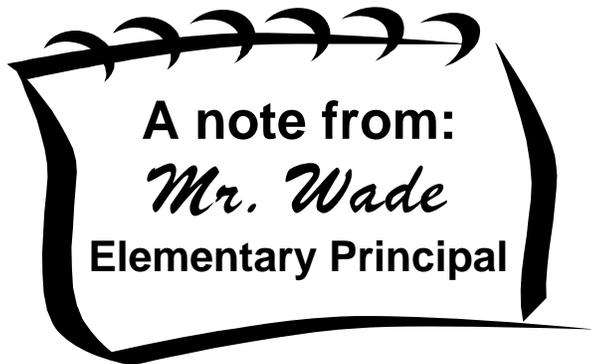


Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 11 No. 6 February 2009



On February 3 and 5 you are invited to attend parent-teacher conferences. It's a great way to find out more about what your child will be learning and how they are currently performing in school. You can share things about your child with the teacher. You can also learn things that will help your child achieve success during the remaining school year.

Before your conference, jot down the things you want to know. Then you'll be sure to get the answers you need. Here are a few suggestions to help get you started thinking:

- *How can I work with you? Teachers always need help. If you can't come to school, maybe you can help from home.
- *What can we do at home? Let the teacher know you'll support what goes on at school.
- *What will my child be expected to learn for the remainder of the year? If this is the semester your child has to learn countries and their capitals, you might want to buy a big world map.
- *What is your policy on homework? Knowing there's always homework on Tuesday will help if your child says there isn't anything due the next day.
- *How will you measure my child's progress? Once you know how much those weekly math quizzes count, you'll probably make sure your child studies.

(See "Conferences" on back, column 1)



February Calendar

Parent-Teacher Conferences-
Tuesday, February 3 3:30PM– 6:30PM
Thursday, February 5 3:30PM-- 6:30PM

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)- 4th Grade Test- Wednesday, February 4 9:00AM-11:30AM

Study Island Reward- Wednesday, February 4. 20 minute extra recess begins at 1:30 PM.

Truth About Drugs Assembly- Thursday, February 5.
PreK-2nd- 8:15-8:45 AM
3rd-5th 9:00-9:40 AM

5ht Grade Basketball Scrimmage- Thursday, February 5 starting at 1:00 PM. All grades will attend. Admission is \$1 (A concession will also be available.)

NO SCHOOL- Friday, February 6

Jump Rope For Heart- Monday, February 9

Trash to Treasures- Wednesday, February 11 from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM.

Valentine Parties- Thursday, February 12.

NO SCHOOL- Friday, February 13.

Book Fair Begins- Monday, February 23 through the 27.

Book Club Meeting- February 24.

5th Grade Writing Test- Wednesday, February 25.

Dr. Seuss Reading Celebration- Throughout the week beginning March 2 .

Spring Break- Begins March 16 through March 20.

**PARENT
+TEACHER
KEY TO STUDENT
SUCCESS**



“Conferences” continued...

*When and for what reasons should I contact the school? Keeping the lines of communication open will help your child have a better year.

*What’s the best way to get in touch with you? Some teachers love e-mail. Others won’t mind if you call them at home. Find out what will work best.



Tell Your Child the Difference Between Telling & Tattling

When a friend is in trouble, children often know it before adults do. But they don’t say anything because they’re afraid to tattle.

We want children to solve their own problems when possible and safe to do so. But we also want them to learn to tell an adult. Teaching this isn’t easy. It takes time. Here are some ways to help your child see the difference between telling and tattling:

*Kids tattle when they want to get someone in trouble. They tattle when they want an adult to solve a problem they should solve. They tattle to make themselves look good.

*Children tell when they want to keep someone out of trouble. They tell if they are scared or in danger. They tell when they want to protect themselves or someone else. Think of examples. You might say, “John heard Mike calling Tony a name. If John told the teacher, would he be telling or tattling?” John is tattling, because he wants to get Mike in trouble.

Here’s another story. “On the playground, Mary sees two students beating up Jake. If she tells a teacher, is she telling or tattling?” In this case, Mary is telling, because she is trying to protect Jake.

What if your child comes to you to tattle? You might ask, “Was that telling or tattling?” Then help your child figure out what he can do. Ask, “What could you do to solve this by yourself? What will you try first?”

Praise children when they tell. Say, “I know it was hard for you to tell. But it was the right thing to do.” Then let him know what you plan to do to keep them safe.



Make Valentine Animals for a Fun February Family Activity

Here’s a fun way to boost your child’s creativity. It could also be a good way to get those school Valentine’s cards made.

Have your child cut out paper hearts of different sizes. (You may need to cut the hearts if your child is too young.) Have some markers, glue, yarn, buttons and other things to use for trim on hand.

Now ask your child to make animals from these heart shapes. A bunny face can be made from three hearts. One heart is the ears. An upside-down heart makes the face. A small heart-shaped sticker can make the nose. Get creative. See how many different animals you can create from this simple shape (examples: butterfly, mouse, etc.)

Write captions, too. (“Have a Hoppy Day” would work for the bunny.) You might send these creatures to other family members. You could take them to a nursing home or hospital.

Happy Valentine's Day!

