



BLUE JAY SQUAWK

THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK BY JEANNA SNIFFIN, PRINCIPAL STACEY STAVINOHA, AND MARTIN BRATRUD ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

As summer begins, it is a great time to reflect on the events that made this school year so successful. Our kindergarten class had a wonderful start to their education. The fourth graders celebrated their last year as Lil Jays. We had a lot to be thankful for and proud of this year. I want to thank everyone who participated in our P.T.A. They work very hard providing parties, rewards, special projects and thousands of volunteer hours. Together we all make Needville Elementary a great place to learn.

Please continue to work with your children on Reading, Writing, and Math. Our county libraries have an excellent reading program. Take time to write with your children. Vacations are great topics to write about. Writing to pen pals is another way to keep writing skills sharp. Keep working on the flash cards.

Have a safe and relaxing summer. Take time to spend quality time with your children. Give them all the love they need. We cannot wait to see all their smiling faces in August.

RIF WEEK

We would like to thank all male readers for coming to our school and reading to the Lil Jays. This is something we always enjoy tremendously. What great role models you are, and we appreciate you very much.



IMPORTANT DATES

- June 24 – School Supply Pick-Up
- June 25 – School Supply Pick-Up
- Aug. 24 – School Begins
- Aug. 28 – P.T.A. T-shirt Sales Begin
P.T.A. Membership Drive Begins
- Sept. 2 – P.T.A. Volunteer Forms Due
- Sept. 3 – N.E.S. Open House
- Sept. 7 – Labor Day Holiday**
- Sept. 9 – P.T.A. T-shirt Sales End
- Sept. 11 -P.T.A. Membership Drive Ends
P.T.A. Fundraiser Kick-Off
First Paper Drive
- Sept. 14 – Progress Reports
P.T.A. Volunteer Meeting
- Sept. 30 – Raffle Ticket Sales Begin
- Sept. 25 County Fair Holiday**
- Oct. 2 – End of 1st Six Weeks



COUNSELOR'S CORNER BY TERRY MCGUIRE

Parents' Summer Survival Guide (Cool Kids)

In the summer, find a balance of unstructured play-time, routine, enrichment, and quality family time. Children need unstructured time to rest and be creative, but providing structure, experiences, and tools that put the mind and body to work help children have fun and grow.

Have a Routine

- Stick to a bedtime routine as much as possible
- Plan meals and have healthy snacks on hand to avoid impulsive, unhealthy eating
- Establish rules for sibling disagreements and other situations that can lead to problems





Spend Quality Family Time Together

- Read together
- Talk
- Plan a variety of activities together

Exercise the Mind

- Have fun, interesting, and educational magazines available
- Help find safe, informative, and interactive web sites to explore
- Stock up on good books from the library
- Have games, puzzles, and art supplies on hand
- Allow for unstructured play-time

Exercise the Body

- Go swimming
- Ride bikes
- Go on walks
- Do activities that involve physical activity



Sign up to receive free parenting tips at www.coolkidschannel.com/parentingtips or Dr. Brad@coolkidschannel.com

TENDER LOVING CARE BY JENNIFER WIEGHAT, R.N., AND NANCY URBANEK, L.V.N.

With the summer break here, there are a few things we need to keep in mind for a “safe- summer”. The hot weather and traveling can definitely change things quickly. The sooner we make a daily habit of certain “rules”, the better.

The 3 S’s of Summer Safety:

1. Seatbelts – **Always buckle-up** – A good habit to get into is once you start the car, do not take it out of park until everyone has their seatbelt on! Did you know that children weighing between 40 and 80 pounds should be restrained by a belt-positioning booster seat? Rear facing

child safety seats should never be placed in the front of a vehicle equipped with air bags. All children ages 12 and under should ride restrained in the back seat. Children often ride with others, such as grandparents and aunts & uncles who may not be aware of these safety issues. Teach your children to know this information on their own so that they know where the safest place to ride is. *Be a role model and buckle up yourself!*

