

Seward Elementary School



Parent Newsletter

November 2009

November 16--PTO Meeting, 7 p.m. at Seward Elementary

November 19--Grade 3 Music Program, 7 p.m. at High School Theater

November 25--Professional Development Day, No School

November 26 & 27--No School, Thanksgiving Vacation

Lines from the Principal.....

Hello everyone! What happened to October? I don't know about you, but I find it hard to believe that we are into the month of November and nearing the end of 2009! Remember when we anticipated the year 2000? And just look --- in a couple of months, it will be 2010!



Wow!

Now that the fall parent/teacher conferences are completed, I want to thank all of you for attending. We always have such great parent attendance at Seward Elementary! You realize, of course, that the parent/teacher conferences are only 15 minutes in length, but that's an important 15 minutes! However, communication with the teachers should be ongoing throughout the school year. We encourage you to stop by the school or give us a call at any time. It truly takes a partnership between

school and home to make the education process a success. So, thanks again for helping to establish that partnership!

It seems as if every year I must remind parents and other adults about the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures. We ask your cooperation with the following procedures:

Morning Drop-Off --- Students may be dropped off at the circle drive curb. However, NO vehicles are permitted to park at the curbside during the morning hours. The curb area must remain OPEN to facilitate the flow of traffic. If parents wish to accompany their child (ren) into school, they must park in the diagonal parking spaces that are provided.

Afternoon Pick-Up --- Vehicles MAY park, single-file along the curb area of the circle drive or in the diagonal parking spaces. Parents are also permitted to use the parking in the rear (north side) of the school. However, the school does not provide any supervision in that area.

And always, please drive safely with reasonable speed! Patience is needed as well.

Remember, this is a school with over 400 students! Many vehicles come with those students! Angry words and flaring tempers do not solve anything! Let's be positive role models for our children, ok? I just want you to know that if difficulties increase, I will be contacting our local law enforcement agency for assistance.

I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving! Every year, I remind you to count your many blessings and remember that one (or maybe more) of those 'blessings' attends Seward Elementary! Until next month...

Lana Daws

ing's, Mrs. Thompson's, and Mrs. Cookus's classes made a quick trip to Heartland for a Costume Parade. Have a safe and fun Halloween this year!

As the days get colder, it is important to send your students to school with heavy coats, hats, and gloves. We do go outside for recess each day, so please dress them appropriately. We want to keep them as warm and healthy as possible!

Coming up in Math, we will begin learning how to write and identify numbers in the teens. Any extra time you can spend at home working with your student on counting or number recognition is very helpful! Please keep practicing sounds and blending when you read to your child, too.

Kindergarten also welcomes Riley Boese to Mrs. Piskorski's class and Kaylee Brose to Miss Hotovy's class!

Mrs. Rising



Grade Level News...

Kindergarten

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of school is over!

Thank you to everyone who came to parent/teacher conferences this month. It is so important to keep the lines of communication open; we really appreciate the interest you take in your child's education.

October was a busy month for Kindergarten. We enjoyed taking two field trips - one to the Seward Fire Station and one to the High School FFA Petting Zoo. At the fire station, the students had fun learning about the protective suit and equipment our firefighters use. They were able to actually climb through the ambulance and fire truck, which was very exciting! At the petting zoo the students got the chance to see a variety of animals. They were able to pet and hold most of them as well.

Kindergarten also enjoyed getting dressed up for our Halloween parties. Mrs. Ris-

First Grade

Thank you to all the parents for taking the time to come visit with us during conferences! First graders have been working very hard the last couple of months and it is starting to show. We were very excited to share their growth with you!

I would like to share another article on excellence. Skill #2 – Teach Your Children to Become Independent Learners.

Throughout first grade students change from a child needing a lot of help and guidance to a child full of independence. We want to encourage students to think for themselves and come to their own conclusions about how to solve problems. How to solve a math problem, reading a difficult



word or how to solve the mystery of “I lost my pencil, what should I do? These are all examples of situations where children can come up with solutions on their own.

Children are setting goals and self-monitoring in school each week. Our reading series allows each child to read passages and achieve stars for quality reads. Students are eager to read their passage and check their own progress at the end. We often hear “how did I do?” or “did I get 2 stars?”

Children can also self-monitor each day at home. If they have homework, it should be their responsibility to get it done and remember to bring it back. This will take some practice and modeling to achieve, but the end goal is for children to learn responsibility and consequences for their actions. The level of responsibility increases as they pass through grade levels so starting a routine with homework now is vital.

Along with helping children become independent learners by teaching responsibility now will relieve the pressure from parents. Set high standards at home now and you will see high achievers at home and in school for years to come!

