



# Messages from McDole

September 30, 2008

## From Mrs. Eggleston:

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank Mr. Dick Samuelson for the generous donation of a complete set of new Harry Potter books. These books are in our library and students may check these books out. On behalf of the students and staff, we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> we kicked off our new reading incentive Kingdom of Readers. Mary Kunstman, one of our very own, came up with words to the tune of RESPECT by Aretha Franklin. Wearing crowns, the McDole staff had a lot of fun singing the song while Jeremy Berger filmed us. Our performance was presented to the students over mTV. Students, once again, were amazed at the talent their teachers have! Students are looking forward to building their castles, brick by brick, reading one book at a time.

While conferences are only a month away, if you have any concerns about your child, I would like to encourage you to contact your child's teacher. As parents, you are your child's best advocate. Often teachers do not have an understanding of what takes place at home and what you are seeing. We encourage communication and team work. Parents are an important part of the team.

There are many ways you can support your child's learning in school. Here are a few ideas:

Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your child brings home. Fill out any forms to return the next day.

Tell your child's teacher if you can help out at school or home.

Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts.

Contact your child's teacher immediately if you see a problem.

Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.

As many of you know the Kaneland School District is looking at making some boundary changes for the elementary schools for the following school year. McDole hosted a boundary meeting September 23. Blackberry Elementary will be hosting the final meeting October 7, 2008 at 7:00. Please consider attending this meeting if you haven't already attended one. If you would like to see the three boundary options that have been proposed, the maps are displayed in McDole's foyer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fran Eggleston  
Principal

## Calendar of Events

- Oct. 2 - Reading Curriculum Night  
7:00—8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 3 - Pre-School Screening (South only)
- Oct. 6 - Elementary Drawing 3:35-4:35 p.m.
- Oct. 7 - Fun Lunch
- Oct. 8 - PTO Fundraiser Orders Due
- Oct. 10 - NO SCHOOL - School Improvement Day
- Oct. 13 - NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
- Oct. 15 - Coffee with the Principal  
9:15 - 10:00 a.m.  
MAD Science 3:35 - 4:35 p.m.  
PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 16 - 4th Grade Prairie Trip  
8:55 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Cub Scouts 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17 - PTO Fun Night  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Oct. 20 - Elementary Drawing  
3:35 - 4:35 p.m.
- Oct. 21 - Fun Lunch
- Oct. 22 - Lifetouch Picture Retakes  
MAD Science 3:35 - 4:35 p.m.
- Oct. 24 - End of First Quarter  
Kindergarten Field Trip to Kuipers  
Robert Crowne -5th Grade  
9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 25 - Parent University  
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27 - Elementary Drawing  
3:35—4:35 p.m.
- Oct. 28 - Market Day Pick-Up  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29 - MAD Science 3:35 - 4:35 p.m.
- Oct. 31 - Halloween Parties 2:30 p.m.  
Halloween Parade 3:00 p.m.





# News from the Classrooms



## Early Childhood

We have been learning all about pets in Early Childhood. We voted for our favorite kinds of pets and wrote and illustrated "stories" about them. We have also been working on math concepts while playing pet-related games and singing songs about pets. It was fun to paint dog houses, make dog food, and design signs for our very own pet shop. Now we are enjoying "shopping" for everything that our pets need!

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been very busy learning school routines. We've been learning about each other through "Fabulous Friends" and teaching each other letters and letter sounds by being Letter Experts! We have also enjoyed learning letter sounds through the multi-sensory approach of the Jolly Phonics Program.

## Second Grade

In art, we started the year by exploring our wild sides in the jungle. We drew and painted Toucan birds. Afterward we studied different leaves and vegetation and created somewhere for the birds to hide. We painted and cut out leaves so the birds could camouflage themselves in the jungle trees. We are hanging out in the art room.

## First Grade

First grade is enjoying The Daily Five literacy block each morning. Our routines are well established and include Read to Self, Read to Someone, and Word Work, just to name a few. Students are becoming increasingly independent as they choose Good Fit books and meet in small groups according to their needs and strengths. First graders are also thinking about what their reading reminds them of, and making text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections.

## Third Grade

We have been very busy getting to know all of our students. We have also been gathering data on our students so that we can meet their individual academic needs. That's not all though. We have been planning something fun!! We will be going on our first field trip this month. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will take a trip *Back In Time* to Blackberry Farm. This is part of our Pioneer Unit. All the third graders will be completing a more in depth study sometime during the school year; however, this field trip will be an exciting introduction. Until next month....tootles!

## Fourth Grade

Arrr mateys! On Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Wold's 4th graders celebrated International Talk like a Pirate Day! Students joined their teacher in dressing like swashbuckling pirates for a day filled with a pirate themed curriculum. We learned pirate lingo, read a pirate themed book and told pirate jokes along with many other pirate themed learning activities. In music class, Mrs. Kunstman continued our theme by singing sea chanties together! Did we be havin' a great time? Aye, Aye! And we learned a lot!





