



Grand Prairie News

A Word from the Office

Spring Break is just around the corner. Hard to believe, but when we return to school there will only be about 6 weeks of school left! This year is flying by!

There will be A LOT of things happening in the next couple months of school that you need to be aware of, including: Field trips, Kindergarten Musical and Mother's Day Tea, Field Day, FSP's Creative Arts Showcase and many other fun events for our students. Be sure to watch for notes and classroom newsletters that highlight the details of these events.

Mrs. McCarthy and I also want to take a moment to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who has graciously volunteered their time, energy and efforts this year to help make Grand Prairie a great place for kids. Whether it is copying, working with small groups or working as a lunch assistant, our volunteer parents, grandparents and friends make Grand Prairie an amazing place! We couldn't do it without all of the help from all the parents and volunteers. This is truly a wonderful place because of you!

Have a great month! Enjoy Spring Break...hopefully the nice weather is here to stay.

Mr. Hermanson

The Reading Corner

Strategy of the Month: Fluency

Fluency is defined as the ability to read a text quickly, accurately and with proper expression. When a reader is fluent, they can devote all their effort into understanding the meaning of the text. When a reader is fluent they're reading at a more independent level which lends itself to better comprehension of the material which is directly related to work completion.

What does a fluent reader sound like?

- They recognize words automatically.
- They group words together quickly.
- They do not concentrate on decoding words.
- They spend their "reading energy" on comprehension.
- They find reading to be a pleasurable activity.
- They read more and continue to improve in other reading related skills.

What can your child do to become more fluent?

- Read! Read! Read!
- Read books that are at or slightly below their level. (This not only builds fluency, but confidence.)
- Reread a favorite book from home or from school.
- Listen to a book on tape while following along.
- Practice a fast recall of basic sight words. (Practice 10 - 20 words at a time, and keep the practice sessions short.)

April 2009

Special points of interest:

- ☺ March 30—April 3 Terra Nova Testing (1st & 2nd grade only)
- ☺ April 2—Kindergarten Registration at Grand Prairie
- ☺ April 3—Prairie Pride Day—Wear maroon and gold
- ☺ April 3 - FSP Creative Arts Showcase 5:00-7:30
- ☺ April 6- Chicago White Sox Home Opener 1:05 PM
- ☺ April 9 - Early Dismissal for 1st and 2nd grade, 11:20 am.
- ☺ April 9 - No School for Kindergarten, EC and BEGIN
- ☺ April 10 - April 19 Spring Break. Be safe! Have fun!



Character Counts!!
Our pillar for the month is:
Trustworthiness

Terra Nova Assessment



During the week of March 30-April 3, students in first and second grade will be taking the Terra Nova Achievement Test. All testing will take place in the morning. The test information is used to determine the progress students are making and how our curriculum can best be used to meet student needs. The individual results are one of the pieces used in determining whether children would benefit from our support or enrichment programs. Please make sure your student gets plenty of sleep and a good healthy breakfast.

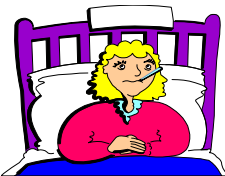
Below are the tests your child will take:

First Grade: March 31st - April 1st Complete Battery (Reading, Language Arts, Math)
Second Grade: March 31st—April 3rd Complete Battery (Reading, Language Arts, Math)
Ability Test: In-View

PLASE News

The Parents of Lincoln-Way Area Associated with Special Education (PLASE) invites anyone interested to attend their next general meeting on April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The featured topic will be summer programs. The meeting will be held at the Pioneer Grove Education Center. For additional information please call 815-806-4600.

Notes from the Nurse



We are seeing an increase in Fifth Disease here at school. This is a common, mild, viral illness that may also be called "slapped cheek", due to the appearance of a red rash that starts on the cheeks, and then spreads to the trunk, buttocks and limbs, usually in a lacy pattern. Children may have a low grade fever, feel fatigued or have no symptoms at all.

The cause of this disease is a virus (Human parvovirus B-19), spread by airborne particles with an incubation period of 4-14 days. Once the rash appears, the child is no longer infectious. Children should have a complete recovery. The rash usually clears in 10 days-2 wks. Excitement, sun exposure or exercise may cause the rash to redden. There is no medication for treating Fifth Disease other than treating the fever. Remember to remind your child about the importance of hand washing.

Call your Doctor if:

- > you are concerned.
- > symptoms don't improve or worsen after self care treatment.
- > you are pregnant and have been exposed.

Project B.E.G.I.N

Project B.E.G.I.N. is a state funded preschool program for children between the ages of 3 and 5, who exhibit a delay in one or more of the following areas: cognitive, communication, motor skills and/or social skills, or who because of environmental or family circumstances, have not had an opportunity to be exposed to and/or involved in school readiness activities. As a result, the child has a measurable delay in one or more of the developmental areas.

If you would like to have your child evaluated for this program, please contact Mrs. Jeanine Johnson at 815-469-3366 to make an appointment for a screening. The next screening dates will be Thursday, May 14 and Thursday, May 21, 2009 from 9:00-2:30 p.m. at Grand Prairie School. These screenings will be for children who will enter the program in the Fall of 2009. There is no fee for the evaluation process or for participation in the program. Your child must be at least 3 years old on or before the screening date and can not have turned 5 years old on or before September 1, 2009 to be considered for the program. You must also prove residency in Frankfort School District 157C before the screening date.