A special welcome to our newest first grader: Zed!

Mrs. Oberhauser

Second Grade

Nouns, verbs, and adjectives are the focus of our grammar.

Out of school for Thanksgiving!! Thanksgiving break is November 25th-29th.



Vocabulary- Discuss words with students to help with comprehension at home.

Everyday-READ! It is recommended to read 20 minutes a night!

MATH- Students are working on place value, money, and time. Ask daily questions!

Bats! Bats are the focus in Science right now followed by Mexico.

Excellent- Great turn out for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Thank you for all of your support.

Remember to bring COATS, HATS, and GLOVES!! It's getting cold outside!

Miss Schademann

Third Grade

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome! Olivia Mae Flemings Buell has arrived! She weighed in at a whopping

8lbs 6oz & was 21 inches long! Due to this wonderful arrival, we are also welcoming Mrs. Sarah Brumm, who is Ms. Flemings' substitute. Another addition to the third grade is Zoey Boese. She is the newest classmate in Mrs. Menze's room.

Pumpkins Galore! October 30th was a day filled with pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. These pumpkins were used in cross-curricular activities. The students rotated through centers consisting of measuring, predicting, story-telling, etc. Ask your child if a pumpkin sinks or floats? (What is your guess?)

Name that genre! As your child reads and tries to reach their AR goal this quarter,



they will also be identifying the genre of the books that they read. We will be tallying or graphing the different genres so that we can see the variety of books that everyone is reading.

Word of the week! Each week the third grade classes are emphasizing a new word. In October we used these words: wallop, ponder, culprit, and blunder. Try using some of these words at home. Or better yet, come up with some of your own!

Mrs. Menze

The Fourth Grade would like to welcome Zac Urkoski to Seward Elementary.

We would also like to thank all of you who attended parent/teacher conferences. It is that home-to-school connection that allows students to succeed academically. Remember, whenever you have a question or concern feel free to contact your child's teacher. You don't have to wait for a formal conference time!

Please remember as the weather gets colder children need to dress appropriately for outdoor play! Warm coats, hats, and gloves are encouraged.

Mrs. Luebbe

Fourth Grade

A big thank you to all the parent volunteers who accompanied us on our field trip

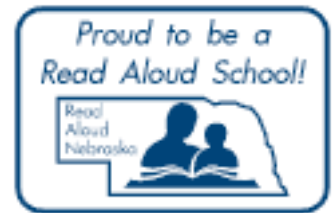


to Lincoln. The students had a great time and learned a lot about our state's history. At the State Historical Museum the students were able to check out the replica of a sod cabin and the general store that once stood on Seward's main street. The view from the top of the State Capitol is always a favorite. Our fourth grade Husker Fans were in awe as they were able to tour Memorial Stadium and given the chance to run the Husker field.

The fourth grade will be focusing on the memorization of multiplication facts throughout this month. Remember, it is always important to practice these facts at home! Keep encouraging your child to read at home as well as complete any homework they may have for that night.

Library/Media News

Seward Elementary School joins several schools across the state that have earned the designation of "Read Aloud School" for the 2009/2010 school year. Read Aloud Schools are required to promote November as "Read Aloud to a Child Month" among their students, parents and staff as well as to engage in a variety of read-aloud activities throughout the school year.



We are proud of our reading programs and the effort of our staff to develop each student to the best reader they can be. Our learning theme this year is "Soar In To Learning". Classroom teachers read to their students each day, we have monthly "Friday Friends" where classrooms pair up and students share books with

each other, and we all look forward to our end-of-year reading celebration!

We encourage all parents and adults in our children's lives to join us in promoting the activity of reading to a child each and every day. It is the single most important thing adults do to help children learn to read and be successful in school. Share that library book your son/daughter brings home each week. That's why we check it out to them!

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Komenda

Greetings from the Gymnasium!

Wow it is so hard to believe that it is already November. It seems like the school year just started.



Before we know it the holidays will be here.

In second, third and fourth grade PE classes we are just finishing the last couple of weeks of our manipulative unit. We had a lot of fun learning how to hula hoop and learning some neat tricks. Ask your child if they can show you some of the tricks we learned with our hoops. Learning how to throw and catch with our beanbags was also a lot of fun.

The kindergarten and first grade classes have been working on our locomotor movements. Last month we worked on walking, running, galloping, side-stepping and skipping. We are now moving on and we are going to focus on learning how to jump, hop and leap. The students are not only learning how to do the different movements, but also how each one is different from each other. Ask your child how gal-

loping and side-stepping are different and also have them show you how to do each of the skills.

