

Alexander Elementary

Parents Make A Difference!



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A note from:

Mr. Wade

Elementary Principal

JAN-FEB 2015

Grade Cards- Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, January 12.

Accelerated Reading Reward Trips- Chuck E. Cheese in Joplin. L: 10AM R: 2PM
3rd and 5th January 14
1st and 4th January 15
K and 2nd January 16

Spelling Bee- Wednesday, January 28 at 1:30PM in the gym. (3rd, 4th and 5th Grades)

Progress Reports- Tuesday, February 3.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Thursday, February 5 and Tuesday, February 10. From 3:30PM to 6:30 PM.

No School- Friday, February 13. (Unless needed for a snow makeup day.)

Valentine's Day- Saturday, February 14.

Red Wheel Fundraiser Begins- Friday, February 27.

It is good to be back from 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 Tuesday, January 6. 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.

"This is a very crucial time."

At Alexander Elementary, we appreciate the many wonderful parents we have that give their children the time and encouragement they need to be successful in school. It is our hope that by continually working together we can provide the best education possible for the year 2015 and beyond!



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



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.

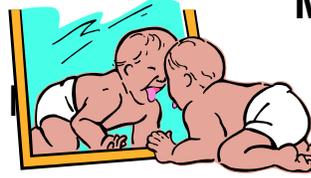
Setting goals and reaching them is one of the best ways to motivate children. Sometimes, just reaching the goal is enough. But other things call for a special celebration. So when your child reaches a tough goal, let everyone share in her success. Here are some fun ideas:

*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

"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

