

Calendar of Events

October 27 th	Red Ribbon-Red Shirt Day
October 31 st	Star Student Breakfast
November 1 st	Picture Orders are due
November 6 th	Teacher In-Service Day NO SCHOOL
November 8 th	Papers Go Home
November 9 th	Picture Retakes- wear uniforms
November 14 th	Star Student Breakfast
November 16 th	Progress Reports Go Home
November 20 th - 24 th	Thanksgiving Holidays NO SCHOOL
November 29 th	Papers Go Home
December 11 th - 15 th	Book Fair
December 13 th	Papers Go Home
December 13 th	Grandparent's Day
December 19 th , 20 th , 21 st	Early Dismissal @ 12:55pm
December 22 nd – January 5 th	Winter Holidays
January 8 th	Teacher In-Service Day NO SCHOOL
January 9 th	Students return

PTO News

CMEPTO would like to thank everyone for helping with our fundraising efforts, such as Buck's Pizza cards and T-shirt sales. We are an independent organization that strives to promote the educational growth of our students and to develop a better working relationship between parents and teachers. Your efforts are very important to our success!

We encourage parents to participate in many programs and projects that enhance our students' learning experience. Activities sponsored by CMEPTO include **Accelerated Reader, Star Student Breakfast, Champions of Conduct, Beta Club Induction, Honor Roll, Award's Day, Grandparent's Day**, and many others.

Throughout the school year, you will be informed of upcoming activities and fundraisers through our PTO website. You may access the website through the school site, on the parents' page. Please e-mail us with your questions and suggestions at cmepto@zacharyschools.org.

Jennifer Shevlin, CMEPTO President



Pride of the Colts

November/December 2006

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From The Principal

On The Other Hand

My Little League baseball experience didn't start out as a pleasant one. I had a left arm and hand that didn't work well for baseball. I would get to the ball, ready to make a "catch", only to have it hit my shoulder, chest, or sometimes head. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get that gloved left hand to match up with the ball. Finally, a coach told me to put the glove on the other hand. I remember that day well. With a "left handed" glove on my right hand, I caught everything that came into my field. That event changed my life. With this discovery, throwing became another issue, but I'll talk about that in another newsletter. One victory at a time is enough for me.

If you have more than one child, you may have realized that it can be similar to my Little League experience. My coach knew my brother and sisters, and I'm sure he wondered how this one (me) got to be so different. I have more than one child, and I've often marveled at their differences. They don't study the same, approach a problem the same way, or create a problem in the same manner. They had the same parents, ate the same food, and lived in the same house, but they are as different as night and day. It took

me some time (mostly trying to make one like the other), to realize it's okay to tell them to put the glove on the other hand. I need to also share what the coach did not do which I think is of value.

He never let me quit. Even before a solution was found, he expected my best effort. If it meant stopping the ball with my shoulder, so be it.

He didn't blame my parents, the coach before him, God, or anyone else for my differences. Perhaps he saw it as a waste of time.

He didn't bend the rules (of baseball or the team) for me. If I messed up, I paid the price before and after the solution; but he opened my eyes to opportunity.

He never torched my dreams. Just like most other boys who put on a glove, he let me keep my dreams of bigger things.

Our children are not all the same, even if they grow up in the same household. To approach life and learning in a different way, many times brings us to the edge of discovery and inspires others around us. Let's teach them to always put forth their best effort, but let us not be afraid to say, "It's okay to put the glove on the other hand, if that works for you."

Dewey Davis

News From The Classes

4th grade

It will not be long before the turkeys are dressed, and Santa is loading his sleigh. November and December are knocking at our door. These will be busy months, and the fourth grade teachers will be diligently at work with their students.

In the area of reading, students will be focusing on critical thinking skills such as making and confirming predictions, justifying solutions to problems, identifying the author's point of view, and supporting differences between fact and opinion. Students will continue to improve in the areas of informational resources and on-going skills like skimming, scanning, and highlighting key words in preparation for the LEAP Test. Students are learning the fun of figurative language as they use similes, personification, metaphors, and idioms in their writing.

In language, the character "Scrooge" from the book, The Christmas Carol, could teach our fourth graders a thing or two about the past, present, and future as they study verbs. In writing, students have been exposed to narrative and descriptive writing using our Writing House Program. In the next few months, we will be exploring how to compare and contrast in an essay. Since writing is so important on the LEAP Test, the writing process is taught in language, but the skills are used in all subject areas.

All students need to pursue their reading goals. They should always be reading their chapter books, and a good time for this is before school while waiting for class to begin. We strongly encourage this time for reading; however, reading at home is also extremely important. Setting

a special time for your child to read at home would be great!

Students will need to be especially focused in the area of math during the coming months. It wouldn't hurt for each student to put some multiplication flash cards on their wish list for Santa. Our math teachers will be practicing these facts in class, but home study is greatly needed. When the multiplication facts are learned well, the concepts of division and fractions will not be as difficult. "LEARN THOSE FACTS" is the goal in math, so students should practice, practice, practice!

As Santa sets out on his journey around the earth, fourth graders will be exploring our planet earth and its' moon, in their science classes. Don't be alarmed if you catch your child outside at night looking up investigating the moon and observing all its' phases. When your child is not looking up in the sky, they may be looking down at the earth up close to discover earth materials like rocks and minerals. It looks like science class is going to be a very interesting place to be in the coming months.

In social studies, students will learn about people from many places. People like immigrants and ancestors. They will become informed about their customs and their cultures in comparison to their own. Government questions have been popping up all over the LEAP packets because it is an area in social studies covered on the LEAP Test. Our teachers will be talking about our government and its' makeup along with our national symbols. Graphic aids such as timelines will also be used in class. It is important that our students learn to interpret them.

Our classes are presently taking field trips to the Shaw Center to enhance the curriculum in their classes. They will have

a lot to share with you. Back in the classroom, during the busy months ahead, teachers and students will be working side by side as learning takes place. Fourth grade teachers would like to thank all parents who attended parent conferences. Together we can make a difference.

5th grade

It is hard to believe that the first nine weeks has come to an end. We are working hard to get the second nine weeks off to a good start. Many of us have made a goal to improve our work and study habits this nine weeks. A few of us are determined to do better in conduct so we won't miss out on exciting adventures that come up.

In language, we are learning

about action verbs and verb phrases. In reading, we are determining cause and effect and striving to reach our reading goal before May. In science, we are busy learning about cells, tissues, organs, and systems. In social studies, we are learning about the Native Americans or "exploring" the New World. Math finds us working on multiplication, decimals, measurement, and time.

Along with all our academic activities, we have held elections for 4-H officers and started club meetings. This nine weeks, we will take a trip to the Shaw Center to view artwork and take "art lessons".

The second nine weeks is a busy time. Please be sure your child makes schoolwork one of his/her top priorities. Thanks for all your continued support.

★ Star Students ★

David Le
Troy LeBlanc
Nicole Jones
Connor Usie
Kierra Davis
Chelsi Parker
Wade Pitre
Kayla Beard
Amanda Etue

Kyle Anaya
Jaela Peterson
Ashley Sam
Zachary Weber
Endonezia Spears
Zachary Hyde
Austin Zachary
Payne Roshto
Cody Webb

Biannca Pierre
Allie Amond
Emily Buster
Zachary Moore
Brittany Monk
Sophia Nowicki
Clint Stockstill
Andrew Holland