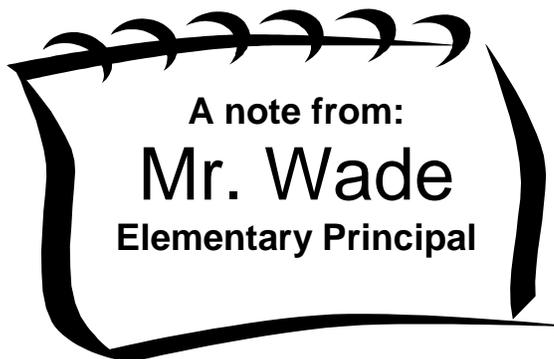


Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 15 No. 5 January 2013



A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

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

First semester grade cards go out on Tuesday, January 8. They will show how your child performed during the first half of the school year. This is a very crucial time. It is a time to analyze your child's school performance and to make any adjustment necessary to insure they make appropriate gains. If you have any concerns or questions regarding their current progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

If needed, we can come up with various strategies to help your child improve and perform at their fullest potential.



Reading is a basic life skill. It is a cornerstone for a child's success in school, and, indeed, throughout life. Without the ability to read well, opportunities for

personal fulfillment and job success inevitably will be lost.

Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading

JAN-FEB 2013

Grade Cards Go Out- Tuesday, January 8.

Gifted and Talented Field Trip- Greenbush, Girard, KS.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, January 14.

Accelerated Reading Reward Trips- Chuck E. Cheese in Joplin. January 16, 17, and 18.

Spelling Bee- Tuesday, January 29 at 1:30PM in the gym. Fourth and Fifth Grade finalist will compete. (Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders will attend.)

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Thursday, February 7 and Tuesday, February 12. From 3:30PM to 6:30 PM.

No School- Friday, February 8.

Prevent Blindness Eye Screening for All Students- Monday and Tuesday, February 11 and 12.

Third Quarter Progress Reports- Tuesday, February 12

Fourth Grade Take NAEP Test- Tuesday, February 12.

Valentine's Day- Thursday, February 14.



Teach Your Child the Value Of Hard Work And Perseverance

Some people think smart is something you're born with. Others believe you can "get smart."

Do those beliefs matter? Studies show they do. People who believe they can "get smart" are able to face a challenge.

If these people come up against a problem they can't solve, they don't give up. They don't say, "I was never any good at math anyway." Instead, they decide that they may just need to work a little longer, or try a different approach.

In contrast, people who don't value hard work are likely to give up. If they run into trouble, they give themselves all sorts of reasons why it isn't their fault. "I was never very smart in math anyway."

How can parents give children "get-smart" messages? Try these:

- **"I know you can do it** if you keep trying."
- **"You've worked really hard** on your spelling. Before you know it, you'll learn those words."
- **"You're not going** to give up until you get it, are you? I'm impressed with your hard work."
- **"If you work** on your science fair project every day this week, you're sure to be proud of the result."

When you talk about the things you have done, make sure you send the same "get smart" messages. Tell your child you type so fast because you've practiced since you were 15. Or point out how proud you were when you finished painting a room.



Doing Chores Helps Your Child Develop Responsibility

In the past, children had to do their chores. Their work was the only way a family could survive. Today's children need chores for other reasons. They learn responsibility. They feel a part of the family. They learn to take pride in what they do.

Here are some tips on ways you can use chores to teach responsibility:

- **Let your child** have some choices. Allow your child to choose whether to walk the dog or fold the clothes. Offer choices about when chores are done. "Would you like to walk the dog before or after your snack?"
- **Do not do anything** for your child that she can do for herself.
- **Make sure your child** picks up after herself. Once she's had a snack, teach her to rinse her plate and put it away.
- **Praise your child** for effort. Say, "Good job! (Not "Good girl!")"
- **Break large tasks** into smaller ones.

Book Picks Read-aloud Favorites



Too Many Tamales- Maria feels grown-up when she helps make tamales and gets to wear her mother's ring. But she loses the ring and there's only one place it could be! This book is by Gary Soto

I Know a Rhino- What kind of house contains rhinos that drink tea and giraffes that take bubble baths? A child's house! Charles Fuge's book portrays the magic of children's imaginations.

Miss Nelson is Missing- How can nice Miss Nelson's class be so mean to her? The kids in Harry G. Allard's popular classic don't know how good they have it until a grumpy substitute teacher takes Miss Nelson's place.