

# JAY TALK

Needville Middle School

January 7, 2009



from Mrs. Sebesta

Time has flown by as the end of the first semester is upon us. So many events happened to fill up this time. That means that just as many events will follow in the second semester. Hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. It is always wonderful to spend time with family and friends. It puts our priorities in order. Remember to keep education high on those priorities. With the help of parents and school personnel, all children will succeed. If by chance your child is not succeeding with their classwork, you will have a failure letter sent to you. Please sign and return the letter. This keeps you informed about their progress. This does not mean that they have failed for the year, only that they need to continue working hard to bring up the grades.

We are trying to celebrate each month with a special project. During the

month of November, we wrote family stories. We took two days during lunch to read several stories. They were very touching. The students all did a great job and we all learned about several new traditions to start in our own families.

UIL practice will get under way in January. You have received a letter explaining each event, practice times and other important information. Our UIL event will be held on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at Needville Elementary School. Another letter will be sent home to you explaining the procedures for that day.

It was wonderful to see how excited the children were when I announced the reward for the fundraiser. All the students at NMS walked over to the High School to enjoy a basketball game during the Miksch Tournament. The children filled up the gym to cheer our Bluejays on to a victory. They were so excited to get to participate in such a fun activity. I have received several compliments about their behavior and spirit. What a great representation from NMS!

The students at NMS were involved in several community service projects. I feel that it is very important for children to give back to the community that supports their many projects. The children brought can goods that were distributed to area citizens during the holiday season.

We enjoyed the Needville High School choir and the second grade choir as they came to share their talents with us during the holiday season. The annual Holiday Band Concert was a huge success. It is heartwarming to see how far our sixth graders have come since August. They did a great job!

The first round of benchmark testing is finished. We will start our Extended Day Program on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those classes will run through February 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45 to 5:00. Transportation will be provided. I encourage all students that qualify to attend. It is a great way to get extra help before TAKS. The first test will be the Fifth Grade Reading Test. That date is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The other TAKS dates are



April 7<sup>th</sup> for Fifth Grade Math, April 28<sup>th</sup> for Sixth Grade Math, April 29<sup>th</sup> for Sixth Grade Reading and Second Administration of Fifth Grade Reading, and April 30<sup>th</sup> for Fifth Grade Science. The second administration of the Fifth Grade Math will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have a second session of Extended Day starting in March.

As the six weeks go by, I like to remind parents how important homework is to your child's education. Homework reinforces what is learned at school. It is very important to check your child's homework. Make sure they are bringing it home and finishing the assignment. Also make sure that you are signing important things. This lets us know at school that you are aware of grades and pertinent information. We appreciate the support from home. As I stated in my first newsletter, it takes all of us to mold a child. They must know that communication goes between school and home. Just remember that when disciplining a child, not to make idle threats. Many times this happens with homework. Such as, "If you don't finish your homework or get one more homework mark, you will be grounded." If this is not followed through, children will see that this was not really meant. Instead, use threats only when necessary and follow through on them. Please review the homework policies of your child's grade level.



## Important Dates

**SUPER  
JAYS**



### January

- 5 Teacher Inservice
- 6 Students Return from Holidays
- 7 Report Cards Go Home
- 8 Announce Honor Roll, AR, and Perfect Attendance
- 9 Paper Drive
- 9 Report Cards Due Back
- 13 Second Administration of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Benchmark
- 15 Jay Bucks Store
- 16 Early Release – 1:00
- 16 UIL Contest – NES – 2:00
- 21 Board Meeting – 7:00
- 28 Progress Reports
- 29 Jay Bucks Store



### February

- 2-13 Box Tops Contest
- 3 Extended Day Starts 3:45 – 5:00
- 5 PTA Meeting-NES-4:15
- 5 Extended Day
- 10 Extended Day
- 12 Jay Bucks Store
- 12 Extended Day
- 13 Paper Drive
- 17 Extended Day
- 18 Board Meeting – 7:00
- 19 Extended Day
- 20 Super Jay Luncheon
- 20 End of 4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks
- 24 Extended Day
- 25 Report Cards Go Home
- 26 Last Extended Day for First Session



for the third six weeks...