2. Sunscreen – Never, ever go swimming without sunscreen – the beach, the water-park, even the backyard. Water and sun with no sunscreen is definitely asking for a severe burn. Always use a sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher; reapply if it gets washed off or if sweating excessively. “Fry Now-Pay Later” is something to keep in mind. Statistics show that most damage for skin cancer is done by the age of 18 years. Please protect your children now! They often are in someone else’s care for outside activities that may not be diligent on applying sunscreen. Teach them to apply it themselves or know when to ask for help on reapplying.
3. Swim with supervision – Do not under any circumstance allow children to swim alone – always insist on swimming with a partner and with supervision. A lot of parents assume that knowing how to swim means not having to worry about drowning. Accidents can still happen, such as hitting one’s head, panicking for one reason or another or being too rough while in the water. Once again you may not always be with your children. Teach them to know these safety rules and to make sure that someone is watching them.

We know everyone has some special plans for the summer, please do not forget to take a few extra minutes each day for these quick and important **3 S’s of Summer Safety!** We want all of our Lil’ Jays back in August for another great year.



**FROM THE BOOKSHELF
BY CINDY KENDZIORA, CINDY
SCHULZE, AND TRINA TIBE**

The Needville Elementary School library has completed another very busy and rewarding school year. The library is the hub of the school with many activities going on throughout the year. The students participated in the library incentive programs, enjoyed assemblies with presenters brought in by the library and visited the library quite often to find the perfect book. The circulation of books for the school year totaled almost 90,000! Wow!



With the close of another successful year of Accelerated Reader, here are the results!!
Word Count Whiz Kids:

Chase Hurta finished as the top reader of the entire school. He read **3,041,265** words and received the top reader trophy during awards day on the last day of school.

Katie Vacek, Jason Ricklesen and Garrett Kubenka finished the year as 2,000,000 Word Count Whiz Kids.

1,000,000 Word Count Whiz Kids are: Madeline Young, Mason Stoeltje, Ben Basden, Austin Pfeffer, Rose Taylor, Michael Goodman, Daniel Kluttz, Andrew Kluttz, Christine Mendoza, Connor Baker, Zane West, Lyndon Atkinson, Morgan Michalec, Laine Williams, Claire Kendziora, Sarah Becker, Rylie Roark, Jack Basden, Kaysie Faas, Blaine Sablatura, and Connor Kern.

All of the students mentioned above enjoyed a walk to Simple Simon's Pizza and were treated to lunch.

750,000 Word Count Whiz Kids are: Jacob Vacek, Ronna Kolar, Ryan Hedt, Kane Wiegat, Lara Dixon, Shyenne Lucas, Caden Kozik, Katherine Pitts, Justin Bosse, Bradley Dietrich, and Justin Holub.

500,000 Word Count Whiz Kids: 45 students
250,000 Word Count Whiz Kids: 118 students
100,000 Word Count Whiz Kids: 175 students
50,000 Word Count Whiz Kids: 118 students

On May 7th and 8th, Lucas Miller presented his "singing zoologist" performances for all students. The students enjoyed singing along to his catchy songs, including titles like, "Anaconda La Bomba". Presenters like Lucas Miller are made possible by funds raised at our annual Book Fair. Thank you, Parents!!

Please keep up this great reading by visiting the Albert George Library in Needville during the summer. Blue Jay Book Award nominees are available for check-out at the Albert George library for next year's 3rd and 4th graders!



**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
BY COACHES ALLEN, KOHLEFFEL,
WITEK, AND SPRINGER**

The last six weeks of school has been exciting and very busy! Planning and practicing for our field day activities has been the highlight of another successful school year.

Our kindergartners, first graders, second graders, third graders, and fourth graders have been busy covering a unit on kickball, softball, and recreational games and activities.



Our annual Field Day activities were held on Friday, May 29th. Both students and teachers enjoyed the planned activities. Parents were invited to come and observe another exciting day filled with lots of activities. Pre-K, Life Skills, P.P.C.D., kindergarten and first grade competed in the sack race, obstacle course, 25 yd. Dash, scooter board race, spoon and egg race, ring toss, and hula-hoop race. Our second, third, and fourth graders competed in all of the same events except for running 50 yards instead of 25, and they also added a jump rope race as well. We would like to thank our P.T.A. for furnishing the cool refreshments during Field Day!