Earth Day Activities



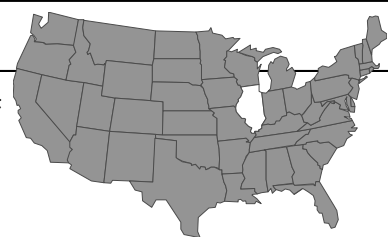
In order for Grand Prairie to earn our Will County Earth Award and honor Earth Day, we will be participating in 3 Earth Day activities. On **April 23rd**, the first graders will enjoy a recycling presentation during their P.E. class. The week of **April 20th through the 24th**, we are having a shoe drive to recycle gently used gym shoes. Please have shoes tied together, as a pair, and drop them in our recycling bin near the front entrance. **April 24th** is going to be a waste-free school lunch in which students will be asked to bring lunch, in re-useable containers.

Earth Day is a wonderful way in which we can continue to teach our children the importance of recycling. Thank you to all Grand Prairie students for recycling in their classroom. Thank you to the community recyclers for their hard work, citizenship, and responsibility. Job well done by Gus Christensen, Mckenzie Dockweiler, Michael Rinehart, Sage Sasso, Connor Hudziak, Trevor Stanevicius, Niko Robinson, Luke Loeffel, Daniel Clark, Daniel Scianna, Nicholas Rizzuto, Nicole Chiccarello, Jordan Jacobucci, Logan Angel and Nathan Warning.

Go Green! Mrs. Delaney, Mr. Seibert and Mrs. Watt

Multiple Intelligence

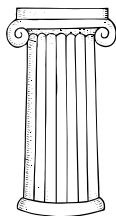
The first and second grade Multiple Intelligence classes have been working on the unit of Geography. Students have used maps, globes, and atlas sets that were part of a grant funded by the Education Foundation. The materials have supported the social studies curriculum and allowed students to learn more about geography. Our next unit is on our state of Illinois. Students will continue their study of geography with their state and where it is located in our country, our continent and our world.



Laura Nagy
First Grade Multiple Intelligences

Carolyn Stanek
Second Grade Multiple Intelligences

Character Counts



Trustworthiness

Color: True Blue

A person who is trustworthy is honest with words and actions. A trustworthy person tells the truth and keeps promises. Standing up for what you believe in and think is right is being trustworthy. A quality of a good friend is being trustworthy.

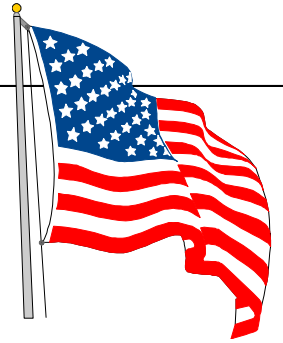
Praise your child when he/she:

- Tells the truth, even if it may result in a punishment
- Gets ready for school on time
- Keeps a promise
- Returns something that is borrowed

Ways to model or involve your child:

- Mark on the calendar when library books are due and have them be responsible for taking care of the book and returning it on time.
- When you are paying a bill, explain to your child how you are keeping your promise to pay a bill for a service and you are keeping your promise.

Last Chance to Support our Troops!!



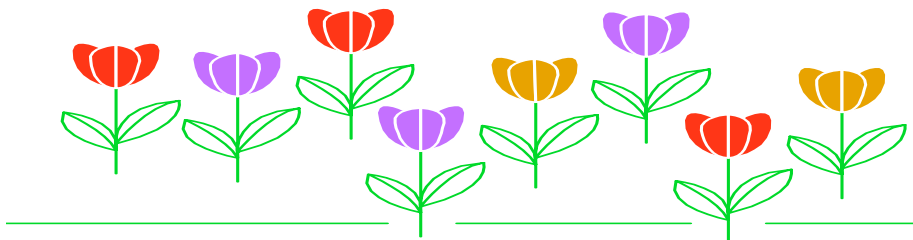
We are having one final drive to support our men and women serving in our Armed Forces overseas. So far this year Grand Prairie has collected **851 pounds** of items for our troops. We are hoping by May 15th that we can collect an additional 150 pounds which would collect over 1000 pounds for our philanthropy.

Listed below are the items that are in dire need at this time. It would be much appreciated if you could donate one or more items to support our troops.

Individually wrapped Slim Jims
Small boxes/cups of individual cereal
Crackers (1# box)
Fruit snacks
Cereal bars, Power bars
Canned fruit (16 oz or less)
Body wash (18 oz or less)
Cold Drink Mix packets for bottle water (Single serve—Propel or Gatorade)
Comics from the Sunday paper are greatly appreciated by the troops.

Foot Powder (20 oz. or less)
Ziploc bags—Snack size, Sandwich, Quart & Gallon
Band-aids
Travel Size: Mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner
No bar soap please
Toothbrushes (soft or medium)
Nuts/Trail Mix 5.25 oz.

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our efforts to support our troops. Any questions please contact Becky Cleveland or Carolyn Stanek at 815-469-3366.



Notes from the Office



When there is a change in transportation for your student, please send a note to school when possible. If something changes during the day and your child is already here at school, please call at least 30-45 minutes prior to dismissal.

If you drive your student to school in the morning, the east parking lot is the designated drop off area. The **west parking lot** (entrance on Penny Lane) is for **school busses only**. The safety of our students is our top priority and we need cooperation from all of our parents, grand parents and care givers to ensure the safety of all our students. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

