



Messages from McDole

November 2008

From Mrs. Eggleston:

November 21, 2008

Dear Parents,

It is almost time to flip that calendar and December will be upon us. Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the many activities taking place at McDole during the month of December. Holiday concerts for first, third, and fourth grades will be on December 2nd and 3rd. Details were sent home to those students by our music teachers. Our school wide Spelling Bee will take place on December 17th in the gym at 1:45. McDole's classroom holiday parties will be on December 19th from 2:30 - 3:30. I look forward to seeing many of you join us for these activities.

I would like to thank our PTO for providing our McDole families with the Mom/Son Fling on November 15th and the Family Fun Night on October 17th. We appreciate all your efforts. A good time was had by all that attended.

On November 11th, McDole students celebrated Veteran's Day with a short assembly in the multipurpose room. Our scouts presented the colors and we said the pledge together. We watched a short video without sound. Unfortunately, our speakers were not working. However, our students did a fabulous job focusing their attention on what they could see. We are grateful for the men and women who serve in the military in times of war and peace. It was a privilege to say thank you to all American veterans for their service and honor them for their sacrifices.

Happy Thanksgiving to all! Enjoy your time with family and friends.

Fran Eggleston
Principal

Calendar of Events

Dec. 1	Holiday Drawing Camp 3:35—4:35 p.m. Market Day Pick Up 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Holiday Concerts
Dec. 3	Holiday Concerts
Dec. 8	Holiday Drawing Camp 3:35—4:35 p.m.
Dec. 9	Fun Lunch
Dec. 15	Holiday Drawing Camp 3:35—4:35 p.m.
Dec. 17	School Spelling Bee in McDole Gym at 1:45 p.m. PTO 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 18	First Grade Field Trip To DuPage Children's Museum 9:10—12:00
Dec. 19	Classroom Holiday Parties 2:30—3:30 p.m.
Dec. 22 -	
Jan. 2	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break





NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS



Kindergarten

Things are going great in kindergarten! We are quickly building our word wall and learning our words by incorporating them into games such as Memory, Go Fish, and Bingo. We have all finished our Jolly Phonics reading wall as well. Every student had a chance to be an expert of a letter and teach the class about that letter. As part of our social studies, we have been talking about how everybody is different and unique. We talked about different ways that people are different and that is okay. We should always be respectful of everybody! In kindergarten, we are also learning about and practicing table manners since Thanksgiving is on its way. We are learning about the first Thanksgiving as well and what it means to be thankful. Happy Thanksgiving!

First Grade

First graders are studying author Kevin Henkes this month. We are finding his books to be a great way to think about making connections! Using our "shades of blue" as a guide, we are having a lot of fun making deeper, more meaningful connections than we've done before. We are also continuing our work as geologists, exploring pebbles, sand, and silt.

Second Grade

The second grade classes have been busy collecting new hats and gloves for kids in your area. Don't forget to send yours in! There are collection buckets near all second grade classrooms. We also went on a field trip to the Morton Arboretum on November 14th. We were happy to see the rain clear up before we took our hikes. Our guides showed us lots of different kinds of trees. The kids got to see all kinds of critters that rely on those trees for food and homes. We learned the difference between red oaks, burr oaks, white oaks, and a few others. A few lucky groups also spotted deer walking just a few yards away! Thank you to all the wonderful parents who volunteered to chaperone this chilly trip!

Early Childhood

We have been working hard on letters and numbers the past few weeks in EC. This year, we have introduced the "Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum, a multi-sensory approach to learning letter and number formation, and the kids love it! This past week, we painted with cars on number "tracks" and sorted foam letters and numbers hidden in our sand table. There are so many fun ways to learn!

