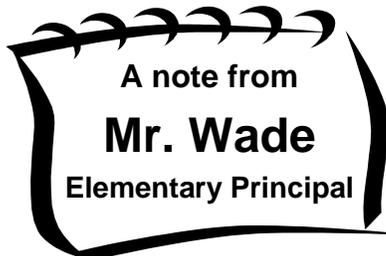


# Alexander Elementary



## Parents Make A Difference

Vol. 17 No. 9 May 2015



A note from

**Mr. Wade**

Elementary Principal

Many students will suffer from "Summer Regression". This is where they lose skills during prolonged breaks from school.

Research shows students may experience as much as 3 months of learning loss by the time they return to start the new school year. When students fall behind it requires teachers to take valuable time at the beginning of the year reviewing to build skills back to a more appropriate level.

Sustaining skills does not have to be painful. Many educational skills can be nurtured and retained through enjoyable family activities. The goal of summer activities is not necessarily to teach new skills but to prevent the previously learned ones from weakening through lack of use.

We can help our students retain skills, foster intellectual endeavors, and enhance curiosity. Expanding our knowledge base and skill repertoire actually enhances our enjoyment of life and fosters competence. It can even help us to feel better about ourselves.

On the back of this month's newsletter, we are providing you with many ideas. By selecting a few, you can prevent your child from suffering from the dreaded summer slide.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration, we thank each of you for allowing the team at Alexander Elementary the privilege of working with your child this year. It's been a fantastic year! We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in August!



## Calendar

**PK and K Enrollment- For new students only. Enrollment is now. Come to the school as soon as possible to reserve your spot.**

Rise and Shine- Monday, May 4.

PK Fun Day- Monday, May 4.

Cinco De Mayo Assembly- Tuesday, May 5 at 1:30PM.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Orientation and Music Program Visit- Wednesday, May 6 at 9:15AM.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Kit Day- Thursday, May 7.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Testing Reward Trip- Thursday, May 7 to Roller City in Joplin. Leave at 10:00AM and Return at 3:00PM.

Tiger Track Meet- Friday, May 8.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Testing Reward Trip- Monday, May 11. Fishing and Cookout- NTC & Riverview Park

PK Graduation- Wednesday, May 13 starting at 10:00AM in the gym.

Talent Show- Wednesday, May 13 starting at 1:15PM in the gym.

Awards Assembly- Thursday, May 14  
K & 1<sup>st</sup> 8:20AM  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00AM  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 1:15PM

AR Reward- Friday, May 15.

Last Day of School- Friday, May 15.

Teacher  Appreciation  
WEEK  
**May 4-8**



# Avoid Summer Slide!

With a big break just around the corner, it is time to begin thinking about summer activities that enhance learning for your children. There are many opportunities for your child to enjoy a break that includes both fun and learning. To prevent regression over the next 13 weeks, families can go places (real or imagined), play games, do things, make things, read and use real life math.

Here are a few ideas to help get your summer learning fun started:

\*Miami Public Library Summer Reading Program begins in June. The theme for this year is “Every Hero Has A Story” and is sure to be a ton of fun! For More information you can contact the library at: 918-541-2292

\*Church Camp and Bible School- Many churches provide an opportunity for Children to attend fun and exciting camps and/or Bible School during the summer months. Contact your local church for more information.

\*Principal’s Reading Challenge- Students who are in PK -2<sup>nd</sup> grade are challenged to read 25 books over the summer. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade are challenged to read 1,000 pages over the summer. Students who meet this challenge will receive a special reward in August. Students must keep a log with the dates when each book was read, the name of the book and the number of pages of the book. Commit to meeting this challenge this summer! To help meet this challenge, we encourage you to use the Miami Public Library as a source for a wide selection of books to read.

\*Alexander Elementary Summer Reading Program will run through the month of June. Parents of qualified students will be notified.

\*Make Math Meaningful- Some believe students loss more in the way of math skills during the summer than in the areas of reading and language. Math for many is a “use it” or “lose it” situation. The concepts and sequence steps required in math may be lost if these skills are not practiced. There are many ways to help keep your child’s skills sharp such as:

\*Bake Something- Plan, make a list, shop, use coupons, follow directions, measure, double recipes, use a timer, and then eat the results!

\*Build Something- Measure to create craft or woodworking projects, use tape measures, rulers, metric and standard measurements, read safety precautions, watch YouTube examples, and discuss rationale behind doing what you are doing then display work with pride!

\*Develop Map Skills- If you are taking a trip by road or air get a good map. Ask your child to navigate even if you know where you are going. Older students can calculate the rate  $\times$  time = distance formula to figure out how long it will take to get somewhere. Read road signs during your trip. Other ideas include parents drawing a treasure map after you hid something or designing a community.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! This can prevent the summer slide and even accelerate Reading growth! Summer break is also a great time to have fun as a family. Be sure and find plenty of time to get out and enjoy each other’s company.