ADAMSON	BERTHA CERVANTES
ANDERSON	NONE
ATKINSON	SARAH TABOR
BAKER	COY KERN
BAND	COLTON LEHMAN
DIBALA	KELLY STROUSE
FAAS	ABIGAIL ALMAGUER
KOLKMEIER	BRITTANY VILLARREAL
KULCAK	SAVANA JIMENEZ
LEY	ERIC VOGLER
LINDSEY	SHAYNA MIKES
MANN	ADRIANA RAMOS
NEELON	CODY KALINOWSKI
NEVOTTI	HANNAH SMYERS
ROBERSON	CAITLIN WESNESKI
SAWYER	SAUL ALONZO
SPACEK	ALLEN BARTON
THOMAS	JORDAN TAYLOR

**Awesome**



## Report Cards

Report cards for the third six weeks were sent home on January 7<sup>th</sup>. One copy of the report card needs to be signed and returned to school by Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. If your child did not receive a report card, he/she might have a late or lost book due to the library or owe clothes to the nurse.



## Nurse Notes...

from Mrs. Rychilik

Hope everyone had a healthy and happy Holiday Season! In January, the Middle School will be participating in the "Pennies for Patients" campaign benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This provides our students with the opportunity to raise funds to support the society's effort to find cures for blood cancers. Remind your child to start collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or dollars. Remember, we are sending our students the message that it is very important to give so that we may help others. One student alone probably

cannot make a big difference, but if everyone contributes their loose change, how quickly that money can add up!!! I have sent out my Second Notice of Hearing and Vision Referrals. If you have received any referrals from the Nurse's Office, please take the time to take your child to their health care provider. After they have seen a doctor, please send the information to the nurse so that the state report indicates that you addressed your child's problem. It is so important that children are able to learn at their greatest potential.



from Ms. Russell

AR Word Counts are continuing to add up for students for the third six weeks! The **Top Ten** Word Count earners are as follows:

- Julia Weakley
- Cameron Egger
- Elizabeth Barber
- Marissa Gurecky
- Devon Parker
- Dylan Schultz
- Orion Lewis
- Charlie Evanicky
- Toya Watson
- Kayla Tower



The Texas Bluebonnet Books Contest ends on Friday, January 23, 2009 at the end of the day. All Bluebonnet tests need to be taken by then!

The students at NMS continue to be excited about reading. We are so proud of them!!!



by Mrs. Graeber

We have finished two western-themed artworks. The students chose their best to be judged for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Fifteen will be continuing on to Houston for final judging in January. We will be completing paper-mache animals, clay mugs, and portraits after Christmas Break. We will also watch Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, and Mary Cassatt videos to complete the Impressionist Movement.



## Keyboarding

by

Mrs. Sawyer & Mrs. Kolkmeier

We have a wonderful new group of keyboarding students. The students have been busy learning the correct posture to type and the correct finger to use for each letter key. We are learning how to import graphics.

The students are also enjoying taking timed tests using the Ainsworth program. We look forward to learning how to use Power Point and Exel programs.



from Fifth Grade

## Social Studies

As we approached the end of the first semester things seemed to fly past us so quickly. We have covered a variety of topics in social studies. We began with the review of map skills and ended with the elections of 2008. We will now focus on the formation of colonies. The students seemed excited to learn how the election process operates and what great timing that was for all of us to be able to participate in a mock election.

## Science

Our future scientists were very busy the third six weeks. They completed the Life Science unit. Students studied the life cycles of several animals and explored food chains. We began our new unit on Physical Science. We will continue this unit into the fourth six weeks. Please look for the Physical Science Vocabulary sheet printed on bright, yellow paper in your child's binder. Students also took their first benchmark to assess the concepts which were taught in the Nature of Science and Life Sciences units. Keep working on Study Island!



