



Kemp Mill Family News

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The Principal's Corner

Greetings Kemp Mill Families –

November is an important month for schools and parents. Parent Teacher Conferences on November 11 and 12 are perhaps the most important meeting you'll have all year. This conference is your opportunity to find out how your child is performing as a student and developing as a person. If you don't have a conference appointment set up, please contact your child's teacher right away.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your conference:

- Make sure to be on time. The schedule is tight and you want to have all the time you need.
- Listen carefully to find out - Is your child reading on grade level? Is he or she having any trouble understanding the ideas in math? Is he or she paying attention in class and putting forth a lot of effort?
- Ask to see some of your child's work.
- Ask how you might help at home.

After the conference, take time to talk to your child about what the teacher said. Make sure to keep it both true and positive. Its important for your child to know that you and the teachers are working together as a team.

Enjoy the conference as the great opportunity it is to get to know better both the teacher and your child!

All the best,
Floyd Starnes

Kindergarten News

The kindergarten classes are getting into the routines of being in school. The students are learning to work independently at literacy centers. We are working on mastering the names and sounds of all of the letters. We are learning to write the letters the "school way". We are also beginning to learn some of our high-frequency words as we enjoy books and poems that we read together. We are finishing our name game, which is teaching us many important concepts about letters and words. We are also learning more concepts about print, such as the difference between letters and words, the direction that we go when we read, and how we point and read one word at a time.

Holiday Support

If you would like to receive assistance with meals, gifts, clothing, etc. during the holiday season, please contact Mrs. Lyons or Mrs. Shabazz at 301-649-8046 by November 23, 2009.



Kindergarten News Continued

In math, we will be continuing to work on sorting objects by their attributes; collecting data about ourselves and making simple graphs; and recognizing and making patterns. Our social studies and science units are focused on learning about ourselves and others, and learning about school.

First Grade News

We finished the first quarter at the end of October and we begin our second quarter in November. Our overall goal for reading by the end of the second quarter (in January) is level 8-11. Continue reading with your son/daughter – your efforts are already showing in the levels they are achieving! This month we start a new unit in math – measurement! We will be measuring everything from how tall each of the students are to the time on the clock. Measure, measure, measure. We may see some bee hives and chickens as well. On November 6th we will have a cooking project using pumpkins as our main ingredient.

Second Grade News

October 30th will be an exciting day for 2nd graders! In the morning students from each class will rotate to each of the 5 second grades teachers for varied and interesting lessons in reading and math surrounding a pumpkin theme. In the afternoon there's a visit to the pumpkin patch (we'll know a whole lot more about pumpkins by then!) and then on to our PBIS Fashion Show celebration.

When we return in November, it's almost time for Parent Teacher Conferences. Please return your confirmation form so that we may schedule our time to meet together to discuss your child's progress and review the 1st marking period report card.

November also begins our 2nd marking period. In reading we are continuing to read for information as a whole class focus. In reading groups, we will be reading both information books and fiction appropriate to your child's reading level – please be sure to read and return the book that comes home each night! Our writing focus in November is Informational Writing. Look for our writing to include the text features (contents, labels, photographs, captions, glossary, index, etc.) we've been using in reading to learn more information. After we wrap-up our study of Citizenship and Democracy, we'll continue reading informational text in Social Studies to learn about the American Indians and the Pilgrims.

Unit 2 in math is geometry. We'll be determining how flat shapes and solid shapes are differentiated by their attributes. And in science, it's more balancing and weighing, but now we're using an equal arm balance to predict the relative weights of objects so that we can rank them in order from lightest to heaviest.

Third Grade News

The third graders will be identifying the main idea and summarizing nonfiction text in reading. In Writing they will be conducting research in the media center with Ms. Epps and summarizing their topic in the form of a paragraph in Writer's Workshop. They will also focus on the economic and geographic challenges facing cities today in Social Studies. In the month of November third grade students will begin to estimate and/or measure length to solve problems. They will also estimate and count to find the area and perimeter of figures. In science, students will finish their criminal investigation unit by exploring chromatography.

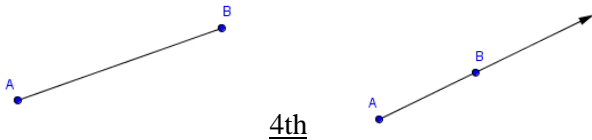
Fourth Grade News

The fourth graders are moving into nonfiction text. They have enjoyed reading fantasy and fables and should be able to tell you the elements of both genres. Now we are identifying the differences between fiction and nonfiction text. The students are reviewing text features and discussing how they help the reader. We will use our National Geographic magazines as we begin summarizing informational text.

Fourth Grade News Continued

Some students are involved in the William and Mary program and working with Ms. Peters Tues.- Thurs. They are discussing the concept of change as they read The Secret Garden. Continue to sign the reading log, daily. They are located in the FROG BOOK.

There are five math units in 4th grade math. Fourth graders are wrapping up the mammoth opening unit in math. The first focus was place value into the millions. The second focus was central tendency (mode, median, range and mean). The third focus was graphing (bar graph, double bar graph, circle graph, line graph, line plot and stem & leaf plot). The fourth and final focus is currently geometry. Students are studying points, different types of lines (line segments, rays, lines), angles (right, acute, obtuse, straight, etc.), and the two important tools needed for this objective: protractor (to draw and measure different angles) and compass (to draw perfect circles). The class will play Unit #1 Jeopardy on Wednesday, October 28th. The next two days will be the post-assessment. Health wise, it is imperative that kids be in school each and every day, especially on assessment days.



4th
above can be measured and one
be measured and why not?

