



# Messages from McDole



From Mrs. McCoy:

February 2010

Dear McDole Parents,

In this edition of our newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some exciting things happening at McDole in an effort to meet the School Improvement Goal for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the last School Improvement Day, teachers spent the afternoon working on one of our School Improvement Goals. They spent some time grading extended response probes that students had written. The information teachers gained from this process has helped them in their planning to help students grow in their ability to write a response after reading a passage. A critical element to this process is for students to recall information from the text and add their own thinking on the subject as they answer the question.

Recently, students and staff participated in Expectation Walks. Expectation Walks are a series of teaching the skills and behaviors we want students to do in common areas of the school building (hallways, stairs, entrances, bathrooms, lunch, recess, assemblies). We have recently implemented our Safety Patrol with the help of some responsible 5<sup>th</sup> graders! The Safety Patrol helps at dismissal in reminding students of the expectations we learn.

We have a building full of outstanding students! We have wonderful spellers, thinkers, readers and problem solvers! We have a building filled with students who are mindful of others thoughts and feelings and conduct themselves with good citizenship and respect. We are so proud of all of our students and know you are too!

Martne McCoy

## Calendar of Events

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 6  | Talent Show Dress Rehearsal<br>Gym 2:00 -5:00 p.m.             |
| Feb. 8  | Young Rembrandts<br>3:25-4:35 p.m.                             |
| Feb. 9  | Jim Gill for Early Childhood<br>Families at KSS 6:00-7:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 12 | Valentine's Day Party<br>2:30 p.m.                             |
| Feb. 15 | President's Day—NO SCHOOL                                      |
| Feb. 16 | Fun Lunch<br>PTO Meeting at KSS<br>7:00 p.m.                   |
| Feb. 19 | Progress Reports Go Home<br>Talent Show 6:30 p.m.              |
| Feb. 22 | Young Rembrandts<br>3:35-4:35 p.m.                             |
| Feb. 23 | Southern District Band Concert<br>KSS at 7:00 p.m.             |
| Feb. 26 | Institute Day—NO SCHOOL  |

## Important Reminder

Students are not permitted on school property before 8:30 a.m. After 8:30 a.m. supervision is provided by the school for the students. Thank you for following the rules of the school that were established for the safety of the students. Also, when dropping off children, please remember to use the west parking lot only.





## THIRD GRADE

To kick off the third quarter, our third grade students will begin their next science rotation. Additionally, they will be learning about geometry in their flexible math groups. The students have been working on problem solving in math. They are learning how to write extended responses. We are looking forward to a great quarter with lots of learning.

### KINDERGARTEN

This month in Kindergarten we have been discussing winter weather, winter activities and snowmen. We have also been doing an author study of Jan Brett. The children love all of the details she provides in her illustrations. They are making book-to-book connections with characters, page layouts, and plots. We are getting very close to the 100th day of school which is very exciting for the children!

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

We have been learning about letters and numbers in Early Childhood, and the difference between the two. We learned that there are "Big Letters" (capital) and "Little Letters" (lowercase). Our names all start with Big Letters! Our p.m. class is continuing to work on writing letters using the Handwriting without Tears curriculum, and is doing a great job! We have played lots of fun games to reinforce what we've been learning, and we read several wonderful books (our favorites were Alphabet Mystery and The Three Pigs.) We reenacted the story of the three pigs, counting our steps to each of the houses. Everyone had a turn to be both a pig and the Bid Bad Wolf. Which was more fun! Definitely the wolf!

### SECOND GRADE

Second grade has begun working on research projects. Our students will each be choosing a president and finding information using books or computers. Soon they will be writing a research paper or putting together a poster showing their information, which they will be presenting to the class. All of the second graders will have also begun cursive by the beginning of February. They are very excited about cursive!

### FIRST GRADE


I wonder...What if...I don't understand...It confused me...How could...are some of the questions first graders are asking themselves about their reading as they delve into the comprehension strategy of questioning. The students are also exploring outer space learning about the earth, sun and moon. Beginning this month, first graders will be participating in an exciting program called Read to the Principal! After reading fifty books, students will have the opportunity to read a book of their choice to either Mrs. McCoy or Mr. Gordon. At the end of the year, all students who read 100 books will celebrate by attending the Read to the Principal Carnival.

### FOURTH GRADE



Tales of a Fourth Grade *Something*

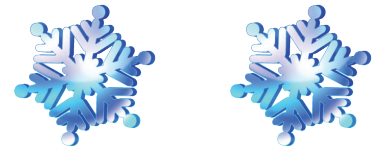
Fourth graders are participating in a new opportunity to have fun with books! Tales of a Fourth Grade Something is the name of our new student book club. On Fridays during one of our morning dailies, students are meeting with teachers in small groups to share and discuss their thinking about 1 of 6 wonderful books. The teachers facilitating the book clubs presented all 4th graders with book talks about each title then gave ballots to vote on the title they were most interested in. We are all very excited to get together to talk about the fun we are having with these books! Exciting plot, interesting character names, thrilling mystery and unusual setting lured students to join the club to discuss Stone Fox, Rules, Crossing Jordan, The Ghost Children, and Each Little Bird That Sings. All 4th graders will have the opportunity to be involved in a book club this year if they wish. Join us by reading along at home!



