



Messages from McDole

From Mrs. McCoy:

October 2010

I hope you are able to enjoy many of the fun fall activities that living in the Midwest provides. With the fall season comes the holiday of Halloween. On Friday, **October, 29th** McDole students will celebrate **Halloween**. Students can wear costumes that allow them to continue learning that day. We ask that props that accompany costumes stay at home. The PTO has done an outstanding job of helping identify snack ideas that comply with the district's health and wellness policy. During the party, students can enjoy one treat, one drink and one game, craft or activity. The classroom party will begin at 2:30 and the parade will begin at 3:00. Let's hope for clear skies so that the parade can be enjoyed outside! In the event of rain, a shortened parade will be inside the school through the gym.

For the safety of our students, I would like to remind parents who drive to school to pick up or drop off their students to use the west parking lot. You can park your car and walk to meet your student at the exit or stay in the car and have your child meet you in the west lot. Thanks you for your patience and cooperation in getting students home safely

During the month of September, teachers participated in two School Improvement Days. The district was able to secure, through grant money, two nationally renowned speakers, Richard Dufour and Rebecca Dufour. The presentation included many key points in the Professional Learning Community concept and what we as a staff can do to focus on student learning. Teachers also worked with other teachers across the district on identifying expected outcomes for each grade.

On behalf of the McDole staff, we look forward to working with you during Parent Teacher conferences to discuss the progress each student is making in their learning at this point in the school year! Parent Teacher conferences are Wednesday, November 3rd after school from 4:00-8:00 and Thursday, November 4th from 10:00-8:00. There is no school on Thursday (11/4) or Friday (11/5).

Your Partner in Learning,

Martne McCoy
Principal

Calendar of Events

- 15th Family Fun Night 7-9pm
- 18th PTO Sugar Grove Community Center
- 19th Fun Lunch
- 20th Spanish Club 3:35-4:45
- 19th District RTI Night (HMS)
Harter Middle School 6:30
- 22nd First Quarter Ends
- 25th Chess Scholars 3:35-4:35
Young Rembrandts 3:35-4:35
- 27th Spanish Club 3:35-4:35
- 29th Halloween Parade 3:00

November

- 1st Report Cards sent home
Chess Scholars 3:35-4:35
- 2nd Fun Lunch
- 3rd Parent Teacher Conferences
- 4th Parent Teacher Conferences
- 5th No School



Fall is Here



NEWS

District RTI Night is at Harter Middle School (HMS) on October 18, 2010 6:30

Meeting will be in the Cafatorium

KINDERGARTEN

October is a very exciting month in Kindergarten! We started the month with a fieldtrip to Keller's Farmstand in Oswego. We were able to pet and learn about many farm animals, walk to the pumpkin patch and the apple orchard, and see how they grow. We learned a lot about what farmers do during harvesting season. Last week we had a "Fire Safety" assembly and even got to sit in a fire truck! The fire-fighters told us how important it is to know our phone number and address in case of an emergency. Make sure to practice them at home with your kindergartner! Back in the class-room, we will continue to learn about autumn while studying trees, apples and pumpkins.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

We have been enjoying our sports unit in Early Childhood. We made soccer balls using white circles and black squares, and brought in lots of different sports-related items for Show & Tell! It has been fun to practice kicking and throwing - and to practice counting in the process! We are also learning about fall and the many changes that occur at this time of year. We will celebrate the season with a trip to Kuipers' Farm, and then "write" a story about our experiences that day. Happy Fall!

SECOND GRADE

As the first quarter comes to an end, second grade continues to be very busy. Our students are changing classrooms for Math, and are able to move through the same curriculum at a pace that is suited to their ability. All second graders will continue to focus on math facts, and Rocket Math is a really fun way to keep us motivated! The changing of the seasons has been a fun topic as well. Second graders are looking forward to the Fall Parade on October 29th at 3:00. We are also excited to participate in the first Fun Run on October 15th. We hope parents and families will come out to cheer us on from 1:15 until 2:00!

