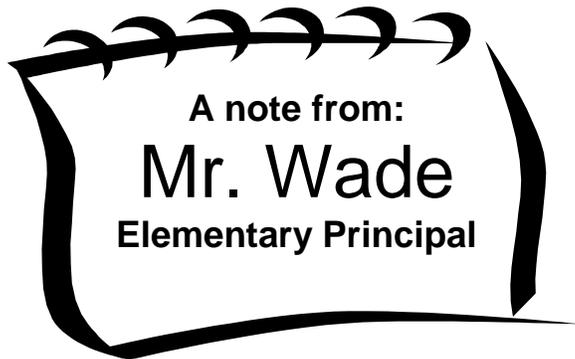


Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 16 No. 5 January 2014



A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

Well, it is good to be back from an extended Christmas Break! We hope all of our students and their families had a nice holiday.

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.

Our first semester grade cards will go out on Thursday, January 9. 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.

"This is a very crucial time..."

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

"Children are apt to live up to what you believe of them."

-Lady Bird Johnson (1912)
Former First Lady of the United States

JAN-FEB 2014

Grade Cards Go Out- Thursday, January 9.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, January 13.

Accelerated Reading Reward Trips- Chuck E. Cheese in Joplin. Leave: 10AM Return: 2PM
3rd and 5th January 15
K and 4th January 16
1st and 2nd January 17

Spelling Bee- Tuesday, January 28 at 1:30PM in the gym. Fourth and Fifth Grade finalist will compete. (Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders will attend.)

Third Quarter Progress Reports- Tuesday, February 4.

Prevent Blindness Vision Screening for All Students- February 5 and 6.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Thursday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 11. From 3:30PM to 6:30 PM.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, February 10.

Valentine's Day- Friday, February 14.

Red Wheel Fundraiser Begins- Friday, February 28.

Class Group Pictures- Friday, February 28.



Teach Your Child that Listening is a Key to Success

“Listening skills” isn’t a class, but children won’t go far in school or in life if they don’t learn to listen well. Don’t just tell your child to “listen up.” Explain the benefits. For example, good listeners:

- *Know what’s going on.
- *Learn many new things.
- *Get better grades.
- *Make fewer mistakes.
- *Have more friends—because people like to be heard.

To teach listening skills, model them. Let your child see you listen respectfully to family members, tour guides and friends. Don’t interrupt when others are speaking. Listen closely when your child speaks. Also, have your child:

- *Listen for a certain word as you read and have her say it aloud when she hears it.
- *Play “telephone”. Each player whispers a phrase or sentence to the next person in turn. Compare the beginning statement to the end.
- *Be an “audience.” Have your child listen to a sibling read a report or article. Then have her summarize the main points.



Help Your Child Write and Develop a Better Vocabulary

To be a good writer, children need a good vocabulary. To help your child develop her vocabulary, encourage her to:

- *Read a lot. The more she reads, the more new words she’ll encounter.
- *Examine the context of new words. See if she can tell what a new word means by the text around it.
- *Look up words she doesn’t know in the dictionary.
- *Keep a list of new words and their meanings in a special notebook.
- *Learn the roots of words. See how many words she can think of that contain the same root—predict, verdict, dictionary and dictate, for example.
- *Do word exchanges. Together, read over what she writes. Then have her see how many words she can replace without changing the meaning.
- *Regularly use a thesaurus. Find synonyms for words she uses often.
- *Play word games like scrabble and Mad Libs. Find more games on the internet using sites like Pinterest.
- *Do crossword and other word puzzles.



Look for Signs When Your Child Has Trouble Reading

You can tell when your child comes to words he can’t read. He’s likely to squirm in his seat, get sleepy, look anxious or act up. When you see these signs, you can help.

- *Look at the book to find out where your child was last reading well. Ask him if there’s a word he doesn’t understand.
- *Help your child look the problem word up in a simple dictionary.
- *Check his understanding. Have him use the word in several sentences. If your child says he knows all the words, do some spot checks. Ask him, “What does this word mean?” Look up the words he doesn’t know. Have him use them in a sentence.



Limit Your Child’s Intake of Foods That Hinder Learning

Eating the right foods helps children learn better. Milk, eggs, nuts and other protein sources support brain cell growth. Bread, cereal, potatoes and other carbohydrates provide energy for the brain. Dark green leafy vegetables have vitamin A needed for normal vision. They also have iron. Children who don’t have enough iron can show a lack of attention.

But you must also help your child avoid foods that are bad for learning. The following are known to overstimulate children. They reduce a child’s ability to sit still and concentrate. They shorten attention span. Plus they can interfere with short-term memory. Try to limit:

- ***Sugar.** Candy, cookies, soft drinks, sweetened cereals and many canned foods.
- ***Caffeine.** Chocolate, cola drinks, coffee, tea.
- ***Additives.** Preservatives, artificial coloring and flavoring.