



Grand Prairie News

A Word from the Principal

Our Specials Departments have been very busy lately with multiple events to keep the students focused in and out of the building.

The PE department had their annual Grand Prairie Cup Stacking Tournament last month for any first or second grader that wanted to participate. At that tournament, there were many of our students that qualified for the Frankfort Sport Stacking Championship Tournament that will be held at Chelsea Intermediate School on Saturday, March 13th. Schools from the surrounding areas and towns will be sending their top qualifiers to compete. We wish all of our Frankfort representatives the best in this challenge. Go Frankfort Tigers!

Jump Rope for Heart occurred last week at Grand Prairie and an entire day of physical education classes were dedicated to jumping rope, making healthy choices and being active. Our students are being exposed to the latest and greatest in physical education. Donations were also collected from some students, community members and staff that will be passed over to the American Heart Association. We commend all of our students and families for being involved in this event. We also commend the Grand Prairie PE teachers...Kathy Delaney, Marty Watt and Rob Seibert for their efforts, organization and dedication to the kids and the program.

The Music Program just completed the Second Grade Musical titled "Rock and Roll Forever". I want to compliment Deanne Perozzi and Kellie Aranowski, music teachers at Grand Prairie, for their excellent organization and success in preparing the students for this performance. I also want to thank the second grade students for a tremendous show. They were so confident and proud during the singing performance. Great job second grade!

Mr. Hermanson

Supporting our Troops

We will be sending one more shipment to our troops over spring break. We want this shipment to be a "Fun" one. Some ideas of items to donate are: Spring candy, crossword puzzles, activity books, Sudoku books, cards, card games, Nerf balls, magazines, comics, bubbles, etc. We would like to thank you for your generosity and support over the past school year. Remember to always thank a veteran for all they have given for our country.

Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Stanek



March 2010

Special points of interest:

- ☺ March 1—No School, Pulaski Day
- ☺ March 2—Internet Safety Assembly
- ☺ March 5—Grand Prairie Pride Day (wear gold, maroon, tiger, Frankfort apparel, etc.)
- ☺ March 5—Report Cards Sent Home
- ☺ Week of March 15 starts the Spring After-School Specials Programs
- ☺ March 22—March 31 Terra Nova Testing for 2nd grade only

Busing Reminder!

With the uncertain weather, sometimes our buses are not able to maintain the exact pick up and drop off times. The number of students who choose to ride the bus each day may also dramatically effect times. Please try to be at your child's stop 5-10 minutes early each day for arrivals and departures.

Character Counts!!
Our pillar for the month is:

Trustworthiness

PLASE News

The Parents of Lincoln-Way Area Associated with Special Education (PLASE) invites anyone interested to attend their next meeting on March 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Pioneer Grove Education Center. Please call 815-806-4600 if you have any questions.

P.E. News



The 10 top finishers in our GP Speed Stacks tournament who have registered for the SWISS tournament at Chelsea on March 13th are: MaKenna Soukup, Delaney Spearing, Marisa Planera, Alison Ristich, Andrew Ernst, Jack Hawkinson, George Dickinson, Tanner Vaundry, Tyler Gold, Grant Bruninga, Cal Wiechers, Matthew McCauley, Cade Skopick, Nicholas Everhart, Ryan Jach, Nick Mergenthaler, Daniella Laino, Katie Burns, Megan Lemmons, Kara Frencl, Noah Alsguson, Sam Paliga, Mattnew Bruns, Maddie Harper, Paige Knecht, Kevin McCreary, Max Polad, Zak Keegan, Michael Taylor, Ryan Meske, Ryan Corydon, Jake Leonard, Eli Bouck, Hakeem Azeez, Reece Guderjan, Michael Clarkin, Justin Murray, Gabrielle Malec, Davey Fitzpatrick, Nathan Page and AJ Grasso. These stackers will compete against other schools in an attempt to break a state record for fast stacking. Thanks to the Athletic Boosters for purchasing team shirts for the SWISS stackers.

Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success. All of our students participated in a giant station day which included many "jumping" activities. Our 2nd graders collected donations for the American Heart Association. The children learned the three ways to have a healthy heart are: eat healthy stuff, move around enough and live tobacco free.



March is Nutrition Month and we will talk about healthy snacks, the importance of eating breakfast, eating too much sugar, reading labels and making good food choices.

The classrooms that brought in the most box tops this trimester are K8 Mrs. Aranowski, K4 Mrs. Binole, 1F Miss Blozis, 1C Miss Shanahan, 2D Mrs. Szudy, 2C Mrs. Newcomb. These classes will be awarded a free recess when the weather permits. Thanks for supporting the Box Tops for Education program.

Emergency School Closings

In the event of an emergency school closing, the following procedure will take place:

District 157-C will initiate an automated phone system to all parents/guardians. This system will simultaneously transmit a recorded message informing you of a school closing. Please be mindful that there is a **5-second delay** when answering the phone before receiving the recorded message—PLEASE DO NOT HANG UP. This system redials busy signals. Please be aware that if you have "privacy manager" or if you are "on line" you will not receive a call.

In the event that any parent is uncertain about the emergency closing, they may call the school their child attends to receive a recorded message indicating that schools are closed.

Information is also available through the following media outlets: www.emergencyclosingcenter.com

Radio (AM Stations)

WGN 720 WBBM 780

Radio (FM Station)

ZONE 94.7

Television Stations

CBS Channel 2

WGN Channel 9

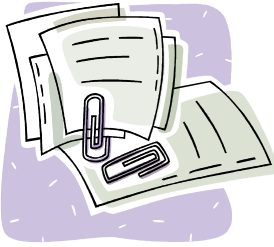
CLTV News Channel

NBC Channel 5

FOX Channel 32

ABC Channel 7

Kindergarten Registration April 15, 2010



Frankfort School District 157-C will conduct kindergarten registration for children who will be entering kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year. **Registration will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska in Frankfort.** Registration hours will be 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:30 p.m. All children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2010 are eligible for entry into kindergarten in the fall.