### FIFTH GRADE

The fifth graders are taking part in a new program. McDole's first safety patrol program is beginning the week of February 1st. Under the direction of Mrs. Hanson and Mr. Gordon, seven fifth grade students will begin patrolling the hallways during dismissal. Interested students were asked to write a letter telling what qualities they have that would make them a good safety patrol. The following fifth grade students were chosen to be McDole's first safety patrol squad: Nathan Brown, Taylor Heiser, Lauren Maki, Charity Montalbano, Allison Northrop, Hannah Peters and Lindsey Vranicar. We are very proud of these students for their willingness to help.

Where did all of this snow and ice come from? It may have been caused by second grade reading The Blizzard by Betty Ren Wright. We have been working on questioning and sensory images. We could hear the wind blowing, see the beautiful white flakes, feel the cold on our hands, smell the warm fire burning inside the house, and taste the snowflakes on our tongues. Good readers create sensory images every time they read. We also asked questions before reading, during reading and after reading the story. Good readers ask questions every time they read. Ask your child to share their thinking and sensory images with you when they are reading at home.



## Literacy Class

### Annual Report for 2009

<u>Month Name</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	1.06	5.30
February	0.97	4.85
March	1.22	6.10
April	0.62	3.10
May	0.67	3.35
June	1.40	7.00
July	0.27	1.35
August	0.49	2.45
September	0.64	3.20
October	0.80	4.00
November	0.67	3.35
December	0.61	3.05
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TOTAL:	9.42	\$47.10

## PAPER RETRIEVER PROGRAM



Thank you to all the people that have helped McDole and the environment by recycling paper in our Paper Retriever recycling bin.

Here is the 2009 report of how many tons of paper we recycled as well as the amount of money

McDole has received. The money has been used to help support the KNIGHTs program.

## BETWEEN FRIENDS FOOD PANTRY

Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Canned Fruit & Vegetables  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Cereal  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Pastas  
Pancake Mix and Syrup

The Sugar Grove pantry serves all of the Kaneland School District areas. If you could help with any of the following items and send them to school with your child, we would greatly appreciate it.



Juice  
Baby Food & Diapers  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish Soap and Cleansers  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Soap and other Toiletries  
Feminine Products  
Baggies, Garbage Bags  
Pet Food

Visit our website: [www.sugargrovefoodpantry.org](http://www.sugargrovefoodpantry.org)

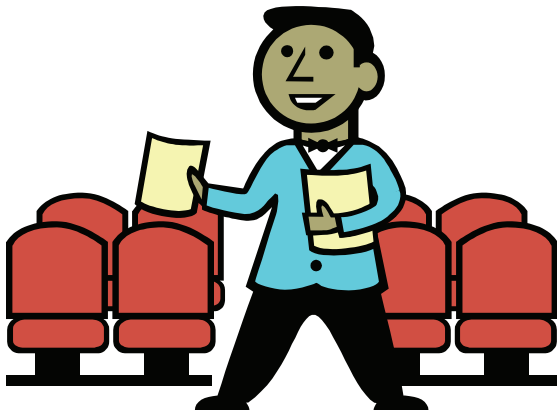
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

## The Kaneland Community Fine Arts Festival 2nd Annual Juried Art Show

The KCFAF is accepting submissions for the 2nd Annual Juried Art Show. Artists, ages 18 years and older, are invited to enter photos or pdfs of 2D and 3D media artworks for consideration into the show. All chosen artwork will then be judged by a panel of professional artists and cash prizes will be awarded to first through third place winners. This year, the Sugar Grove Public Library will be hosting the show April 1–30th. The awards reception will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 18th, at the Kaneland Community Fine Arts Festival. Submissions are due postmarked by February 15th. If you are interested in participating in the Juried Art Show, please contact Bonnie Whildin at 630-365-8170, ext. 119 or [bonnie.whildin@kaneland.org](mailto:bonnie.whildin@kaneland.org).



## The Kaneland Community Fine Arts Festival announces The Kaneland Community Summer Theatre Production



The Kaneland Community Fine Arts Festival will be producing a musical for the last performance in its Inaugural Season of the Festival Performance Series. The KCFAF is pleased to invite any interested person, ages 8 and older, to audition to be in the Kaneland Community Summer Theatre production of "The Music Man," directed by Diane McFarland. Auditions will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, May 21 2010 at 6:30 p.m. for all participants 13 years and older. Auditions for participants 8 years to 12 years will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Callbacks will be posted by 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 22nd for those participants being called back from the 9:00 a.m. audition. Participants from the Wednesday and Friday auditions will receive a call from the stage manager. Callbacks will begin promptly at noon on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Please visit the KCFAF website for a complete schedule and audition information and requirements. [www.kanelandartsfestival.org](http://www.kanelandartsfestival.org) Questions can be directed to Diane McFarlin at 630-365-5100, ext. 208 or [diane.mcfarlin@kaneland.org](mailto:diane.mcfarlin@kaneland.org).

### School Improvement Goals for 2009-2010 School Year

**Goal 1:** During the 09-10 school year, use established rubric and probes (from 08-09 SIP) to develop grade level baselines for measuring student improvement of comprehension skills on the reading extended response for the purpose of facilitating student learning.

**Goal 2:** Increase student awareness of consistent school-wide behavioral expectations to promote a safe and positive learning community measured by the completion of the following activities: expectation walks, knight tickets, and the use of a safety patrol during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Goal 3:** Maintain community awareness of student successes at McDole during the 2009-2010 school year by communicating monthly with the district, parents and the local community.