come into our classroom to teach about our economy and businesses. We appreciate all the volunteers taking the time out of their busy schedule to teach our gators.

Science

We are currently learning about erosion, weathering, and the rock cycle. Students will learn about the types of rocks and how each is formed. After rocks, we will learn about fossils. Your student will be doing labs and experiments throughout the year to reinforce the concepts that are being taught!

Please make sure your child is working on his/her reading log and practicing multiplication facts and spelling words on a nightly basis. Thank you!



IFTH

Wow! Believe it or not, the second six weeks is just about over. What a busy year fifth grade has been so far! We have enjoyed meeting with all of you in our parent/teacher conferences. We know how important it is for parents and teachers to communicate with each other. Please feel free to contact us throughout the year with any additional questions or concerns.

In **Reading**, we are busy working in small guided reading groups. The reading groups will focus on the following reading skills: sequencing, compare and contrast, fact and opinion. Please be sure that your child is working on his/her Take-Home Reader throughout the week. The students are expected to read the stories two times through out the week. Reading log is due Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

In **Social Studies**, we are focusing on American history. We will learn about the events leading up to the to the American Revolution. We will also learn about the beginning of our country, the Constitution, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. We will also incorporate JA Biz Town lessons into our Social Studies time just prior to the field trip. Each week we will take a quiz over one region of the United States, until your child is able to label all 50 states.

We will be very busy in **Language** this month. Our students will be continuing work on their research project from the Island of the Blue Dolphin. The students will develop their writing and researching skills. The students will be able to publish their research paper and it will include photographs, title page, table of contents, glossary, an index, and about the author page.

Our 5th grade **scientists** have learned about all kinds of energy – potential, kinetic, thermal, sound, electric, solar, and more. We are currently identifying renewable, nonrenewable, and inexhaustible resources, and we are describing the processes involved in the formation of fossil fuels and minerals. We are getting ready to discuss different types of cycles –water cycle, carbon cycle, and nitrogen cycle.

In **Math**, we are continuing our work on fractions and will be using problem solving to add, subtract, compare, and order fractions, improper fractions, and mixed numbers. We will then move into recognizing and extending patterns and using data from charts and tables to solve problems. Remember to keep practicing those Fast Facts!!!

Please continue to initial your child's homework planner and conduct folder daily, and sign it on Tuesday's, showing that you've seen the Tuesday folder. Thanks.



COUNSELOR



CONNECTION

COOPERATION: Working together to do more than you can do alone

Activities children engage in while growing up can prepare them to effectively work with others. How can we help kids see the importance of cooperation and begin to build a solid base for working with others? Children need to know that:

Individuality and cooperation go hand in hand. As important as it is to help children understand their unique talents and personalities, it is just as important to help them see how their uniqueness can complement others to accomplish more.

Children need to see that cooperating with others confirms their individual worth and acknowledges the benefits of working toward a shared purpose.

Cooperation turns individual discouragement into shared success. Realistically viewing a difficult situation or task can be very discouraging. The issue is not the analysis of the problem but the emotional response. Teaming up to tackle a task breaks what appears to be an overwhelming chore into achievable pieces. Children need to see that working cooperatively overcomes discouragement and multiplies the feeling of success.

Recognizing personal limits encourages cooperation. Learning to become a confident individual is important. But even the most self-assured cannot do everything. Perhaps a benefit of difficult situations is that our personal limits are defined for us. Though such discoveries are somewhat uncomfortable, these times help us see where cooperation makes seemingly impossible tasks possible.

CATCH YOUR CHILD SHOWING COOPERATION

Core Essentials believes that a key way to help your child internalize the character values being taught is to “catch” them demonstrating the value. Here are a few suggestions on how you can catch your child, and let him or her know you see them showing cooperation.

- Note when your child works well with others, during playtime or doing chores.
- Notice when your child works cooperatively with younger or older children.
- Catch your child working together with other kids or coaches to put things back in their place.

These are just a few ways you can catch your child showing cooperation. The Core Essentials Program believes it takes an INWARD attitude to influence OUTWARD behavior. The Program is based on aligning the home and school to teach character.

If you do catch your child cooperating, we would love to hear about it. Tell us what your child did in a note sent into the school, or an e-mail sent directly to his or her teacher.

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Grade 5 Gifted and Talented (GT) Screening:

November 2- December 16

If you are interested in having your child screened for GT classes in junior high for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Ms. Wisener, school counselor, to have a parent checklist sent home.

Grades 1-4 Gifted and Talented (GT) Screening:

November 30- December 15

If you are interested in having your child screened for GT for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Ms. Wisener, school counselor, to have a parent checklist sent home.



Monday, 11/2—Friday, 11/6:

Wednesday, 11/4:

Friday, 11/6:

Tuesday, 11/10:

Wednesday, 11/11:

Thursday, 11/12:

Friday, 11/13:

Tuesday, 11/24:

Wednesday, 11/25—Friday, 11/27:

Book Fair

Donuts with Dad at 7 a.m.

Early Dismissal at 12:40 p.m.

MCE Carnival 5—9 p.m.

Picture Retake

Kinder Field Trip to Dewberry Farms

First Grade Trip to Houston Zoo

Report Cards Go Home

Kinder Fall Feast

Thanksgiving Holidays