Third Grade

The third grade students have been at work learning their multiplication facts. They've learned tons of different tips and tricks for trying to remember all of the numbers up to 12. If you're looking for some additional reinforcement at home, the third grade teachers recommend the following websites which offer fun, interactive ways to retain the basic facts:

<http://www.gamequarium.com/math.htm>

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/cathymath.html>

Fourth Grade

What do you get when you cross an octopus with a plus sign? An octoplus! What kind of dog tells time? A watchdog! You may be wondering what these jokes have to do with fourth grade curriculum. The fourth graders are practicing their reading comprehension skills by making solid inferences while they read. One way to practice this skill and to make it concrete is to practice solving jokes and riddles. Everyone makes inferences when figuring out jokes and riddles, but you may not have known the fancy term for this. The students use their background knowledge and evidence from the text to make a solid inference about what is happening or could happen in the story. This important comprehension strategy gives the students the opportunity to use what they already know and their great thinking to understand all kinds of text!

Fifth Grade

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It's another Rebecca Caudill book flying off the shelf of a fifth grade classroom library. Thanks to the generosity of the 2007-2008 PTO, a classroom set of the Rebecca Caudill books was purchased for each fifth grade classroom. Our fifth graders are enjoying reading these wonderful books. We look forward to voting for our favorite Rebecca Caudill book this spring. Happy reading, fifth graders.

WOW! We already have one quarter under our belts and have seen wonderful progress from our reading students. RTI and Reading Resource groups are really making a difference and helping our students become more successful readers. All of the students' hard work is paying off and we are all seeing results. Remember to keep reading at home every night!

READING



Ms. Maz has teamed up with Mr. Scott's class to do a Reader's Theater about the Boston Tea Party. The students practiced their lines to make sure they knew all the words and were reading with good expression and phrasing. They also learned that "the colonists were angry that the King taxed the tea, so they dressed up as Indians and threw the tea off the boat." Quote by Jose Chavez. Check out the McDole website to watch a video of our Reader's Theaters.

LITERACY CLASS

This month 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are learning while reading. We share our meaningful questions and talk about how the question helps us understand the story. Often our questions help us understand the setting, problem, solution, character, and author's message. Encourage your child to share their questions with you while reading at home.

CROSS CATEGORICAL

Mrs. Kolk's second grade math students have been working very hard on learning about place value. They are reading, writing and building numbers into the thousands. It has been challenging, but fun!



ART



Art just finished its annual fundraiser "Art to Remember." The money we raised will go towards creating a tile mosaic similar to the ones found in the other elementary schools. Thanks to all the parents who helped get us closer to our goal!

CHALLENGE

In 5th grade Challenge reading, we are finishing up reading *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by watching the movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. Next week, we will be working on research on projects connected to the book (gemstones, cyclones, LF Baum, fairy tales...)

In 4th grade Challenge reading, we are in the middle of Independent Study Projects. They range in topics from the invention of Legos, Walter Payton, and skateboarding, to solar panels and the discovery of electricity. We are hoping to put together an open house night for parents to see all of the projects.

In 5th grade Challenge math, we are working hard on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and soon dividing fractions, percents and decimals. We are also looking forward to working with Mrs. Lannert's class on a million dollar project! Have a great holiday and hit the stores early on Friday for the best sales!

MUSIC

Students in 1st, 3rd, and 4th grade are busy preparing for the upcoming holiday concerts. The 1st graders will be singing a variety of tunes from Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanzaa celebrations. The third graders will be performing a mini-musical called, *The Littlest Christmas Tree*. The fourth graders will be presenting a rhyming script with songs about various holiday traditions and celebrations. We look forward to seeing you there!

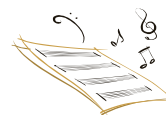
Tuesday, December 2nd

1st and 3rd grade concert begins at 6:30

Classes: Bright, Steimel, Schieber, Kokes and Rink

4th grade concert begins at 7:30

Classes: Piccony and Olsen



Wednesday, December 3rd

1st and 3rd grade concert begins at 6:30

Classes: Roderick, Ortiz, McCombs and Olma

4th grade concert begins at 7:30

Classes: Schumacher and Wold

IRP

Through our Handwriting Without Tears curriculum we are learning about the magical letter C and how it can become other letters and even numbers! We have enjoyed listening to repeating readings of stories and creating our own versions. We even made silly rhymes with our names and sat upon Humpty Dumpty's wall. And did you know that Hickory Dickory Dock's Clock can strike more than just once?