We recognized our top joggers/runners for Lil' Jay Laps and Mega Miles. With our mild spring this year, our Lil' Jays were able to tally quite a few more miles that usual!

Wishing each of you a safe and fun-filled summer.

MUSIC NOTES BY TERRELL RIHA



I am so proud of our elementary students! They have successfully learned all seven patriotic songs for the year! They are singing beautifully!

Kindergartners have been introduced to rhythm elements of 'fast-fast', 'slow', and 'rest'. They have read them on flashcards and clapped, stomped, and chanted the rhythm patterns. The students have played the pattern using rhythm sticks. They have written four beat rhythm patterns on the chalkboard independently.

First grade students have learned the pitches of Pitch Hill. We have practiced them using hand signs and body positions. They each have written Do (pitch 1) on the chalkboard staff, as identified by the Do clef. All students have also numbered a D-D' pattern on the staff. During second grade, they will write all 8 of the pitches on the staff.

Second graders have learned pitches of Pitch Hill. Each pitch was practiced with hand signs, body positions, and flashcard games. Rhythm elements of 'fast-fast', 'slow', and 'rest' were reviewed. These will be continued and other rhythms will be introduced during third grade. The students have also been introduced to the instruments of the orchestra and have classified them into families.

Third graders have practiced the Do scale. They have sung the Do scale ascending and descending in the legato or staccato style. Each pitch of the scale has a hand-sign which was practiced with quarter note and eighth note tempo. They have read notes on the staff and identified the pitch noted. The students have been introduced to *The Sound of Music*, which is a biography of Maria von Trapp, which helped bring the Do scale to America.

Fourth graders have reviewed the instruments of the orchestra. The four instrument families have been discussed and classified into treble clef, bass clef, or rhythm

only areas. The four instrument families are Strings, Brass, Woodwinds, and Percussion. At the end of 5th grade, the students will be given the opportunity to choose a band instrument. All have been encouraged to join band and experience learning an instrument and playing in a group with cooperative learning.

During the summer, keep the kids singing at church, to the radio, and with their favorite videos. Practice clapping to the rhythm of the words or the steady beat. The enjoyment of music is a gift God gives.



KINDERGARTEN

Wow! It's hard to believe the year is over. This last six weeks of school was filled with lots of fun learning. We began by celebrating Earth Day and we all decided that we need to "Go Green" to protect our earth. Next we put on our western duds and prepared for the Youth Fair. We had some awesome projects entered at the fair and the children were excited to earn ribbons for their hard work. Many children also participated in the parade, pet show, and children's races.

We had a lot of male visitors during R.I.F. week. Thanks to all of you who came and read to our classes. During that same week, the children participated in our annual Kindergarten Alphabet Parade. Each child came to school dressed to portray a letter of the alphabet. The students and their parents did a great job coming up with some very creative costumes. This was a fun way to celebrate the completion of our study of the letters and sounds.

The Book Swap turned out to be a tremendous success. It was wonderful to see the children getting new books. They are so proud of themselves for being able to read them on their own!



We also had the opportunity to visit a first grade classroom. The students were able to sit in desks and listen to a first grade teacher tell



them all of the fun and exciting things they will be learning next year. They left the classroom fired-up and eager to be going to first grade.

We ended our school year with Field Day/Splash Day. We spent the afternoon getting wet and eating snow cones. We would like to thank all the parents who helped make Splash Day such a wonderful success. We could not have done it without all of your support and hard work. The kindergarten teachers also planned a Fun Day with can money we raised over the year. Mrs. Sniffin, Mrs. Stavinoha, and Mr. Bratrud hosted a No Discipline Party for the students. Any student who had not been in the office this year for a discipline was invited to attend the party. Many of our kindergartners went to the party and had a great time.

The last day began with the Awards Ceremony. Kindergartners received awards for perfect attendance and the six-hour reading program. We then celebrated the end of the year with a class party.