## Math

During the fourth six weeks we will be studying the fascinating world of fractions. Try to ask your child questions related to fractions. For example, if you are having pizza for supper, ask your child what part of the pizza they are eating. Maybe the pizza is cut into 10 slices and your child ate 3 slices. They ate  $\frac{3}{10}$  of the pizza. Another way to help your child understand fractions is to let them help you measure with a measuring cup when you are cooking or baking. Fractions are definitely a part of our daily lives!

## English

The students are continuing to write in their journals and express themselves with much creativity. It is fun reading the journals as the students grow and develop their writing skills. We will continue to explore more grammar rules as the new semester begins. The students did a great job with writing a wish, hope, or dream on a special ornament which hung in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade hallway. We look forward to greeting all the students back to a new semester in January.



## Reading

The fifth grade reading classes enjoyed seeing their ornamental "works of art" displayed in the hallway before the holidays. They expressed themselves by writing one wish, dream, or hope that they had for the coming year on an ornament, gift box, candy cane, or snow flake. The reading classes have been busy reading for the Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club that is due on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will earn them a free ticket to be used at many of the Six Flags theme parks. The deadline for Bluebonnet Book reading incentives is Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

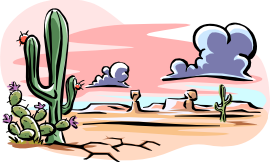




from Sixth Grade

## Science

In Science classes the third six weeks, we have covered reproduction, mitosis, meiosis, passing on of genes, dominant and recessive genes, and finished with sources of energy. We covered a lot in a short time. We were able to have some fun with traits. The students brought a picture of themselves as a baby and their classmates tried to pick each other out by looking at their traits. We will start the New Year studying how living things interact with other living things in their environment. Students will begin working on a biome project.



## Social Studies

The sixth grade social studies classes have been studying about the geography, economy, and resources of Africa. Now we're moving to the good part – the history. We're studying about the Ancient Egyptians! We'll have a project – a FUN project – due pretty soon. Also, the sixth grade social studies classes collected money to buy farm animals through

Heifer International to be sent to people living in poorer countries around the world. Mrs. Kolkmeier's classes collected \$170 and decided to buy a flock of chickens, a beehive, and a goat. Mrs. Sawyer's classes collected \$120 and voted to buy two beehives and three flocks of chickens. These animals will be given to needy families who will be trained by Heifer International to care for the animals. They are then required to "pass on the gift" by giving another family their animals' offspring. The students said that in the future it will be neat to think about how many families their "gifts" may have helped.



## Math

We are finally finished with the fraction unit! When we return to school, we will be working on ratio, proportion, percent, and probability. We will also be working on problem solving skills for TAKS. April will be here before we know it! Extended Day starts in January. The letters will go out to the eligible students when we return.



## Language Arts

Where has the semester gone? We have completed another theme unit in Mrs. Baker's classes, this time on "Unforgettable Personalities" and Mrs. Lindsey's students have done another novel unit, this time on The Bridge to Teribithia. The reading benchmark for the 3<sup>rd</sup> six week period was a rehearsal of standard procedure day with unlimited time to complete the test and a scantron score sheet like the one we will use for TAKS testing this spring. The results look promising and have shown us areas that could use extra instruction. All sixth graders have begun to work the lessons in the Measuring Up books which are excellent for applying our skills. Accelerated Reader tests and Reading Logs show we are working to achieve the most we can in very short grading periods this first semester. The deadline for tests on Bluebonnet books is January 23<sup>rd</sup>, so readers are working hard to be a part of the rewards and vote for their favorite next month. Classes are also working on Book-It and now Six-Hour Reading Club for Six Flags passes. Consider books as gifts this holiday season, or better yet, get your child a library card

and find the time to take them for check-outs, taking an interest in what they read for pleasure. There are many classics that are worth owning for your personal library, but reading is a investment that doesn't have to cost a thing though it always pays huge returns.

# Paper Drive



The PTA sponsors a paper drive each month. The students receive Jay Bucks for the number of bags brought in each time. Please help your child and the environment by saving and recycling. The next paper drive dates are January 9<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>.