

Calendar of Events

February 2nd

Mitchell & Jones – field trip

February 3rd

Miller & Black – field trip

Tortorich & Parker – field trip

February 4th

Papers go home

Graham & Marquez – field trip

February 5th

Kelley & Starks – field trip

February 6th

Martin & Redmon – field trip

February 9th

Leiva & Sabahi – field trip

February 10th

Washington & Wells – field trip

February 11th

Walters & Helmick – field trip

Adolph & Alleman – field trip

February 12th

Marquez & Graham – field trip

Anzalone & Cook – field trip

School Board Meeting

February 13th

Potts & Harrison – field trip

Trawick & Navarro – field trip

February 16th

Girlinghouse & Tyler – field trip

February 17th

Compton, Smith, Daniels & Taylor – field trip

February 18th

Papers go home

February 23rd & 24th

Mardi Gras holiday

February 26th

Star Student Breakfast @ 7:30

School Board Meeting

Miscellaneous News

Spanish

January Class of the month-

Mrs. Alleman's class

January Student of the month-

Baylie Odom

Yearbooks...

Yearbooks can still be ordered online or you can get an order form at school. The price is now \$30. Personalization is no longer available! Please don't wait, we will run out!

Just a note...

If your child will not be at school for any reason, please call the office and let them know. Make sure to send a note for their absence when they return.

Owe lunch money? Please call the cafeteria (658-0128) to check your child's lunch balance.

Pride of the Colts

February 2009
Volume 3, Issue 5

From the Principal

Recently I was called to the office to speak with a parent. Less than 10 words into the conversation I discovered I was the recipient of a gift. This gift is at times so seldom seen in our society that some think of it as a part of antiquity. It wasn't the first time I had received this gift, but it was an incredible refreshing way to begin my day. I have a fourth grader that comes to school most days carrying more than books and homework, but he also comes bearing the "gift." Again, in a world of presumed entitlement, it is refreshing to see someone of any age who understands the value of

this gift. What is this gift? The parent had stopped by to say he appreciated my work and the work of my staff. That was it and nothing else. It wasn't a lead statement to a concern or bad news. He said it and left. The fourth grader includes a thank you in most of our conversations. "Thank you for letting us go out today. Thank you for the program. Thank you for the LEAP treats." All of these and more have been a part of our past conversations. If you haven't figured it out, the gift is simple gratitude. As for the reason of its rarity, I'm uncertain. I'm convinced that it has little to do

with what you possess, for I've seen those that live in abundance who are strangers to this gift. I've also seen those that live in the shadow of "want," have great difficulty managing this gift. I don't think this gift comes with educational degrees or social positions. I think it is a homemade gift from the heart, and the only way to keep it is to give it away. If I haven't told you lately, thank you for your support and entrusting us with your children.

Ray Davis

★ Star Students ★

Alesha White
Sarah McCauley
AJ Tarver
Landon Schwab
Ian Futch
Taylee Corkern
Tori Guidry
Jake Robinson
Sarah Landry
Taliyah Anthony
Brock Prejean

Reagan Staggs
Meghan Ware
Emily Fletcher
Marlaina Washington
Dylan Hayman
Taylor Law
Tyler Seales
Aaniyah Cola
Jacob Brinkhaus
Megan Goldsack
Dina Dinh

John Paul Hardin
Terbreon Wallace
Kaitlyn Vince
Eddie Jones
Grace Gantz
Jacob Tidwell
Benton Wesley
Jamal Smiles
Richard Garcia
Kennedy Corona

News from the Classes

4th grade

The Practice LEAP Test has been administered, and teachers will be analyzing the results in order to prepare students for the actual test in April. It is important that all 4th grade students be present in class and give their best effort in learning. LEAP packets will continue coming home, and it is necessary for students to complete and return to school for review.

In the area of language arts, students will begin theme four called "Imagination at Work." We will continue to explore genres, such as Narrative Non-Fiction, How to Article, Autobiography, Poetry, Fairy Tale, Pourquoi Tale, Folktale, Fable, Mystery, and Biography. Skills to be covered will be fact and opinion, theme, robust vocabulary, reader's theater, and practicing fluency.

In spelling, students will learn to spell words with the schwa + l, schwa + r, words with word parts (over-, under-, and sub-), and words with irregular plurals and possessives. The spelling words and robust vocabulary are increasing in difficulty, so more study may be needed.

Writing is a vital part of the LEAP Test, and students will need to write an essay as well as well constructed responses to questions in every subject area. Students will continue to be given writing prompts to help them practice the writing process and discover the areas in which to improve. Besides writing, pronouns, irregular verbs, adjectives, and adverbs will also be covered and studied. Students should continue reading to complete their reading goals for 4th grade.