Grade At-Home Math Super Challenge: One of the drawings
can not. Which can be measured and why? And which can not

Fifth Grade News

5th grade has had a wonderful first quarter! In reading we are continuing to work with informational text. Students will need to continue reading for 20 minutes every night. During writing we will start learning how to write to inform. In Social Studies we will start looking at the events that led to the Revolutionary War.

Math and Science is a continuation into second quarter. We will continue to talk about decimals. Please help your child look for decimals on packages, news papers and other places. He or she can compare them to each other or estimate decimals to the nearest whole number. In Science we continue our unit of force, motion and energy by studying gravity, friction, and kinetic energy.

Counselor's Corner

As the School Counselor I am in the classroom every other week doing Guidance Lessons.

This year I have incorporated classroom meetings as a way to build community, set a positive tone, increase excitement about learning and improve social skills. The class meeting is the first thing that we do before we begin the guidance lesson. The students gather in a circle and we begin by greeting each other.

After we have greeted each other we then have a few students share interesting news followed by a conversation with the class. This is an opportunity for students to listen carefully, think about what they hear, formulate good questions, and learn about each other. When children share they have a chance to feel that their ideas are valued and that the other children care.

Lastly, we transition into our whole class guidance lesson. The students look forward to the class meetings for it is a time when all students are united as a group and they can share there ideas.

Mrs. N. Lyons
School Counselor

PTA News!

Thank you to all the families that came to our Second Annual Fall Family Dance. It was great to see you and the children dancing and enjoying the party with us. We had around 150 people at the party. This year we had a bake sale and it was amazing, many parents donated delicious desserts! Thanks to all of you who donated food to this event.

Special thanks to ... the Arcila Family, Terri L. Beard, Heather Thompson and her mom, LaTasha Parrish, Amie Klee, Alejandra Echazu, Iliana Arbitres, Sandra Blanco, the Drullad- Rosario Family, Mrs. Diaz Nova, Mildred Rivera, Leslie Manzón, Amie Door, Cynthia Brandt, Marisol Ravicz, Mrs. Queen, and Stacy Menendez. With out your help and donations this event would have not been a success!

If you have any new ideas to improve this event for next year, please let me know.

Marita

Aubel - E.mail: chatita15@yahoo.com



BOOK FAIR - COMING SOON!!!

November 9 - 13. Open 8:30am - 4pm daily with extended hours during conferences!

This is a great chance to buy books for your child and their classroom PLUS benefit the school!

Want to volunteer? Contact Amie Dorr at 240-505-6659 or amiedorr@yahoo.com for more details.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Parent Resource Corner

Parent Workshops – We just completed our four sessions of the Parent Workshops, How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk. THANK YOU to all the families who participated, Dr. Grady & Mr. Cuevas for facilitating workshops, the PTA, teachers, the Kennedy High School JROTC, administrators and staff who supported this important workshop series. The following businesses also supported our workshops through generous donations: Ledo's Pizza & Pasta (2638 W. University Blvd., Wheaton, MD), Magruder's Grocery Store of Kemp Mill (1361 Lamberton Dr., Silver Spring, MD), Papa John's Pizza (Wheaton, MD), Linkages to Learning (Kemp Mill E.S.), and the Quezada family who donated a cake. On March 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th we will expand the workshop topics explored over the past four weeks with a new series of workshops. If you are interested in purchasing the book *How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*, please contact Ayana Shabazz-Manzanares at 301-649-8046 or Ayana_Shabazz-Manzanares@mcpsmd.org.

Volunteers – There was a volunteer training held during the Open House event at the beginning of October. If you were unable to attend the training, but would like to volunteer, please contact Ayana Shabazz-Manzanares as soon as possible. Did you know if you volunteer (go on a field trip, help in the classroom, make copies, take home project for the teacher, etc.) for just 2 hours a month you are eligible to purchase a large quantity of high quality food for just \$20? Check out these deals:

The Value Package Option A \$20.00: Whole chicken, ground turkey, tilapia fish fillets, polish sausage, elbow macaroni, stuffing mix, frozen pie, sweet potatoes, potatoes, onions, apples, orange, 1 other produce item.

Turkey Package Option B \$25.00: Turkey (10-12 lbs), frozen mashed potatoes, frozen macaroni & cheese, frozen green beans, stuffing mix, frozen sweet potato pie.

The Value Package and a Turkey Option C \$36.00: Whole chicken, ground turkey, tilapia fish fillets, polish sausage, elbow macaroni, stuffing mix, frozen pie, sweet potatoes, potatoes, onions, apples, orange, 1 other produce item & 10-12 lb. turkey.

***If you have volunteered with us and would like to purchase one of the packages above, please send in your cash or money order, along with your option choice by Monday, November 2nd. You will then receive a receipt and information about the pick-up date and time.*

Parent Resources – The next time you are at Kemp Mill, please stop by room 107 (right across from the health room) to check out all the great parent resource materials available for you! (Information about afterschool programs, English classes, Parenting books & DVDs, bilingual books & DVD's, DVD's & books about how to help your child succeed in school, ect.).

Montgomery College

YOUTH PROGRAMS

It's time to register for this school year's first

Saturday Discoveries

WITH MORE EXCITING NEW WORKSHOPS BEING OFFERED!

A one-day enrichment program offered for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5, scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. on the Takoma Park campus.

Students will have an opportunity to select four workshops to participate in during the day. Workshops cover a variety of topics including science, problem solving, creative writing, computer gaming, and much more.

Workshops fill quickly, so register right away!

For additional brochures or registration information,
contact Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 240-567-7264 or
240-567-7917 or access our website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.