



Cleveland Courier

December 2009

Principal's News

Dear Parents,

Happy Holidays to all our Cleveland Families! This edition of our parent newsletter is filled with information about upcoming holiday events. We all know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to create the best learning situation for children.

In conjunction with our continued efforts to promote good character in our students through service to community, we are currently conducting a Toy/Coat/Hat/Glove Drive for needy families. In addition, our Cleveland Student Council has organized a "Build a Beard" project to help fund additional gifts. For 25¢ students can buy a piece of beard (cotton ball) to add to a picture of their favorite staff member's face. The person with the largest beard on December 17th will wear a Santa suit for the day! This is a fun activity, with proceeds benefiting families who may be struggling with holiday expenses.

Cleveland PTC's Santa Night has been changed to Wednesday, December 9th. (to accommodate Santa's schedule!) Beginning at 6:30 p.m., primary students and families are invited to participate in holiday activities and refreshments, along with pictures with Santa. The Santa Shop will be open that evening, and for the next 2 school days for students to shop for family members.

We invite you to read this newsletter from cover to cover, with grade level and special area reports, upcoming events, along with our new "Meet the Cleveland Staff" section. In addition, if you have not recently checked the Hamilton City Schools website (hamiltoncityschools.com), click the icon entitled "Important -H1N1 info", and there are links to some great educational sites under "Lessons & Activities for Home."

As always, thank you for your continued cooperation – and Happy Holidays to all!

Pamela Rowe
Principal

Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, December 8th 6:30 p.m. – PTC meeting in library
- Wednesday, December 9th 6:30-8:00 p.m. – PTC Santa Night
- Thursday, December 10th Santa Shop open in library for student shopping
- Friday, December 11th Santa Shop open in library for student shopping
- Wednesday, December 16th Christmas sweater/shirt day
- Thursday, December 17th Toy Drive/Build a Beard ends – Who will wear the Santa suit?
6-8:00 p.m. – Skating Party at Round-Up Roller Rink
- Friday, December 18th PTC 25¢ PTC Wear a Santa Hat Day
Art Reach play for students
Holiday parties
Last day before Winter Break
- Monday, December 21st No school – first day of Winter Break
- Monday, January 4th School resumes
5-6:00 p.m. – Market Day pick-up
- Wednesday, January 6th Bookmobile
- Friday, January 8th PTC 25¢ Pajama Day



Kindergarten News – Mrs. Yeager, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Spurlock

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. Before the holiday our kindergarteners enjoyed sharing some class time with their grandparents. We had a great turnout and the grandparents were terrific as they assisted their own grandchildren and “adopted” the children who didn’t have a grandparent present.

In December we will be learning about:

Language Arts

Rhyming words

Opposites

Segmenting sound and writing the letter that makes the sound

Blending sounds to make words

Fantasy versus reality in stories

Making predictions about what will happen in a story

Continue working on letter names and sounds

Sight words

Math

Name, count and write numbers 0-20

Please continue to read with your child daily. It is extremely important in helping your child achieve in school. Also, please label anything that your child brings to school-money, lunch boxes, sweaters, coats, backpacks, etc. This will assist us in returning lost items and knowing what to do with the money your child gives to us. If your child does not know how to tie shoes or zip a coat yet, please continue to work on these skills at home. Our class Christmas party will be on the last day before winter break-December 18.

Hope your holiday season is happy and full of family moments you’ll always cherish!



1st Grade News – Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Vocke, Mrs. Ostermyer/Ms. Fiehrer

November has been a busy and eventful month for first grade. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast for the whole first grade. We shared potato soup, trail mix, and pumpkin bread while we watch Charlie Brown Thanksgiving.

Conferences were a great success this month and we thank everyone who attended their child’s conference and gained useful knowledge on how their child is doing in first grade.

In Math we have been working with addition and subtraction facts. The students have learned strategies to help them add and subtract such as counting on, using number lines, and using related facts. The students should be memorizing more and more of their addition and subtraction facts. If you need flash cards for home, please ask your child’s teacher and we will send them home for you to practice with your child.

The students have now learned all the short vowel sounds and should be comfortable sounding out many different words. Reading orally every night is the best way to help your child in first grade. Be sure to ask your child about the “Big” words that we are discussing in class. We are trying to improve their speaking vocabularies by introducing six new words each week.