During November and December, McDole will be focusing on the Citizenship pillar. What better way to show our good character than helping out a family less fortunate this holiday season. For the fourth year in a row, we will be helping the Holiday Spirit program as a "Character Counts" project. Holiday Spirit is a joint effort program that assists Kaneland area families during the holiday season who are experiencing financial crisis. You can help put a smile on a child's face this holiday season.

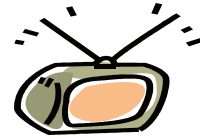
This year, McDole will be helping the Holiday Spirit program by holding a Toy Drive. From now until December 5th, you can help by dropping off or sending toy(s) with your child to school. These toys should be new, unwrapped and age appropriate for children age 0-17.

This is a voluntary community service project. Please do not feel that your family must make a donation to the Holiday Spirit toy drive.

If you have questions, please contact Vikki Moeller, School Social Worker, at 897-1961 ext. 142.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT



McDole Television (mTV)

McDole Television (mTV) is a weekly LIVE student broadcast showing to all of the classrooms within our elementary school. Currently, Mrs. Olsen, Mr. Berger and Mrs. Carlson are the staff personnel that oversee the production of the broadcast. Fourth and Fifth Grade students are able to sign up to be a part of the production. Different students are selected each week to be reporters, camera operators, and cue card holders. All parts of the production are student-created. The hope is to have as many students participate as are interested in the project. The goal of this project is to utilize writing, interviewing and technology skills to promote areas of life-long learning and real-life application of curricula.

These videos are available to view at <http://www.kaneland.org/kme/>. Look for the mTV news article. The videos are currently password protected. This is for child safety. The case-sensitive password for viewing these videos is KMERocks. This should allow you to subscribe to these videos via RSS feed for those that use itunes or other similar programs.

Congratulations to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students who took part in the written round of the Spelling Bee! We are proud of your efforts! The following are the top spellers who have earned the honor of participating in the 3rd Annual McDole Spelling Bee on Wednesday, December 17th at 1:45 p.m. in the gymnasium.

GRADE 3

Miss Kokes: Kimberly Jennings, Nehemiah Lee

Ms. McCombs: Mustafa Ali, Megan Andrzejewski, Domenic Tiani

Mrs. Olma: Clark Turek

Miss Rink: Gedi Njoya, Michael Rivas, Iliana Saucedo, Jessica Storck

GRADE 4

Mrs. Olsen: Angel Escontrias, Ben Lycan, Samantha Nuno, Sabeen Rahman

Mrs. Piccony: Allison Northrop

Miss Schumacher: Matthew Buhrt, Brant Chiesa, Tyler Ledone, Bryan Zollinger

Mrs. Wold: Meghan McCully

GRADE 5

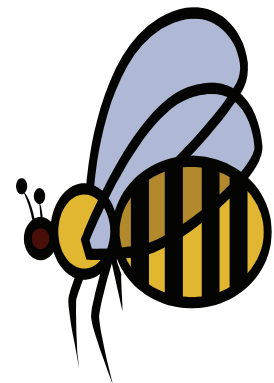
Mrs. Kuntz: Armando Ayala

Mrs. Lannert: Kasi Garcia, Noble Hwang, Mark Lilly, Jake Marczuk, Arianna Rabiola

Miss Pokrandt: Ashley Garcia, Jake Swindle

Mr. Scott: Julia Coulter, Steel Gray

SPELLING BEE WINNERS!