Parents, your children have worked very hard this year mastering their reading skills. Be sure and keep your child reading and writing over the summer in order to keep those skills sharp for the first grade. The kindergarten teachers would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and relaxing summer!

FIRST GRADE



It's hard to believe it's the end of school. What an awesome first grade year! So many activities have gone on in the last six weeks for our first grade Lil' Jays. We had a great time getting ready for the Youth Fair. We had a lot of children participate in that event. We enjoyed riding on floats, watching the parade, and participating in all of the events.

RIF Week was a special week for us. We always enjoy our dads, uncles, and grandpas coming to read to us.

The book swap was so much fun. We will enjoy reading our new books over the summer. Practicing our flash cards really paid

off in the end. The Archer's Apples enjoyed their walk to Simple Simon's Pizza. Madison Whatley was our first grade flash card hero.

The teachers felt so appreciated during Teacher Appreciation Week. Many classes had daily themes and many special wishes and treats from their students. So many teachers received the sweetest notes from their students. What an awesome week it was!!!!

What a way to end the last days of school, but with a field trip to Brazos Bend State Park! We enjoyed petting a baby alligator, touching snakes, viewing different birds, going on a hike around the lake, and visiting the nature center. We loved having our sack lunch picnic and playing on the playground. An afternoon of fun and games was enjoyed by all.

The first grade carnival was a spectacular hit. We had a hayride, train ride, bubble fun, duck pond, and much more. The air bounce extravaganza was the best of all. Snow cones made the day extra cool.

Field Day was exciting. Everybody was a winner. You should have seen our first grade teachers go!!!

Of course, the last day of school was perfect. We loved receiving our awards, but most of all we really liked our PARTY!!!

The first grade teachers all wish you a safe and relaxing summer. Take time to play, watch movies while eating popcorn, listen to good music, study flash cards, and read a good book.



SECOND GRADE

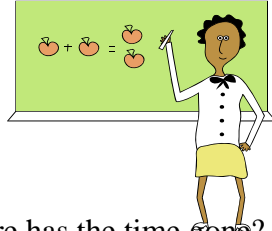
What a great sixth six weeks in second grade! The second graders have had a wonderful six weeks full of learning and fun.

Everyone should have met with their child's teacher to review progress from this year. Keep up with reading and math facts so your child is ready for third grade.

RIF Week and book swap was a huge success! I hope everyone was able to participate in some way. Thanks for being such supportive parents and caring about your child's education!

The field trip to the museum was a blast!! Each class did their own tours and each class was filled with lots of knowledge. Field Day was a lot of fun in the sun. The kids participated in field events and even got to watch their teacher participate.

Fun Day and End of School Celebrations rounded out the end of a super year of learning. Have a great summer!



THIRD GRADE

WOW!! Where has the time gone? This last six weeks in third grade has been quite busy and eventful for all of us! In reading, many classes chose to read from novels and completed activities associated with the novel. In English, pronouns and irregular verbs were the big topics for this six weeks. Also, students researched and wrote about an animal of his/her choice. Students were reviewing all third grade math skills in preparation for the TAKS test. When the awesome results came in, we were elated!! Students continued to work on multiplication and division facts in math. Please keep drilling these facts over the summer! Having a good command of basic facts will make more complex operations simpler in the future. We also had a class versus class competition and a math fact hero. Mrs. Graham's class won the class competition and Tyler Schnitzer from Ms. Dworaczyk's class was the big hero!

Along with the on-going academics, students were entertained by Lucas Miller, a musician who sings about animals and conservation. Students were thrilled to participate in Career Day which included volunteers coming in and informing the students about their careers. We truly appreciate those who were able to donate their time to this enlightening event. We want to give a big shout of "thanks" to all of the males who came and read during RIF week. The students thoroughly enjoyed the variety of stories.



As third grade teachers, we hope that the students enjoyed this past school year as much as we have. We hope everyone has a safe and pleasant summer!!



FOURTH GRADE

It is so hard to believe that another school year has flown by and our fourth graders will be heading off to the Middle School. We are finishing up what has been an exciting and wonderful year.

The fourth graders have taken two road trips this six weeks. We took a very educational field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. While there, we watched the IMAX movie "Sharks" in 3-D.

