

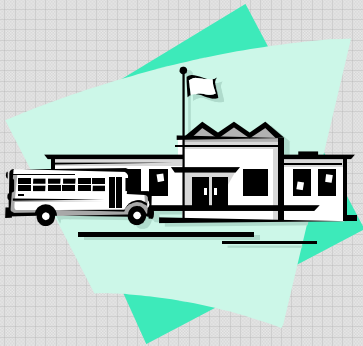


Tiger Tales

February 2009
Issue 6

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Principally Speaking

By Patricia Alexander & Nick Gooch

Each month Pleasant Lea students will be encouraged to practice a Caring Character Trait. Parents can help by practicing the traits with their children. "Tiger Tales" will include a definition for each month's trait and some ideas parents can use to reinforce student learning.

February Character, Cooperation

Cooperation: To work together towards a common purpose.

- Play games with your child. Model taking turns, sharing, and following rules.
- Give your child an opportunity to cut a candy bar (or another type of food) and let the other person choose first.
- Teach your child to include everyone whenever possible. Sometimes this means that a child will need to rotate into a game while someone else takes a break.
- Allow your child to use a "chance method" to make decisions when it's appropriate. For example, to choose a game or decide who gets to go first, play Rock, Paper, Scissors, or flip a coin. Often when children lose they ask to try a different method or do "best two-out-of-three". Expect your child to accept the outcome even when it isn't in his/her favor.

Nicole Gilbert & Thana Lankford

Minsky's Pizza Night, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009



Calendar of Events

February 2009

Friday, Feb 6

7am – Family Breakfast
Early Release Day-
AM & PM Kindergarten attend AM
Major Saver Fundraiser begins

Feb 9-13

Library Book Fair

Tuesday, Feb 10

7:00 pm PTA Mtg, K performs

Wednesday, Feb 11

PLE Pizza Night at
Minsky's Pizza

Friday, Feb 13

Valentine Parties

Friday, Feb 20

Early Release Day-
AM & PM Kindergarten attend AM

February 23 - 27

School Spirit Week

Tuesday, Feb 24

6:30 PTA Planning Mtg –LMC

Friday, Feb 27

Student Council Spirit Week
Dance



Library Lines

By Jackie Krinke
Library Media Specialist

By the end of the first semester, these third grade students finished reading and reporting, or quizzing, on all their KC Award nominees for this year. Congratulations go to: Kendra Geisbrecht, in Mrs. Pinnell's class; Emilie Moyer, in Mrs. Weber's class; and Sarah Lounsbury and Jacob Mehrer, in Mrs. William's class. 'Way to go, Kendra, Emilie, Sarah, and Jacob!

Likewise, by the end of the first semester, these intermediate students finished reading and reporting, or quizzing, on all of their Mark Twain Award nominees for this year: Cassidi Sterrett and Charles Underwood, in Mrs. Moyer's class. Congratulations, Cassidi and Charles! Sixth-grader Tanner Ferrell, in Mrs. Erholtz's class, finished reading and report, or quizzing, on all the Mark Twain Award nominees and all the Truman Readers Award nominees the first semester. Great job, Tanner!

!

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PTA UPDATE

Happy New Year! It doesn't seem possible that we are quickly approaching the 100th day of school. Once again, we want to recognize our dedicated volunteers that have been extremely busy working for our children. In December, our 1st and 3rd graders had a wonderful Holiday performance and Dare Graduation was a huge success. Thanks to Elaine Hanshaw, Bev Howe and all of the volunteers that helped serve punch and cookies.

The Project PLE CD is still on sale. The CDs are \$15.00 and can be purchased in the office. All proceeds from the Project PLE CD will benefit the Special Education Program and the PLE PTA.

If you have not yet purchased a 2008-2009 PTA membership, it's not too late! PTA Memberships can be purchased in the office for \$5.00 and includes a free Student Directory. The Directories are now available for our members. We have entered a contest sponsored by Missouri PTA to win a Dell laptop. In order to win, we need more people to become PTA members!

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“Time Flies in Third Grade”

The Third Grade Staff

Time flies when you're having fun! It is hard to believe the school year is more than half over. We have been so busy learning in 3rd grade.

Third graders are learning how to utilize the seven different thinking strategies to become better readers. We learned how important it is to monitor for meaning when we read so we recognize when we know and don't know what we are reading. We also learned making connections allows us to connect new information to current schema. Asking questions can both set a purpose and clarifies meaning for our reading. Visual and sensory images encourage the reader to become part of the story. Inferring utilizes clues in the text and current schema to draw conclusions or make predictions about our reading. Determining importance gives the reader a purpose for reading and synthesizing allows the reader to reflect on what has been read. We have covered several strategies already this year and will continue to cover more as the year progresses.

