



Johnson Elementary

Thunderbirds

March 2014 Newsletter

Important Dates!

**4th Grade PE Showcase
@ MHS 6-7pm**

Thursday Mar. 6th



**5th Grade Dinner Theater (Fundraiser)
5-7:30pm JES Gym**

Friday Mar. 7th

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday Mar. 9th



Yearbook Pre-Orders Due to the office

Tuesday Mar. 11th

PTC Meeting - 6pm JES Library

Wednesday Mar. 12th

3rd Qtr. Ends

Friday Mar. 14th

PTC Meeting - 6pm JES Library

Wednesday Mar. 26

Report Cards go home

Wednesday Mar. 26

Spring Break - No School

Monday - Friday
March 31st - April 4th



TCAP TESTING DATES

**3rd, 4th & 5th Grades will be testing on - March 11th, 12th, 13th,
18th & 19th**

Attendance is very important on these days. Please be sure to schedule appointments for
different days.



Johnson Elementary School

Messages from Mrs. Pierce

March 2014



Exceptional Teaching + Exceptional Relationships = Exceptional Students

HELPING CHILDREN WITH READING

FLUENCY

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression. A fluent reader has few if any decoding issues and can recognize words quickly, allowing attention to be placed on the comprehension of the text. When working on different components of fluency, you will want to be sure and choose books that are in the child's independent reading level (fairly easy for the child). If the book is too difficult, you will be unable to focus on fluency because the child's attention will need to be more on decoding the text. Readers who are fluent are able to focus their attention on meaning rather than on decoding.

ACCURACY

Help your child develop rapid word recognition that is effortless. Put commonly used words such as color words, number words, object names, on index cards and rapidly flash them to your child.

Older children can work on subject specific vocabulary words such as: dates and places in history, scientific and mathematical formulas, etc.

Pattern books! There are many wonderful pattern books with a lot of repetition that tell stories, contain song lyrics or poetry, or contain repeated text that are highly motivating to read over and over again. Have your child read those types of books over and over again to achieve a smooth sound to their reading.

SPEED

Repeated readings of familiar and favorite texts aid in the development of fluency. Have your child reread short books or passages 3-5 times. Time your child during the first reading and last reading and celebrate growth. (Note: Do not emphasize speed without accuracy.)

Have your child practice reading a book to a younger sibling with the purpose of rereading.

Read along with your child to help them with pacing of their reading.

EXPRESSION

Model fluent reading from a variety of sources: books, magazines, poetry, newspapers and advertisements. Students benefit from hearing the phrasing and rhythm from different types of text. Children often want their parents to reread the same books over and over again because they love the sound and predictability of language.

With your child read books with a lot of dialogue. Take turns being different characters, changing your voice appropriately for each character.

Record your child reading and play it back for them. After practicing a selection several times, play it back to them showing them their improvement. This is very motivating.

Read together every day with a focus on expression and rhythm. Texts that work especially well include rhyming, predictable print books, poems and song lyrics. Well-written mystery stories use language to manipulate the reader's pacing as a method for building suspense.

Repetition, repetition, repetition! When working on fluency, students should practice with books that are fairly easy for them to read accurately. For younger readers, following along with song lyrics or taped stories can help students become more fluent. Students may need to reread stories several times before they can read them accurately with speed and expression.

Kindergarten News

Our months are flying by!

We are working on vowels, long and short. Writing them and reading them. Also on blending short words together.

Transportation is our subject for the first week of March. We will read fun books and then talk about the book, the main idea, is the book fiction or nonfiction, and do lots of writing about the books we read.

We want to remind you about the reading logs. We would love to have 100% of the reading logs turned in on Mondays. Reading to your child is the best thing you can do.

March weather brings surprise storms, please have your child wear an appropriate coat.

Thank you for sharing your child.

The Kinder Team

First Grade News

During the month of March, first graders will be looking forward to our visit from the Black Canyon of the Gunnison rangers! The rangers will be presenting a program called "Scent-sational Wildlife".

We want to encourage our first graders to continue to study their math facts. Class results are tallied and posted weekly. **DON'T FORGET**, you can access X-tramath.com at home for more practice!



Most of our first graders have mastered their First Grade High Frequency Words and are now working on Second Grade Words. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK ON PRACTICING THOSE WORDS!**

Second Grade News

Dear Second Grade Families,

We appreciated seeing all your faces at Parent Teacher Conferences. As the conclusion of third quarter quickly approaches, we are working hard to keep your child on task and motivated. **We encourage children to be here each day, on time, and ready to learn. Being here on a regular basis really provides the best learning opportunities for your child.** We appreciate your partnership in helping our students learn to the best of their ability.

Reading and Writing:

In Literacy, our students will learn how to monitor and organize the ideas presented in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Specifically they will practice taking notes on fiction and nonfiction, self-monitoring and self-correcting, and visualizing.