In math, students have been working very hard with multiplication and division skills as we build the foundation of basic math skills. We have also been learning about the rules of divisibility, and will soon be moving into prime and composite numbers. Our next chapter of math takes us into the world of geometry, where students will discover and learn about three dimensional shapes, lines, rays, and angles. Please continue to encourage your child to

put forth their best efforts. Leap packets are vital to the success of our students. Leap packets are not busy work. They address a plethora of skills and strategies that will be addressed on the LEAP Test. Make sure students are showing their work and highlighting key concepts. When addressing a constructed response question, it is imperative that students are writing their answers using complete sentences. Leap packets are sent home on Fridays and are due the following Friday with your signature.

In science, we have just learned about fossils and how they give us clues about what happened in the past. We will begin learning about the cycles of plants and animals. Our 4th grade students are also scaffolding information learned in the classroom to field experiences at the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum. Each fourth grade class will visit LASM. We encourage you to get involved in the learning process by helping your child study, making the information learned relevant, and by establishing relationships from home to school. A fun way to become involved in the learning process is to volunteer to chaperone one of the field experiences that your child will participate in this year. Some of the classes have already commented on what great FUN they had while learning at LASM.

In social studies, students learned about and reflected their own thoughts and dreams on the life of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. We also learned about and observed the inaugural process as President Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the USA. Students also learned about the northeast regions' magnificent scenery, natural formations, and the products that are produced in this region. We will continue learning about the people that lived in the northeast region before the European settlers, and how the northeast was the birthplace of the abolitionist and women's rights movements. Our 4th graders will also be going to the Shaw Center to observe the Rodin Art Exhibit. Check with your child's teacher and become involved by volunteering to join us on this trip. Remember being number one begins each and everyday!

The fourth grade teachers are dedicated to the education of all their students. We appreciate the

support of our parents each and every day and also thank the parents who were able to attend a LEAP Workshop. With such cooperation, 4th grade teachers, students, and parents are a WINNING TEAM!

5th grade

We have just successfully completed the first half of the school year and are working hard for a strong finish! The LASM/Highland Observatory field trip was great, and we are looking forward to the opportunity to view the Rodin exhibit beginning in February. Please keep in mind that the 5th graders have an end of the year trip. The balance for this trip is due February 26th. If you have questions regarding whether your child has a balance or not, please ask their homeroom teacher.

Wow! Can you believe testing is almost here? Testing begins April 1st!! We are very busy working on skills that will help us do our best on the iLEAP.

In reading this month, our focus skills are making inferences and details/main idea. We are learning how story structure can help us with comprehension. We also are busy using graphic organizers to apply comprehension strategies when reading. We will focus on two writing styles this month: persuasive and "how-to". We will also continue to work on both descriptive and narrative in centers and daily writing. Please continue to use your language book at home to reinforce skills taught in class. These skills are used daily with our writing. Make sure your child is working on his/her reading goal!!! Everyone should be halfway there at this point. (15 books)

In math, we have been working on analyzing data in various ways. One way is by finding the mean, median, mode, and range of a set of data. We have also been learning about different ways of representing data on graphs. Although we have completed multiplication and division some time ago, please continue working with your child on these skills at home. They are truly the foundation for everything that we do in math. In science, we are studying astronomy. We have had wonderful opportunities to reinforce this with guest speakers, field trips, and visits to the Star Lab. The students are so excited about this unit! We're sure they're coming home telling you things that they've learned each day. In social studies, we are learning

about explorers and the impact that they have had on our country and our world. We are also learning about the colonies and the way of life in the first colonies in North America.

i-LEAP packets are still coming home every Friday and are due the following Friday. We appreciate your support in reviewing the packets with your child.



200 points:

Stephanie Schlorke (216.6)

100 points:

Steven Lavinghouse (125.3)

Michael Wall (108.3)

Melissa Dardeene (104.4)

Alexander Yoes (101.9)

50 points:

Lama Hantash (83.3)

Dennis Berthelot (79.0)

William Heidke (77.9)

Kyle Durbin (77.2)

Ciara Gibbs (65.0)

Emily Lavender (59.9)

Emma Chaney (52.1)

25 points:

Catherine O'Brien (49.1)

Ryan Schaefer (43.7)

Jordan Atkins (41.3)

Emma Dry (36.6)

Kelsey Schwendimann (36.5)

Devyn Rudolph (34.8)

Kristen Bastin (34.3)

William Terral (34.3)

Macie Howell (33.1)

Matthew Warrington (31.5)

Goff, Elise (31.2)

Shaterika Winters (30.3)

Tyler Foote (29.0)

Griffen Chaney (28.4)

Thomas Henderson (28.4)

Ian Futch (27.6)

Gee, Brody (27.6)

Clayton, Dreona (27.6)

Steven Jagielski (27.4)

Maya Lawrence (26.5)

Mary Weber (25.7)

Morgan Lambert (25.4)