During registration, parents will complete registration forms and pay the appropriate fees. A legal birth certificate is also required. A legal birth certificate is available from the county clerk in the county where the child was born.

In addition, parents must provide three pieces of evidence verifying residency: one primary proof and two secondary proofs of residency. Articles that will be accepted as primary proof of residency include the most recent real estate tax bill, a signed lease, a closing statement for the purchase of said property, or a notarized letter from the owner of the residence stating that you reside at that residence along with 3 proofs of residency for yourself. Articles that will be accepted as the secondary proofs of residency may include: a driver's license, a gas, telephone or electric bill, a Public Aid card, a voter registration card or an application for voter registration card, a home/apartment insurance certificate, a State of Illinois automobile registration or a receipt for a city vehicle sticker. Proofs of residency from an older sibling's cumulative folder will not be accepted as the State requires current dates.

Attending kindergarten registration is critical as decisions regarding the number of kindergarten sections needed and the resulting class sizes are based on registration numbers. Please make arrangements to attend this important event if you have a child who qualifies for kindergarten. If you know of any parents who will have kindergarten age children that do not receive our newsletters, please share this information with them.

Questions regarding the registration process should be directed to the Grand Prairie Elementary School Office at 815-469-3366.

The Reading Corner

The Reading Corner Strategy of the Month: Synthesizing



Synthesizing is probably the most difficult comprehension strategy for children to learn.

Author and first grade teacher Debbie Miller teaches synthesizing to her students by telling them to use this basic framework:

Remember to tell what is important (not a detail, but events).

Tell it in a way that makes sense.

Try not to tell too much.

When a student is synthesizing, it is like putting a puzzle together a piece at a time. Each puzzle piece represents a few pages of the text, along with what meaning the reader is taking from the story. After a student reads a few pages, they should stop and think about the important events of the story. The reader should be aware of how their thinking is changing as the story progresses. A student's thinking may sound like this:

I'm thinking the story is about...

At first I thought...but now I am thinking...

This is really different than I thought it was going to be...

I'm changing my thinking again...

I'm getting it now...

Parents can help reinforce this skill at home by periodically asking their children what they are thinking about the story when they are listening to them read.

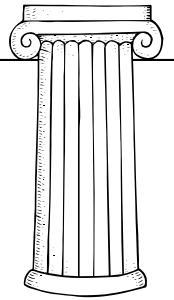
NOTES FROM THE NURSE



You may be surprised to know that children actually need snacks. Their stomachs are small, so they can't get all the food and nutrients they need in just 3 meals a day. The trick is to give your youngster a snack that's both healthy and filling so they will be able to wait until mealtime to eat again.

A healthy diet also gives you good dental health. The Mayo Clinic notes, "Although the eyes may be the window to the soul, your smile is a window to your body's health."

Character Counts!



Trustworthiness

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.

Comments from Mrs. Campbell



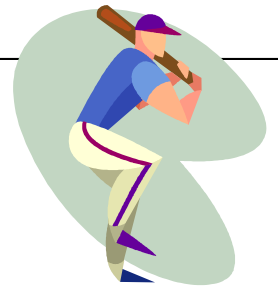
Internet safety is our high priority! Although classroom teachers have been making great use of Internet sites and resources all throughout the year, technology classes are now focusing on using the Internet. Why do we always insist that students **ASK** before using the Internet? It's because connecting to the web is just like making a phone call. Our computer is calling another computer to borrow words, pictures, movies, or other information and we want to know **who** your children are calling and **what** is being "borrowed" when they

are here at school. Students here at Grand Prairie never type in web addresses. All sites are accessed through links. All students K-2 will be shown how to access my web page by going through the district website.

(www.fsd157c.org) If you can mark this as a favorite, your child will be able to use the same sites at home that are used here at school.

If you have any questions or concerns or want to suggest a great website for kids, please contact me at barb.campbell@fsd157c.org.

Sports Physicals



Sports Physicals

Once again, "Sportlink" will be performing **Sports Physicals** at Hickory Creek Middle School. All 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, who are enrolled in *Frankfort School District 157c*, may participate in this clinic.

The physicals may also be used to meet 6th grade and 9th grade State of Illinois school physical requirements. Please be certain to tell the doctor that you will need this, prior to the exam, and bring a copy of your child's immunization record with you.

"Sportlink" also offers EKG's and/or Cardiac Life Screening with the physical, for an additional cost. Please call Arlene Pawlak, R.N. at Hickory Creek Middle School, for further details or if you have any questions. Pre-registration is required at www.sportlinkusa.com. Online school code is HKCMS.

DATE: Monday, May 17, 2010

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM by appointment

PLACE: Hickory Creek Middle School gymnasium

Toys and Weapons at School

Please remember (and remind your child) that headphones, toys, games, electronic games, etc. are not permissible at school unless approved by the office or a teacher. Generally, these items are only approved when they are brought for show and tell or some other special event. The school is not responsible for these items if they are lost, broken or stolen. Also, it is very important to remember that if toys which can be mistaken for a weapon (squirt guns, plastic knives, etc.) are brought to school or on the bus, a serious discipline consequence will be issued. It is the responsibility of the parent to search through backpacks and pockets to make sure these items don't accidentally come to school.