In Science we have talked about plants and animals. The students explored many different habitats and discovered how plants and animals find their basic needs in their habitat. For Social Studies we have been discussing rules, laws, and communities. We have also started to learn various map skills.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. Keep reading!

2nd Grade News – Mrs. Ritzie, Mrs. Riggs, Mrs. Mazzeo

November was a busy month for our 2nd graders. We appreciate each parent for attending conferences and for taking such an interest in your child's education. We would also like to thank all of the families who sent items in to school for our Veteran's Day project. Each class was able to send a large box of items to our servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. This project was a huge success and we say a great big "THANK YOU!!!" to all who were able to help.

December looks to be just as busy for us as we prepare for interims and then Christmas break. As you know, interims are to be sent home on Friday, December 4th. If you have anything you would like to discuss regarding your child's interim report, please contact his/her teacher right away.

Each class will hold a Christmas party on Friday, December 18 at 2:45. Room parents for this party have already been notified so please be aware that they may be calling you for donations or to come and help. We would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2010!



4th Grade News – Mrs. Bonbright, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Green

4th grade math -- Students continue to use their mathematical knowledge to compute and solve many multi-step problems. While analyzing the problems, students are expected to use the information stated in each question to decide on a strategy to use, an operation (add, subtract, multiply or divide) to solve each step and then they check to make sure their answers are reasonable. When students use this plan it leads to class discussions about mathematics. The more your child talks about mathematics and feels confident in their explanations of solutions, the more they will connect concepts together. In class I ask them "How do you know your answer is reasonable?"; "Is your strategy the only way to approach the problem?"; and "Did anyone solve this problem differently?" Your child will gradually start looking for more than one solution as I continue to encourage them to prove what they know about solving math problems. Keep practicing multiplication and division facts; this helps your child demonstrate fluency in computation.

4th grade science -- While continuing our investigation of the physical science unit on Matter, students will be exploring the states of matter and measuring matter. This means your child will be expected to explain the importance of keeping conditions the same in an experiment and measuring/recording data accurately. Many connections will be made in this unit to other curriculum concepts. Students have already explored why having a standard unit of measure helps them accurately depict characteristics of solids, liquids and gases. Your child should share what they know of meters, liters and grams. We have discussed using appropriate tools for measuring matter -- graduated cylinders, balances with weights and meter sticks. Students will record observations and data gathered into tables. They will use this information to draw conclusions and make inferences. Line graphs, bar graphs and circle graphs will be used with their explanations in this unit. Your child will continue to describe and sort solids, liquids and gases based on the properties of the object(s). As the weather changes with the winter season, real life examples of changes in states of matter can be identified -- please discuss these with your child.

4th grade Social Studies/Language Arts -The Fourth Grade has been learning about historic Native American tribes in Ohio. We discovered that Shawnee showed the settlers how to make "Shawnee Cake", better known as corn bread. During their many celebrations the Indian people feasted on cornbread and deer meat. We decided to have our own feast and eat cornbread and "deer meat" (beef jerky). In Language Arts we have been working on understanding an author's perspective. When writers write, they often convey a message from a certain point of view. The point of view, or perspective, is the angle from which a story is told. This depends on who is telling the story. You can reinforce this concept with your child by having them read a short story and asking the following questions: How does the author feel about the topic? Why did the author write this selection? Is the author trying to influence the reader? The entire Fourth Grade is going on a field trip December, 10. We

will be attending the play "Holiday Follies A Family Holiday Festival" at the Taft Theatre. The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati is putting on the show. We will be discussing the different holidays or events associated with the season. Students will have the opportunity to learn about these holidays- Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanza and Winter Solstice, to name a few. Happy Holidays to everyone!!!!

5th Grade News – Mrs. Case, Mrs. Blevins, Mrs. Bianke

FIFTH GRADE DEMONSTRATIONS

What could you teach someone to do? Build a model? Tell a story? Prepare a special food?

Figure out what you could teach someone your age or younger and then write step-by-step directions. Number your directions and be specific. Put the directions and a diagram or picture on a poster to share. Bring in all the materials you will need and show everyone your creative demonstration!