2nd Semester Milk Money Orders

Just a reminder to parents that the 2nd semester milk money orders are due January 7 to go into effect January 20.



LOST AND FOUND

Please check out the lost and found in the front office. We have collected many items and the bin is overflowing. You may be pleasantly surprised to find some items you thought were long gone.

RECESS WINTER RULES

Children will be outside for recess if the wind chill is zero degrees or above. Students must wear appropriate clothing to play in snow:

Grades K-3: Snow pants and boots

Grades 4-5: Boots

Refer to page 7 of the Parent Handbook.



NEWS FROM THE BILINGUAL TEAM

ELL / BILINGUAL TEAM

The Kaneland district's Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee ("PAC") held the first of four meetings for this school year on Thursday, November 13, from 6:30 until 8:00. The purpose of the committee and the focus of the meetings are to improve our bilingual programs and the educational success of our students. Future PAC meeting dates selected by the district are:

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

The meeting times are from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in McDole's Multipurpose Room and there is always babysitting available in the school library. District administrators plan to rotate attendance at the meetings to present information and answer questions. Mrs. Eve Rivera has volunteered to be the PAC President. All ELL parents and others who are interested in the bilingual programs are welcome to attend and participate on the committee.

At this time of year we are grateful for all the families who participate in the PAC meetings and support their bilingual students throughout the school year. Many thanks!

El comité consejero de padres bilingües ("PAC") se reunió por el primero tiempo de cuatro reuniones planeadas por este año escolar a jueves, el 13 de noviembre, de 6:30 hasta 8:00. El propósito del comité y el enfoque de las reuniones son mejorar nuestros programas bilingües y el éxito de nuestros estudiantes. Las reuniones futuras por este año escogieron por el distrito son:

Martes, el 27 de enero, 2009

Martes, el 24 de marzo, 2009

Martes, el 12 de mayo, 2009

Los tiempos de las reuniones son de 6:30 hasta 8:00 en la sala de usos múltiples y siempre hay cuidar por niños disponible en la biblioteca de la escuela. Administradores del distrito planean alternar asistir a las reuniones presentar información y también contestar preguntas. La Señora Rivera voluntario por presidente del PAC. Todos padres del estudiantes ELL y también otros con interés en los programas le dan la bienvenida participar a la comité.

A este tiempo del año nosotros tenemos agradecidos por todas de las familias quienes participan en el PAC y también apoyan los estudiantes bilingües cada día por el año escolar. ¡Mil gracias!

Señora Peel y Señora Doherty



VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY



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The names below are the students that were honored to sit at the Knights of the Roundtable during lunch this month. These students joined Mrs. Moeller and classroom teachers for lunch at the table after they were presented with a sash. Following lunch, students got their picture taken as the rest of the classes clapped for them.



Mackenzie Beam, AJ Malone, Erick Barragan



Eve Campbell, Isabel Hines, JR Kelly



Ulysses Frias, Jimmy Morton, Garrett Anderson



Matthew Zoppa, Connor Hoeft, Charity Montalbano



Matt O'Sullivan, Francesca Dini, Anthony Romano

KNIGHT pictures can also be viewed on the McDole website!

Please note that PAST Knight winners can ALWAYS wear their sashes again on the Knight lunch days. They should be proud that they have earned a sash because they worked hard for it and if they choose, they can wear it on the days of the Knight of the Roundtable lunch. Students can ask their teachers for the specific date if they are interested!



School Improvement Goals for 2008-2009 School Year

OBJECTIVE 1: To improve higher level comprehension skills demonstrated by at least a 3% increase from the 2007-2008 school year in reading extended response on the ISAT/ISEL-2/school wide assessments by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

OBJECTIVE 2: To promote citizenship by involving 97% of McDole's students in the participation of school sponsored service projects by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

OBJECTIVE 3: Increase community awareness of student successes at McDole during the 2008-2009 school year by communicating monthly with the district, parents and the local community.