FIRST GRADE

First grade has had a very busy October! They are learning how to make text-to-self connections as they read. We have found that the author, Kevin Henkes, who writes such stories as Owen and Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, has great books to easily make connections! The students are learning automaticity with addition facts through the use of Rocket Math! In writing we are using details to support our main idea. We look forward to a wonderful November and talking with parents at conferences.

FOURTH GRADE

When you walk through the hallway on the 2nd floor, you will experience a sense of what our native prairie may have been like many years ago. Many of our 4th graders have worked on "growing" a life-sized prairie as part of their studies this quarter. Both types of prairie plants; forbs and grasses, are represented with information cards to teach others what we have learned. Please make sure to come upstairs and take a walk through the Big Bluestem, rattlesnake master, switchgrass, and many other native plants.

Also, 4th graders have begun their fundraiser to support our trip to Springfield in April. Delicious Butterbraid pastries can fill your freezers and stomachs while supporting our students as they prepare to experience first-hand what they are studying about their state, our 16th president and their government. Order forms were sent home to all families if you wish to order. Additional forms can be found on Kconnect.

NEWS from the CLASSROOMS



FIFTH GRADE

We are very excited about having a 5th grade student council this year. The fifth grade student council is comprised of two representatives from each homeroom that were elected by their classmates. The following students are on the student council: Sienna Chavez, Ryan Hammond, Emma Luedtke, Alex Montalbano, Megan Weber, Katie Moore, Nick Zoppa and Megan Andrzejewski. The students will meet 1-2 times each month to plan activities for McDole students and plan community service projects as well. One of the first undertakings of the council was to come up with fun themes for some of the monthly spirit days. We are looking forward to a great year!

THIRD GRADE

First quarter has been very busy for our third graders. We have begun our math flexible groups and the students have enjoyed meeting new teachers and learning in different classrooms. Some of the students have also enjoyed using the digital whiteboard during math lessons. Ms. McCombs and Mrs. Norton's classes have been studying the nutrition pyramid and bike and pedestrian safety. The students enjoyed learning about germs and bacteria with a fun experiment. Miss Kokes' class started a social studies unit on a whaling community from the 1840's. They have enjoyed learning how whalers on large ships caught the whales and how many jobs in the community involved making items from different parts of the whales. Mrs. Mueller's students are learning about the human body and how bones, joints and muscles work together to help their bodies move. They were very excited to tape their fingers together and complete different activities in a lesson about joints. We look forward to seeing you all at conferences in a few weeks.



Speech-Language Topic of the Month

Dear Parents:

In the fall, many parents often ask how they can help their children develop better speech and language skills. Because some of the skills basic to reading are essential to good oral communication, listening and language development, it is recommended that parents read to their children.

- Make a habit of reading to your child and letting your child read to you every day.
- Select easy to follow, familiar stories for young children. A child will ask you to read the story repeatedly because emphasis will be placed on different aspects of the story each time it is heard.
- Change the story slightly at times, or substitute an incorrect word. See if the changes are noticed and if your child can correct the errors.
- Stop reading in mid-sentence, and let your child finish the sentence.
- Read a sentence or paragraph; then ask your child to tell you what might happen next in the story.
- A child who cannot read may enjoy looking at the pictures in a familiar book. Encourage the child to tell you the story or to make up a different story to go with the pictures.

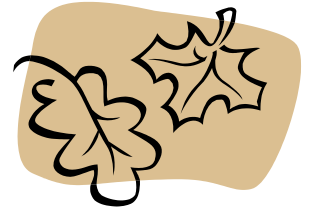
Children of all ages enjoy a special reading time with a parent or older sibling. Try to plan a reading time so that your child can relax and enjoy a good story. A sense of humor will add to the fun, build on your child's imagination, and reinforce a love of reading books.



Specials

In Art Classes, students are wrapping up projects for Art To Remember. Ordering packets will be going home in early November. Check out the new products when you order.

