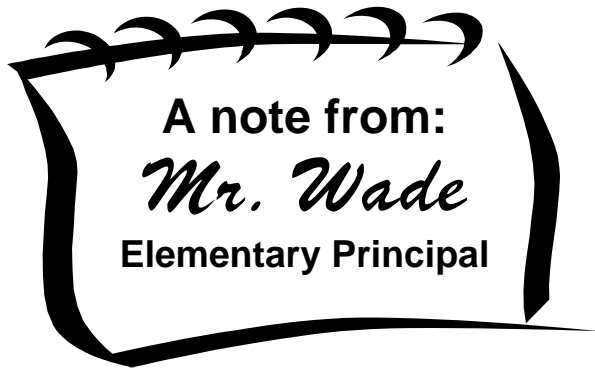


Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 10, No. 5 January 2008



A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

With a new calendar year comes a new and final semester of school. With less than five months left in the school year we encourage our students and parents to continue to make school a top priority.

First semester grade cards go out on Thursday, January 10. Your child's report card will show how they performed during the first half of the school year. This is a very crucial time. It is a time to analyze your child's current academic progress. It is a time to make any adjustments needed to insure they make appropriate gains necessary to move on to the next grade level.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding their current progress please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself. We can work together to build and implement a plan to help your child perform at their full potential.

A new semester means all students have a fresh start. In a way of speaking, every student begins the semester with all A's. It is important that each student work hard and do their best to maintain the highest grade possible. With teachers, parents and administrators working together we can give them the encouragement they need.

January

Grade Cards- Go out on Thursday, January 10.

5th Grade Basketball Game- Wednesday, January 16 at the high school gym. We play Quapaw. Students in grade 2nd through 5th will attend. Admission is 50 cents. A concession will be available.

Vision Screening- All elementary Students will be tested by Prevent Blindness of Oklahoma. January 22, 23 & 24.

Pilot Club will present "Protect Your Brain."- Pre-K, K, 1, and 2nd Grade. Thursday, January 24 at 1:30 PM in the gym.

Alexander Elementary Spelling Bee- Tuesday, January 29.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Tuesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 7.
Times- 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

No School- Friday, February 8.

Valentine's Day- Thursday, February 14.

No School (for students)- Friday, February, 15.
Teacher Inservice.

Book Fair- Begins Monday, February 18 through Friday, February 22.



Make Your Child Feel Special When Tough Goals Are Met

She did it! She learned all her multiplication tables. Or she was chosen Student of the Week in her class for good behavior.

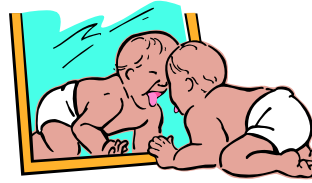
Setting goals and reaching them is one of the best ways to motivate children. Sometimes, just reaching the goal is enough. But other things call for a special celebration. So when your child reaches a tough goal, let everyone share in her success. Here are some fun ideas:

*Take a picture. Photograph your child as she achieves the goal. Get a picture of her crossing the finish line. Or snap a shot of her holding the science fair project. If you don't have a camera, ask your child to draw a picture. Frame it and put it by your child's bed. That way, every time she wakes up, she'll see an image of herself as an achiever. When you replace the picture, put it in a special photo album.

*Keep a journal. Buy your child a special goals journal. As she works toward each goal, have her write it in the book. She might list the goal, the date she achieved it and any thoughts.

*Plan a special surprise. Write a note offering your child some small reward. It might be a trip to get ice cream or a chance to invite a friend over. On the other side of the paper, write the goal your child wants to achieve. Now roll up the paper and put it into a balloon. Tell your child that when she reaches her goal, you'll pop the balloon together.

*Make a victory dinner. Get out your good dishes. Cook your child's favorite foods. Decorate the table. Have a special family dinner to celebrate your child's success.



Model the Behavior You Want to See In Your Child

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders," said James Baldwin. "But they have never failed to imitate them."

Like it or not, you are a model for your child's character. Each action you take teaches a powerful lesson to your child about the kind of person he should be.

Here are some ways you are a moral model:

*When you give to a religious group or a charity, you're teaching your child that it is important to give to others.

*When you treat your child and others with love and respect, you are teaching him how he should treat others.

*When you wait to visit with the car owner after bumping their car in a parking lot, you are teaching your child that honesty is important even when no one is looking.

*When you spend time cleaning up a park, you are teaching your child to protect our environment.

*When you help your child with a project you said you'd help with even though you're tired, you are teaching your child that promises matter.

*When you make goals for yourself, and are conscientious about your work, you are showing your child that these things are important.

What affects our children most? It's usually not the big things. Instead, the small actions repeated over and over have the greatest impact.

Board Games Can Keep The Busiest Parents Involved

Even parents who work multiple jobs can stay connected to their kids.

Teresa May from Piggott, Arkansas, says her husband has found a fun way. He keeps a running chess game going with his nine-year-old.

Each day—whether father and son are together or not—they go to the chessboard. One player makes one move, then excitedly awaits the other to come and make the next move. This can be done with checkers and other board games!

