

Alexander Elementary

Parents Make A Difference!



Vol. 17 No. 4 December 2014

A note from:

Mr. Wade

Elementary Principal

Merry  *Christmas*

To: All the students and their families. We hope you have a great and safe Holiday Season!

From: Teachers, Staff and Administration at Alexander Elementary

Christmas Program and Gift Ideas that Support Learning!

We want to encourage you to mark your calendar to attend the Alexander Elementary Christmas Program on Thursday, December 11 starting at 6:30PM. The program will once again be held at the NEO A&M College Fine Arts Building. This program is one of the biggest events of the year for our school and is sure to strengthen your Christmas spirit!

If you are still looking for a special gift idea, we have a few suggestions that are not only fun but also encourage learning at the same time. Listed on the back of our newsletter we have this year's most wished for kid learning toys. We also provide details on what makes them such a good educational gift.

These items should be available at most major toy retailers or online through stores such as Amazon. Let us all keep learning at the top of our Christmas list!



"So do I like get a tracking number or anything?"

December



Trash to Treasure- Friday, December 5 from 1:00-2:30AM in the gym.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, December 8.

PK and K Visit Santa- Welch State Bank, Miami on Tuesday, December 9. PK 9:00AM and K at 1:00PM

Pictures with Santa- Wednesday, December 10. 5" x 7" for \$3.

Christmas Program- Thursday, December 11- NEO Fine Arts, PK, 1st and 2nd Begin at 6:30PM. 3rd, 4th and 5th Begin at 7:30PM

Polar Express- Thursday, December 18.

End of First Semester- Friday, December 19.

Christmas Break- Begins Monday, December 22. Our first day back from break will be Monday, January 5.

Grade Cards- Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, January 12.



Most Wished for Kid Learning Toys for Christmas

If you need some Christmas shopping ideas for your children, here are this year's most wished for learning toys.

Cahootie Animal Planet Sea Creatures- This game lets kids learn about the ocean's denizens through silly questions, wacky dares and funny fortunes. 7 to 12; \$6.99; amazon.com

Loopz- This memory game gone tween-tastic proved captivating. Replicate the pattern of lights and sounds by moving a hand in and out of the correct quadrants-it gets harder as you go! 7 and up; \$29.99, mattel.com

Hide and Eek!- A mouse needs to navigate a game board populated by 100 numbered elephants. Players in this fast-paced game (shh!) may learn a little math as they go. 8 and up; \$13.99, gamewright.com

String Games**TRING GAMES-** With all of the snazzy new technology available to families these days, we get nostalgic for the simpler games of our childhoods. Kids can find hours of entertainment with this set of strings, which includes instructions and photos for a variety of games from cultures and countries around the globe. 8 and up; \$14.98; HearthSong.com

The Clever Detective Game- Math=fun. That equation is true, when it comes to the Clever Detective, one of several great games from the Young Learners line, made by Italian game company Clementoni (you might also checkout their "Eat Your Words" game, kinda like an early Scrabble). The object is to answer questions requiring addition, subtraction, multiplication or division correctly so that players can gain accessories like hats, sunglasses and mustaches to dress up a character on a "Wanted" poster. Players can verify the correct answer with a little magnifying glass. Whomever completes his poster first wins. For 2 to 4 players \$34.00

Make 'n' Break Challenge- Just build the structure shown on the card. Not so hard, right? Oh, you have to use tongs. And do it faster than everyone else. It's so fun, you'll be begging your kid to play! 8 and up; \$29.99, ravensburger.com

LEGO City Small Car- It's rare to find a kid who isn't crazy for LEGO-or for super-cute Smart cars. These LEGO City Small Cars are a ringer for the super-modern compact car, and are perfect for zooming around LEGO City. Ages 5 and up. Under \$10

Tell Me a Story Cards- "Mama, tell me a story!" And so the nightly ritual begins...again. If you're out of storytime inspiration, get your kids in on the action in this imaginative pre-reading activity. These sets of 36 cards are perfect for jumpstarting their imaginations (and yours). Choose from Circus Animal's Adventure, Fairy Tale Mix-Up, Little Robot's Mission or Mystery in the Forest. Ages 3 and up. Under \$10

Roadtrip Bingo- Save yourself from another chorus of "Are we there yet?" this holiday season with this travel version of the classic game of bingo. Fully self-contained and portable, icons of familiar road trip sights (bridges, billboards and big rigs) can be punched out (meaning no risk of kids drawing all over themselves or the upholstery when the driver changes lanes suddenly). Contains 12 unique cards. Ages 6 and up. Under \$10

These items should be available at most major toy retailers or online through stores such as Amazon. Let us all keep learning at the top of our Christmas list!

*Most information gathered from www.parenting.com



Real Writing



My son doesn't enjoy writing. He will write a few words, such as his spelling lists. But when it's time to write a paragraph or a story, he complains. Any ideas?



Have your son try a few "real" writing tasks. It's often easier for kids to write about things that have meaning for them. Encourage your child to give those longer writing assignments a try with ideas like these:

Have him write what he remembers about the day (making a new friend, playing kickball, having pizza for lunch).

Let him choose a cherished toy or animal and write a few sentences describing it. Example: "The bunny is soft. He hops fast."

Ask him to write lists of favorite songs, favorite characters in a movie, or ideas for his birthday.