Your grade will be based on your directions, your poster, how well you follow the directions, your demonstration and your originality and creativity.

Have fun preparing for it! Your choices are endless.

The fifth grade will be presenting their demonstrations on December 14,15,16 and 17th. Please ask your child what day and time and you are welcome to come and see it!

Happy Holidays from Room 206! We are currently beginning the Math Chapter on Division. For many students this presents a challenge, as they have not yet mastered their multiplication facts. If you're looking for great stocking stuffers, why not consider anything that will help reinforce their multiplication/division facts. Just using multiplication flash cards daily for 10 minutes helps. Also, many of our students enjoy the website: Freerice.com IT is a fun website that has plenty of Math practice, as well as other subjects....AND helps poor countries by donating rice for food.

Please remember that students should be showing you their weekly Spelling list each Monday. New words are attached to their planner. It helps to quiz these words each night to raise weekly Spelling test grades.

Finally, we are ending the Science chapter 3 about the 7 forms of Energy. Ask your child to describe how energy changes forms. Next unit we will build an open circuit when we student Electricity.

Now that progress reports have come home, it is the perfect time to assess what changes, if any, your child should make to improve their grades before the end of the 1st semester. I appreciate your continued support with reviewing and signing daily planners.

6th grade News – Ms. Blakley, Mrs. Lauer, Mrs. Vincent

Plans are underway for our 6th grade field trip to LaComedia. Please look for payment plan notices as Mrs. Vincent sends them home with students. If you have not paid the November payment, please do so promptly. We are excited about the trip and hope all students will participate.

Math intervention is going smoothly. Students are working diligently every Tuesday and Thursday to improve their math skills. Please contact Mrs. Lauer if you have any questions or concerns.

Students invited to participate in the reading intervention program received information a few weeks ago. All forms should be returned ASAP. The classes will begin after the winter break. Please contact Ms. Blakley if you have any questions or concerns.

WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Mrs. Stokes' class

Room 205: Stokes

Room 205 has already been busy this month. We enjoyed a field trip to the mall on the 2nd. While we were there we purchased games and toys to donate to the toy drive here at school. We are also creating Christmas cards for some of our adopt-a school-partners using the geometry shapes we've been studying this month. December is the perfect month to demonstrate compassion.

The class is looking forward to another field trip on the 10th to Entertainment Junction. While we are there we will be creating timelines of the American Railroad, experience a telling of A Christmas Carol and journey to the North Pole and receive a treat from Mrs. Claus. December is a busy month for all; we hope you find time to relax over our winter break! See you in the New Year!



Music News – Mrs. Froude

Second Grade is doing simple improvisation with turkey dinner items, and are working on creating small group rondos with pie names and unpitched percussion.

The Fourth Grade had an exciting November, highlighted by our fabulous trip to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. They are beginning to learn recorder this month, and I encourage families to pay the school fees if they have not already done so. The recorder portion of the school fees is \$5.00, and the instruments do not actually belong to the students until fees are paid. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Fifth and Sixth Grades have been working on ensemble playing of polyphonic rhythms, which means different patterns happening at the same time. We are using utility buckets to double as taiko drums. This is in preparation for improvisation and composition activities later.

Mrs. Drake's class has been doing a lot of movement activities and poems with leaves as a fall theme, working on many different ways to keep a steady beat.

Mrs. Stoke's class has done a lot of movement activities, which keep the beat throughout the body, and are now doing some bucket drumming to reinforce these concepts.

We hope to be able to schedule a visit by the woodwind quintet of the Cincinnati Symphony in January for grades 4-6. We have had a rhythmic fall!



Physical Education News – Mrs. Morris

As colder weather approaches, it becomes more of a challenge for families to find exercise opportunities. It is important to make sure exercise is a priority for your children though, even if the weather is inclement. Taking winter hikes, sled riding and building snowmen are fun winter type activities that provide exercise. If your family is lucky enough to belong to the YMCA, or a gym, or a church with a gym, you need to take full advantage of the activities offered there. Indoor exercise is also an option. Look for some exercise videos at the library, or clear a spot in your basement for rope jumping. It is too easy for children (and adults) to become sedentary with all the video and computer games available now.

