

Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

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A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

Christmas Concert, Gift Ideas and Learning!

The next three weeks leading up to Christmas Break are sure to go by quick. With all the activities going on in our schools and communities it makes the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas go by faster than Santa's sleigh.

We want to encourage you to mark your calendar to attend the Alexander Elementary Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 10 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, on the back of our newsletter we have a list of toy suggestions. These ideas will not only stimulate a child's imagination, but also advance learning. We will also soon be sending home details on this year's Principal's Christmas Break Reading Challenge. We encourage all students to participate!

*Never Stop Learning, Because
Life Never Stops Teaching.*



Trash to Treasure- Friday, December 4 in the gym starting at 1:00PM.

PK and K Visit Santa- Welch State Bank, Miami on Tuesday, December 8. PK 9:00AM and K 10:00AM

Decorate City Hall Christmas Tree- Wednesday, December 9.

Christmas Program- Thursday, December 10- NEO Fine Arts, PK, 1st and 2nd Begin at 6:30PM. 3rd, 4th and 5th Begin at 7:30PM

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, December 14.

Pictures with Santa- Tuesday, December 15. 5" x 7" for \$3.

Polar Express- Thursday, December 17.

End of First Semester- Friday, December 18.

Christmas Break- Begins Monday, December 21. Our first day back from break will be Tuesday, January 5.

Grade Cards Go Out- Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, January 11.

No School- Monday, January 18 (Unless we need to use it for a "snow day".)

Happy New Year!



Fun Gift Ideas for Christmas that Increase Learning

Christmas is fast approaching and parents are looking for toys that not only stimulate their child's imagination, but also advance learning. Here are a few options.

- **For toddlers:** Children who are 2 and 3 years old are ready to soak up knowledge, and if their early development toys are fun, they learn without feeling pressure. Toddlers love building blocks, and they are developing early math skills and learning about spatial relationships while they play. Start with large blocks he can stack high and knock over, and work up to simple interlocking blocks, like Mega Blocks. Toddlers can also work on early reading skills with some basic alphabet puzzles and games that will help him learn the names of the letters.
- **For preschoolers:** Kids who are 3, 4, and 5 years old are getting ready to read and write, so give them opportunities to experience language, like a pack of illustrated flash cards. Matching puzzles, those two-piece puzzles that help children discover basic concepts such as opposites and numbers are also a fun way to learn. Creative play is important at any age, and preschoolers love playing dress-up and using pretend objects, like toy food. Gardening kits offer a good hands-on way to learn about the natural world and where food comes from.
- **For children ages 5 to 7:** For early readers, books are one of the best educational gifts you can give for Christmas. A good hands-on way to learn more about math is with money, and a piggy bank is a fun way for your child to keep her allowance money safe. Be sure to give young children a creative outlet, like an art easel and a set of washable paints.
- **For children ages 8 to 11:** Kids this age are old enough to start understanding more complicated concepts, so science kits and

rocket-building kits would be educational as well as fun. This is also a great age to start learning a musical instrument. If you need a stocking stuffer for a tween, try a Mad Libs book, which helps kids learn the difference between a noun and a verb while providing laughs.

- **For children ages 12 and older:** By this age, kids are ready to learn about serious science, so a telescope would be an excellent Christmas gift, especially if your child has expressed an interest in astronomy. For kids with patience and an eye for detail, look for model kits and let them build a model car or airplane; completing one of these is excellent for building self-esteem. Simple craft kits, like beginning knitting kits, help kids express themselves visually.

Source: Overstock.com



Christmas Break Principal's Challenge "Win A Mystery Prize!"

Once again during Christmas Break we will have a Principal's Challenge. Before we leave for vacation, students will receive all the information and details in a handout regarding this opportunity.

Research shows students can fall behind and suffer from regressed learning over extended breaks. That is why we strongly encourage parents to work with their children during the upcoming holiday to insure learning does not stop.

We agree, everyone needs a break. But learning does not have to equal work. That is why we feel it is best when parents are involved in this challenge along with their children to make the experience fun. Most all children enjoy the attention they receive from their parents when working on a project or learning new things.

Please encourage your children to take the challenge!