In writing, students will continue to spend their time with expository writing. Students will start a formal report on an animal of their choice. This will be very similar in instruction to their wonderful planet reports.

Mathematics:

Students have been working with subtraction strategies, especially with the regrouping (borrowing) process. In addition, your child will be working with fractions, measurement (length, capacity, perimeter, area), and automaticity with math facts. Next, we will move into decimals and expanded place value.

This time of the year is often difficult for kids to maintain their focus and motivation, so we appreciate your continued support for our students. Together, we can help each child succeed and fulfill their potential. Thanks for all your efforts.

Second Grade Team

Ms. Coleman, Ms. Holcom, Mrs. Waldow and Mrs. Wolfe

Third Grade News

Greetings from third grade,

Thank you for taking the time to attend the parent-teacher conferences. We are glad you were able to come and discuss your student's progress.

The month of March will be busy with important TCAP testing in Writing and Math. Attendance is very important as we give instruction and review for these yearly tests to assess the students' knowledge of third grade standards. We ask that you please do not schedule any appointments on the test days (March 11 and 12 for Writing; March 18 and 19 for Math).

We will be covering fractions and measurement this month in math. Please continue to help your child memorize and review the math facts for addition, subtraction, and multiplication. All the students will be given a spring benchmark math fact test with the expectation of solving 54 problems correctly out of 60 in three minutes for proficiency. In reading, our focus will be on reading to learn and becoming familiar with the ways that informational texts work.

Third quarter will end on March 14. Report cards will be sent home shortly following that date. It will be a busy month for the third graders. After all their hard work, they can look forward to spring break the first week in April.

Thank you for your support in all we try to accomplish at school with your children.

Mrs. Casebier, Ms. Crosby, Mrs. Head, and Mrs. Kiehlbauch

Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade is working very hard in all subject areas. Students were divided into 4 leveled groups, based on i-Ready information, one per fourth grade teacher, starting February 24. Our focus this chapter is area and perimeter and Math Boxes will be the usual homework. Please continue practicing with your students on their math facts.

The fourth graders have been learning about the three branches of government and economics in local, state and federal levels and the meanings of the Preamble of the Constitution, the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

We have also been preparing with test taking practices for the TCAP tests,

March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and **Social Studies, after Spring Break**. Please make sure the students get plenty of rest the nights prior to the tests. Spring Break begins March 31-April 4.

Our P.E. Showcase practice will be March 3rd at Montrose High School and the performance will be March 6, at the high school from 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. See you all there.

The fourth grade teachers would like to thank you for your help at home with reading logs and math fact practice.

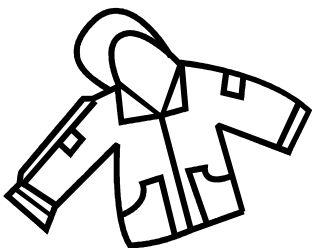
Fourth Grade Team

Mr. Steck, Mrs. Ganskow, Miss Reyes, Mrs. Riley

Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade is really excited for the Talent Show Dinner on Friday March 7. We would really like to say thank you to all of those who volunteered to help make this night a success by either bringing in food or volunteering their time. The 5th graders did a wonderful job selling tickets and have been working really hard on their talents. We hope that this event will bring in enough money for us to reach our field trip fund goal.

TCAP is just around the corner! Remember to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on those days.



Coat Drive was a huge success!!

We have collected coats of all sizes and they are available for free in the JES Library.

Please feel free to stop by if you need one!



Counselor's Corner

Jean Granberg

The focus for our Second Step curriculum is Managing Emotions. This involves being able to recognize strong emotions, to use strategies to calm down, and to ask assertively for what you want or need. As students are better able to control their emotions they will be able to use other skills such as problem solving to help them get along better with others and make good choices. We will be learning about Problem Solving Skills soon. This involves building students' ability to handle interpersonal conflicts effectively. Students that are capable of calming down and solving their own problems are more successful in school and with their relationships with others.



Library News ****Check It Out!****



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSS!

Sunday, March 2 is the 110th birthday of Dr. Seuss. His influence on children's literature will last for many lifetimes. . . . So celebrate with your family! I know that Target currently has many Dr. Seuss books for \$5—a great chance to add to your home library! What was YOUR favorite Dr. Seuss book as a child? Share it with your own kids, and have them share THEIR favorites with you!

BOOK FAIR FINALE

Another great fair! Thank you to all the families who came to support our spring fair. It was great to see all of you, and to be a part of bringing books into your homes! Between our two fairs this year, we sold over 1700 books, which translates into over 306,000 reading minutes!! That's quite an accomplishment, and proves that our Johnson community places great importance on reading! We plan to use the proceeds from this fair to purchase Scholastic Weekly Reader subscriptions for EVERY student for the 2014-2015 school year.