I am becoming more and more familiar with my new students here at Cleveland. They have been very receptive to some new activities I have introduced. My goal for PE class is for my students to appreciate and give their best effort as we explore different types of movement opportunities. In order to be successful, they must be respectful to each other. Learning that everyone is at a different level of fitness and skill development is an important piece of my classroom environment. Please check your child's weekly schedule and make sure they have tennis shoes on their PE days.

My classes will be working on some upper body strength activities, which is usually their weakest area of fitness. I will encourage everyone to just give their best, and work on improvement as the year progresses. They may need to do some PE Homework in order to improve! Students will be swinging on the rope, climbing the rope, climbing the rock wall, and using the power climber and pull up bars. Please give your child as many climbing opportunities as possible. It is great for developing strength and agility. Have a safe and sweaty (because you're exercising) Holiday Season!



Computer Lab News – Ms. Cole

Happy Holidays from the Computer Lab. I have nothing new to report. We are continuing the programs we have been using all year.

I would like to congratulate the students listed below on their Fastmath success. Quite a few have completed their assignments. Please keep checking for your student's name in upcoming editions of the Courier. Just a reminder that daily practice with your student's current fact assignment will help promote success in computer lab.

MULTIPLICATION 0-12

Randi Johnson
Eric Bowling
Alexis Knight
Kaylyn Linneman
Taylor Miller
Zane Farris
Bryce Denholm
Brooke Hartford
Laykin Lucas
Erik Bravo
Kelly Askew
Kennedy Sizemore
Charlie Thomas
Ryli Pearson
Dayshawn Mays
Emily Henderson
Kayla Long

ADDITION 0-9

Claire Cashdollar
Holli Keillor

DIVISION 0-12

Timothy Oh

DIVISION 0-9

Alexis Knight
Dylan Meeker
Peyton Morris
Holden Ulrich
Ryan Kellum
Aaron Tabor
Rebecca Lahrmann
Courtnei Hooker
Amy Schultheiss
Kendra Noel
Rachel Davis
Autumn Moncada
Austin Hibbard
Jacob Metzler
Briana Proffitt

ADDITION 0-12

Damon Bailey
Daniel Brunck



Library News – Mrs. Haight

We have had two very successful fundraisers this school year – School Mall and Scholastic Book Fair. We raised \$756.03 with School Mall and \$1,244.01 with the Book Fair. Thank you to everyone for your support!

Primary students completed an author study of Robert Munsch by writing letters and drawing pictures of their favorite book. These have been mailed to him and we are eagerly awaiting a reply, and maybe even a school visit if we are lucky enough!

Please check out our “Gratitude Wall” when you are in the building. Students reflected upon that which they are grateful and wrote down on paper their thoughts and added them to the wall.

I am very proud of our kindergarten students who are now famous authors and illustrators! Each student made a page for a class book in library class. I am sure they will be happy to tell you all about it.

If your child has overdue/missing books, please help him/her locate the books.

Meet our Cleveland Staff

Name	<u>Mrs. Janet Cornett</u>
School position	<u>School Secretary</u>
How many years in education?	<u>13 years</u>
Favorite things about working in schools-	<u>“Getting to know the students. Each day is different. It’s never boring!”</u>
Family Information	<u>“I am the 3rd oldest in a family of 11 children. I have a son who is 25 years old and married. He and his wife have a daughter, my only grandchild. My daughter is 30 years old and live in Columbus, OH, where she for OSU.</u>
Favorite Food	<u>Cheeseburgers! My dad made the best.</u>
Favorite place to visit	<u>Germany – My daughter-in-law is from Germany and We plan to visit her family for 2 weeks this summer.</u>

Name	<u>Mrs. Jennifer Ritzie</u>
School position	<u>2nd grade teacher</u>
How many years in education?	<u>13 years</u>
Favorite things about working in schools-	<u>“Kids say the funniest things! My students always keep me laughing.</u>
Family Information	<u>Husband Mike; daughters Caroline (age 8) and Isabelle (age 5)</u>
Favorite Food	<u>Seafood (lobster)</u>
Favorite Place to Visit	<u>Paradise Island in the Bahamas (or...Kohl’s!)</u>

