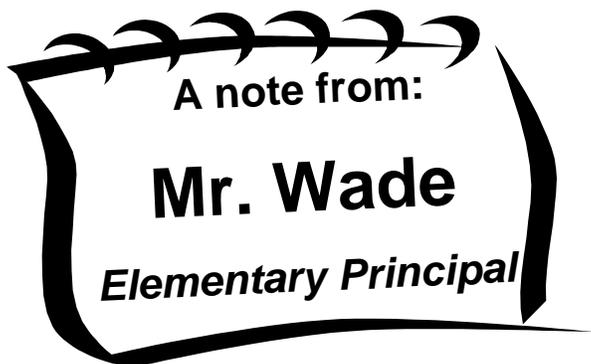


Alexander Elementary

Parents Make A Difference



Vol. 15 No. 3 November 2012



With the Presidential Election and Veteran's Day both soon approaching November is an especially great month to teach patriotism to our children.

Teaching respect for our veterans is a good place to begin teaching patriotism. We encourage you to talk with your children about the election, the importance of voting and honoring our veterans this month.

In his article "Teaching Patriotism to Our Children" Steven Coffman wrote, "If we as parents teach our kids to love, honor, show compassion and respect for their county as well as their fellow man, they will not only be graced by a sense of patriotism, they will become better citizens, and in turn role models for our future generations."

Students need to know they are an important part of their country's make up. They are the future parents and leaders that will uphold the morals and ethics of our country.

One of our greatest challenges as parents is to raise our children to show honor and respect towards others. Adopting a path of patriotism is a good reinforcement for them to learn these important traits.

As much as we want our children to love their country, we also need to recognize the importance of global relationships in today's world. Setting good examples of patriotism should, in turn, teach our children that every person counts, no matter where they live, or who they might be, or what country they represent.

NOVEMBER

Halloween Parties- Wednesday, October 31.
Parade begins at 1:00PM

First Grade to Allman Farm to Pick Pumpkins-
Friday, November 2. Leave at 12:50PM.

Daylight Savings Time (Fall Back)- Sunday,
November 4. Set your clocks back 1 hour.

Veterans Day Assembly- The community is
invited to attend. Monday, November 12 at 1:30
PM in the elementary gym.

PK Field Trip- Wednesday, November 14,
Springfield Zoo and Chuck E. Cheese.
L8:15AM R4:30PM

Progress Reports- Wednesday, November 14.

School Picture Retakes- Thursday, November
15

Thanksgiving Break- November 21, 22 and 23.

Alexander Elementary Christmas Concert-
Tuesday, December 18. Pre-K through 2nd
grade concert will start at 6:30pm. The 3rd-5th
grade concert will be at 7:30pm. NEO Fine
Arts Building.

End of Semester- Friday, December 21.

Happy Thanksgiving!

From The Teachers & Staff at
Alexander Elementary



Two State Questions on the November Ballot that Effect School Revenue.

SQ 766- Intangible Personal Property

SQ 766 is a question on the November ballot that asks Oklahomans if they want to end the assessment of tax on intangible personal property from both locally and centrally assessed entities.

What does that mean? Ad valorem tax is a tax that is assessed based on the value of real property (your home) or personal property (your car). Ad valorem tax is a large source of income for education. Intangible personal property is property which value is measured not in physical attributes, but rather from what it represents (Braum's sign). For example, intangible personal property that is currently taxed but would no longer be taxed if SQ 766 passes are things such as patents, formulas, designs, trade secrets, franchises, land leases, mineral leases, software, trademarks, and brand names.

What it would do if passed: SQ 766 if passed would exempt all intangible personal property from ad valorem taxation. According to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the passage of SQ 766 would result in an estimated \$50 million dollar statewide impact which would cost common education \$32 million and career and technology schools over \$10 million.

The loss of this revenue stream for education will have to be made up from some other revenue source. Some districts have budget items that cannot be cut, such as bond issues and legal judgments. Local assessors will have to increase property taxes to offset that lost revenue, in order to insure that those bond payments and legal judgments are paid.

What would happen if it fails? Nothing would change in the taxation for fiscal year 2014. The legislature passed a trailer bill that sends the proposal back to the legislature to try and resolve in another way. Not passing SQ 766 would NOT result in a tax increase.

SQ 758- Lowers Cap on Homestead and Agricultural Property

SQ 758 is a question on the November ballot that asks Oklahomans if the cap on fair cash valuation of homestead and agricultural property should be lowered from 5% annually to 3% annually.

What does that mean? SQ 758 would change the limit on how much taxes can be increased on homestead and agricultural property. At present, the allowable increase on the fair cash value of homestead and agricultural property for taxation purposes is limited to a 5% increase annually. SQ 758 proposes limiting that annual increase to 3%.

What it would do if passed? SQ 758 would decrease the cap on how much agricultural or homestead property taxes can be increased annually from 5% to 3% of the fair cash valuation of that property. Property taxes are a major source of revenue for education. Lowering the allowable increase in property valuations would likely only benefit those whose property values are increasing enough to exceed the cap. People who are living in communities who property values remain steady or decline would receive little or no benefit from this reduction.

Passing SQ 758 would result in a loss of approximately \$5,600,000.00 to common education and career technology schools (based on Oklahoma Tax Commission Estimates 2012). Like SQ 766, if this passes, the loss of revenue stream to school districts will have to be made from another revenue source.

What would happen if it fails? Nothing would change. Homestead and agricultural property would still be taxed at a maximum allowable increase of 5% annually. Not passing SQ 758 would NOT result in a tax increase.

Your Choice, Your Vote!