We are finishing a math unit over geometry. We looked at various 2-D and 3-D shapes by comparing and contrasting their sides, vertices, faces, and/or edges. We found lines of symmetry and perimeter for various shapes. We also studied congruent shapes through slides, flips, and turns. Next, we will begin a unit over multiplication and division.

Cont'd on page 4

Library Lines (cont'd)

At the American Library Association's recent Midwinter Meeting, the 2009 award winners were announced for the Newbery Medal, the Caldecott Medal, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, and several other prestigious book awards. The following books won these children's book awards:

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature -

THE GRAVEYARD BOOK, written by Neil Gaiman;

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children -

THE HOUSE IN THE NIGHT, illustrated by Beth Krommes

Coretta Scott King Book Award recognizing an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults -

For author – WE ARE THE SHIP: THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL, written by Kadir Nelson;

For illustrator – THE BLACKER THE BERRY, illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

It's time for the annual library-sponsored Scholastic Book Fair in the library. All the profits from this library-sponsored book fair stay in our building and directly benefit our students. The library receives book profit and cash profit, which helps fund our yearly author visits. Parents, grandparents, etc. may visit the book fair at any time. Following is the schedule for this year's library-sponsored book fair:

Thurs., Feb. 5, 9:00-3:30 - classes preview the fair;

Fri., Feb. 6, 7:00-11:30 – sales begin (the fair is opening early for the parent breakfast that morning);

Mon., Feb. 9, 9:00-3:30 – sales continue;

Tues., Feb. 10, 9:00-8:30 – the fair is open late for the PTA meeting & kindergarten performance that evening .

As always, thank you for all your support of the library's programs and activities!

Last of all, I want to share with you that I am retiring from education at the end of this current school year. I have truly loved being an eighth grade English teacher for fourteen years, and then using my library degree as a library media specialist the last nineteen years at Greenwood Elementary (one year), Mason Elementary (eight years) and Pleasant Lea Elementary (nineteen years). Thus, it is with mixed feelings that I share this information with you. I am looking forward to having additional time to do many of the things I enjoy doing, but I will sorely miss the many special staff, students, and parents of PLE. And, I will miss the library world, which is very much a special part of my world. Well, enough said on this topic for now; I'll hold my final farewell for May.

PTA Update (Cont'd)

Fun was had by all who attended the Paradise Park night. We received a \$100 grant from Paradise Park for the classes that had the highest attendance at the event. We are sure those classroom teachers will be able to put that to good use for our children! We look forward to having another event in the fall.

The Head Room Parents are excited about the upcoming Valentine's parties. The parties will be held on Friday, February 13th. We have been asked by district administration to remind you that older and younger siblings are not able to attend the parties. We appreciate your cooperation.

Please continue to turn in your HyVee receipts and General Mills Boxtops as these are both easy ways to earn money for our school. This year we have already raised over \$600 dollars by turning in HyVee receipts. Our classroom Boxtop contest was in January. We will let you know the results in next month's issue.

Kelly Davis, Carnival Committee Chair, Janet McKee, Amy Wald and Lisa Hood are busy planning a fantastic carnival that will be held on **Friday, March 13th**. Please look in your Thursday packets for information about helping with the carnival.

It is already time to begin planning for next year. We are in need of several Board positions as well as committee chair positions. Please contact Sue Jacobi, sue.jacobi@leesummit.k12.mo.us, if you are interested. The time given to these positions is worth it! PLE kids benefit greatly because of our PTA volunteers! We will post position descriptions on the website.

As always, we would like to invite anyone who is interested in getting involved in PLE PTA to please join us at our next monthly Planning Meeting, Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30 pm in PLE's media center. We are always looking for new ideas and your input is valuable to us. The PLE PTA calendar and any additional information can be found on our website, www.plepta.com.

Please feel free to contact us with questions at any time. We can be reached at maryhoffman@kc.rr.com or krooneypta@yahoo.com.

Mary Hoffman and Kim Rooney 2008-2009 PTA Co-Presidents

Third Grade Cont'd

We have been busy in science and social studies. We have completed units over the Earth, Sun, Moon, and shadows, as well as states of matter and the water cycle. We have also studied our government, map skills, landforms, names of oceans and continents, and the eight surrounding states of Missouri. We will be working on a unit over economics very soon.

In writing, we have worked on letter format, writing summaries, spelling, correct capitalization and punctuation, and organization of our thoughts. We will continue to polish our writing as we prepare for publication.

We will be working on various test-taking strategies over the next several months to prepare for the MAP test in April. We will have many opportunities to apply the skills we learn through MAP practice items in both math and communication arts.

Thanks for your continued support as we complete the remainder of our third grade year.

From The PLE Carnival Committee: We are in need of donated items for the silent auction/raffle for the school carnival. If you own a business, please consider donating goods or services for the silent auction/raffle. You may contact Amy Wald at adwald@sbcglobal.net or Kelly Davis at kelly1738@sbcglobal.net, for questions, or if you have items to donate.

Thank you! See you all at the carnival in March!