We'd also like to congratulate Brandon Abordo, in 2nd grade whose artwork was selected for the IAEA traveling art show. The ceremony is the first weekend of November, and the IAEA Traveling Art show will be on display at the Sugar Grove library for the month of January.



Computer Class

The beginning of the 2010-2011 school year has been GREAT! The students and staff here at McDole have been wonderful in welcoming me to the school. We have a lot in store for the different grade levels in computer class. First grade is when our students begin computer classes. There is a great deal for our first graders to learn, everything they are doing is new to them, so we start out with the basics. The first graders are having a wonderful time learning how to login/logout of the computers. They are learning how to properly use the mouse through exercises that teach them when and how to use single and double clicks. All of these skills and even more will help to familiarize our first graders with computers so they will have the necessary skill set to be effective and efficient computer users. Basic computer parts and their appropriate names are also part of the first grade curriculum, as knowing the names of the monitor, keyboard, mouse and other parts of the computer help the students be better able to discuss any issues they may be experiencing with their computers. First graders have been using Bailey's Book House to help with literacy. They are having fun learning math concepts with Millie's Math House. McDole parents please remember that Mr. Berger's website (see below) has links to educational websites that are great for helping your child to increase not only their knowledge, but their computer awareness as well. Thanks!

<http://teacherweb.com/IL/KanelandMcDole/MrBerger/>

Mr. Wolf

NEW FRONTIERS

A Social Experience for kids with ADHD & Aspergers.

Where: Johnson's Mound, on Hughes Road in Elburn, IL

When: October 16, 2010

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ages: 8 – 14

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

No Cost

This Eagle Project is a program for kids with social difficulties to expose them to some outdoor activities as well as communication, teamwork, & problem solving activities designed to bring them out of their comfort zones and to build their confidence.

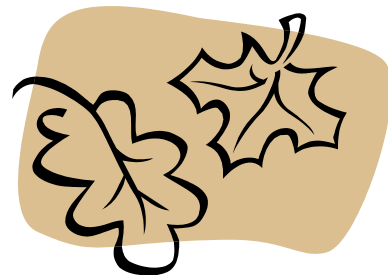
Introduction to Outdoor Skills Games & Activities exposing participants to...

Communication Skills Basic First Aid

Teamwork Skills Building a Campfire & Campfire Safety

Problem Solving Skills

Please contact Richard Williams at cloudflierx@yahoo.com for more information and to register.



Students are not permitted unattended 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.

Important Reminder

**Community Resource (Sugar Grove)
Between Friends Food Pantry
52 Wheeler (in the EEI building
across from the car wash on Rt. 47)
A choice food pantry is available to
Kaneland Families food is available
Thursdays from 5-7 p.m.- no appt.
necessary!**

Holiday Spirit

Holiday Spirit is a program that helps Kaneland area families during the holiday season who are experiencing financial crisis. It is a joint effort between the Kaneland School District, service and professional organizations, churches, local businesses, and Conley Outreach/West Towns Human Services.

If you are looking for assistance - applications for assistance are due October 29th.

If you are looking to donate or adopt a family in the Holiday Spirit program- please contact Nicole Pryor at 630-466-8500 x 108

BETWEEN FRIENDS

The Sugar Grove pantry serves all of the Kaneland School District areas. We have a drop off bin in the front hallway across from the office for your convenience. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated by the needy families in our community.

Visit our website: www.sugargrovefoodpantry.org



Calling all Jewel shoppers -

If you are not collecting the Jewel pots and pans stickers for yourself, please do not throw them away or decline them at checkout- send them to school with your child ☺. The Holiday Spirit committee is collecting them. They will be giving the pots and pans to families this Holiday season.

SIP Goals:

Behavior: By May 2012, 85% of students will consistently exhibit all behavioral expectations as defined on the behavioral matrix, to promote a positive learning community.

Math: : By May 2011-2012 school year, 85% of all students (1st-5th) will meet or exceed all specific grade level basic math fact benchmark goals.

Writing: By May 2011-2012 school year, using a common grade level writing rubric, 85% of students will meet or exceed expectations on a common writing assessment piece.