In all of my classes we played Halloween warm-up games. The kindergarten and first graders learned how to play pumpkin tag, pumpkin and witches tag and the great pumpkin. Second, Third and Fourth Graders learned how to play ghostbusters, monster mash and the great pumpkin. The kids really had a lot of fun learning these new games.

Our next unit of study in PE will be scooters. The kids really enjoy these. We will spend a lot of time learning about using and playing safely with the scooters before we use them. We will then work on single scooter tasks, partner scooter tasks and some games with them.

Mrs. Holliday

Music News

Fall is a great time for music because of all the wonderful fall and winter holidays. Students have been having a great time in music class performing Halloween music. Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner, so we will be starting that seasonal music soon as well. Aside from the seasonal music, each grade level has been busy with individual goals.

Kindergarten students have made great improvements in their singing voice and are now expected to sing along every day with a proper sound. We are continually dancing and moving to music and students have begun to exhibit the foundations of "beat" and "rhythm".

First grade students are just beginning to work on music for their Christmas Concert. Although Christmas is a long way away, we need to start early to be well prepared at this age. Please keep December 17th open in you calendar for the concert and don't be surprised if you hear Christmas music being sung at home!

Second grade students are expanding their ability to communicate about rhythm

through learning and practicing the correct terms for notes and rhythms. We are currently focusing on the following items: note names,



time signatures, rest names, and dotted notes.

Third Grade students are spending all of their class time preparing for their concert

which is on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. Please expect them to be bringing home words to practice. Practicing the concert songs at home by singing, or just by reading through them, is essential for memorization. Our concert theme is “On the Road Again” and we will be featuring great music from all around our country. See you there!

Fourth Grade students are working on music reading skills. On recorder, we are practicing and refining our ability to read music by letter name by playing and doing written work. Vocally, we are learning an aural vocabulary of musical pitches to use for vocal music reading. Once students have the notes in their head, we can read printed vocal music independently.

Mr. Janda

From the Counselor

So now that you know what a school counselor does from last month’s article, I thought it might be helpful to know what your child does in guidance each week or month.



Guidance units are not just some of my favorite lessons. They are units mandated by the Nebraska Department of Education, suggested by the American School Counseling Association, and lessons that must align with our school district’s goals and mission. Just as teachers are required to teach standards, counselors also have standards but they are labeled “Essential Learnings”. The three core skill areas that I must teach about are academic, career, and personal/social. The Nebraska Department of Education even suggests how much time I should spend in each area of my career. Those four service areas that I offer are teaching guidance curriculum, providing responsive services, offering individual student planning, and giving system support.

Here are the units your child experiences throughout the school year by month and topic:

AUGUST-Safety (getting to school and getting home safely)

SEPTEMBER-Friendship skills

OCTOBER-Conflict resolution (how to fix when friends fight without adult help)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER-Bullying

JANUARY/FEBRUARY-Drugs and alcohol

MARCH-Testing Skills and/or Social Skills

APRIL-Careers

MAY-Summer safety

The only time lessons vary are for responsive services (if we have an emergency or an important current issue), when we write and send support packages to overseas troops, or when we study about that month’s character trait.

In some future articles I may put a small paragraph reminding you what unit we are studying at that time.

It is an honor to work with your child(ren) and please contact me if you ever have questions, concerns, or just want to know that I struggle as much as you do raising three kids in this world.

Until then,

Mr. Todd, Counselor

From the School Nurse

School and HEAD LICE

Please do not be alarmed, as this is a common occurrence in schools. Head lice are not a sign of unclean people or homes. Head lice infestations are a common problem for children. Anyone can get head lice. Head lice are very small (less than 1/16" long, about this size --), brownish-colored insects that live on human heads and lay their eggs (nits) close to the scalp. The eggs are tiny (about the size of the eye of a needle) and gray or white in color. Adult lice move fast and don't like light.

Usual symptoms: Itching of the head and neck. Look for: 1) crawling lice in the hair, usually few in number 2) eggs (nits) glued to the hair, often found behind the ears and at the back of the neck and 3) scratch marks on the head or back of the neck at the hairline.

Lice are spread by head-to-head contact and by sharing personal items such as combs, brushes, hats, jackets, pillows, etc.

Lice do not jump or fly; they crawl and can fall off the head. Head lice do not live longer than 48 hours off the head. They only lay their eggs while on the head. The eggs do not hatch if they fall off the head.

Treatment includes shampooing with a medicated (lice killing) product. Removal of nits is a difficult and time-consuming process because nits have such a firm grip on the hair.

You can remove the nits with a special, fine-toothed, nit-removal comb.

Check for nits daily for the next 10-14 days.

Marjorie Hansen, School Nurse