Our other trip was an orientation at Needville Middle School. While there, the fourth graders took a tour of the school and learned of the many dress code changes that they will have to abide by next year. Each student was given a copy of the dress code that day. It was on green paper and gives details of the secondary dress code. Please refer to it before buying clothes for next school year.

In English, we focused on pronouns and prepositions. Both skills reinforce our language usage knowledge. In reading, the classes finished up with a final novel to end the school year.

Math this six week has been full of fractions and decimals with review of the skills learned this year. In Science, students studied earth science and physical science including the weather, planets, and forces such as gravity and inertia. We have finished up Social Studies with the Texas Revolution.

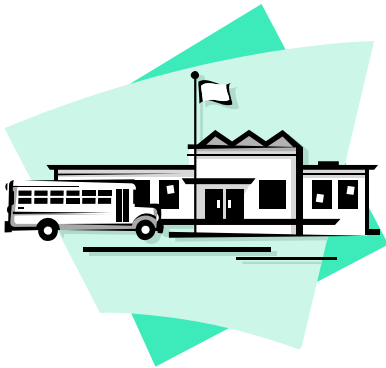
The fourth graders were also busy practicing division flash cards for the class competition and Flash Card Hero. We are proud of Mrs. Barton's class for winning the class competition with Mrs. Rule's and Mrs. Walker's classes coming in 2nd and 3rd. Our Flash Card Hero is Jasmine Humphrey with Casey Ramey placing 2nd.

Have a great and safe summer!





****Reminder****
School supply pickup
dates:
june 24th 9 am - 12 pm
june 25th 4:30 pm - 7 pm
n.e.s blue cafeteria



5th Grade Orientation

Monday, August 10th
A-L – 10:00 a.m.
M-Z – 1:00 p.m.
Location:
Needville Middle School
Cafeteria



**Have a fun and
safe summer!**

**N.E.S Faculty &
Staff**



SEE YOU BACK

AUGUST 24, 2009

BLUEJAYS OF THE MONTH

KINDERGARTEN

BAKER - Kaitlynn Stuewe
BOSAK - Remy Roark
CHILEK - Levi Krauss
Nicole de la
EPHRAN - Houssaye
HAWKINS - Francisco Gonzalez
JUDY - Angel Mejia
KENDZIORA - Kathy Mercado
KRAMER - Hannah Elster
SANTOS - Marylu Mendez
SLAUGHTER - Slade Wood
TODD - Victoria Rosales

FIRST GRADE

ARCHER - Nash Guerrero
BUENROSTRO - Christian Quintanilla
GRIMMETT - Riley McShannon
HACKSTEDT - Joseph DeLuna
HAHN - Armando Lopez
KANA - Kyler Teykl
LEGENDRE - Kyla Wieghat
SITKA - Hayden Herrin
SMEREK - James Roberts
SVEC - Raymond Garcia

SECOND GRADE

BOSSE - Treavor Short
HOUSE - Marissa Camacho
Bailey
HUTSON - Bernshausen
KOCIAN - Trent Holub
LABAY - Kevin Jurek
POE - Arnold Rodriguez
POLAK - Abigail Wright
THOMAS - Roman Alvarez
Jose Aguilar
ZWAHR - Amaya

THIRD GRADE

CAREW - Nicholas Rodriguez
DWORACZYK - Karla Martinez
ENGEL - Hayden Kraft
GRAHAM - Austin Pfeffer
JAHN - Zachary Dibala
JONES - Deavin Phillips
MORENO - Bilal Khatri
SABLATURA - Cassidy Teykl
SCHMIDT - Landon Stratman
SYKORA - Manuel Gonzalez
TILLMAN - Taylor Kaluza

FOURTH GRADE

ANDERSON - Shane Haverfield
BARTON - Madison Ernest
KALKOMEY - Fernando Perales
KOSTELNIK - Shyann Kocurek
PALMER - Julius Villarreal
ROBINSON - Ana Valdez
RULE - Logan Archer
SANDIDGE - Rebecca Kinsel
WALKER - Cadell Freund