## News from the Classrooms continued



### Fifth Grade

The McDole 5th graders traveled to Oregon, IL from September 10-12 for their annual Lorado Taft Outdoor Education field trip. The students participated in activities such as hiking, bird watching, pioneering, survival, and GPS/orienteering. The students also participated in two large group games: Alpha Wolf and Instincts for Survival. Another favorite activity of the students was eating the three excellent meals served each day. It seems that every student had a different favorite! During the meals, one fifth grade student is the hopper for his/her table. They are in charge of setting the table before the meal, serving the food once everyone is seated, and clearing the table once everyone has finished eating. Students really enjoy this responsibility.

Every year one student from fifth grade is selected to create a logo for our school to burn into the wooden planks that hang in the dining hall and indoor classrooms. This year Jacora Hamaker was selected. Her design included a castle, which tied in nicely to McDole's Kingdom of Readers theme for the school year. The fifth grade teachers and students would like to once again thank all of the wonderful daytime and nighttime parent volunteers who made this trip possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

Mrs. Kolk's Cross Categorical kids have been learning to use a new computer program called Lexia. The program focuses on phonemic awareness, phonics and sight word skills. The students have been having a lot of fun while developing better decoding skills.

Our reading specialists, Ms. Mazurkiewicz (Maz), Ms. Benham, and Mrs. Marmo, are very excited to be working with our current groups of students and are looking forward to guiding them in becoming successful readers. The Reading Resource Curriculum Night will be held Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7:00 pm. This is for the parents of the students currently in the Reading Resource program, but any adults are welcome to attend and hear what exciting things we are doing in reading this year! Ms. Maz, Ms. Benham and Mrs. Marmo can't wait to meet everyone!

In Mrs. Livermore's art class, the past few weeks have been quite busy. We are learning and reviewing our colors, new painting techniques, and exploring creative designs. We are looking forward to creating many exciting projects, and learning new design techniques.

Students in the IRP class have enjoyed our new Handwriting Without Tears curriculum and Jolly Phonics curriculum. These multisensory programs keep students actively engaged as they learn all about the letters of the alphabet. They have also enjoyed acting out the stories of The Five little Ducks, The Three Little Pigs and The Napping House. These dramatic play activities have increased their ability to comprehend and retell a story.

### Laurie Lawler To Visit 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Laurie Lawler, author of Addie Across the Prairie, will be talking to the Fourth Grade students on October 15 about her books. The fourth grade curriculum covers the prairie and the book Addie Across the Prairie is a historical fiction book that takes place in the prairie. Since the students will have read the book they always have many questions for Laurie. She will share with the students what it takes to be an author. Students will be allowed to bring a book they have purchased by Laurie Lawler and have it autographed.

### Book Fair Coming

The LRC will again host the Scholastic Book Fair Oct 28- November 6. The profits received from the fair are used to purchase items for the children to use in the LRC.

We will also run a fund raiser in conjunction with Scholastics Book Fairs that put books in the hands of needy children.

More information will be sent home with the students later this month.

## Coffee with the Principal



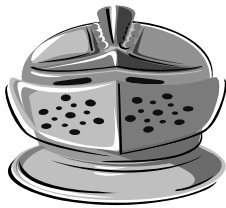
Come meet with Mrs. Eggleston for coffee and conversation on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. in the multi-purpose room.



## JUST A REMINDER

Pre-Paid milk is NOT included on Fun Lunch Day. If your child is not participating in Fun Lunch, he/she will need to bring 30 cents to purchase milk. Fun Lunch days were not calculated in the semester and/or year pre-paid milk cost.

Thank you.



I was caught being a knight:

(Please circle one)

Kind to others

Not being a bully

Including others in play

Giving respect to adults

Helping others

Telling the truth

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Caught by: \_\_\_\_\_

Students started getting "caught" being KNIGHTs this month. This is a yearlong program where teachers and staff members "catch" student showing good character in school. There is a random monthly drawing where 6 children per grade level get to sit at the Knights of the Roundtable and receive a Knight sash. Has your child been "caught"?

## VISION AND HEARING TESTING

Kindergarten - Third Grade

October 28, 29 and 30

Fourth - Fifth Grade

November 20



If you have any questions, you may call the school nurse.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



First grade had a blast celebrating author/illustrator Tomie DePaola's birthday! We've been reading several of his stories as we discuss schema and making connections. To celebrate, we wrote and illustrated birthday cards while eating snacks together. We will mail these to Tomie! We also got to hear a new Tomie DePaola story; each first grade teacher read to a class other than their own. The entire first grade sang "Happy Birthday" to this very popular author. We even had special guests Mrs. Eggleston, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Benham, Mrs. Tockstein, and Miss Looney join us! We look forward to future author studies each month in first grade.