

Elementary Newsletter

March 2015

Upcoming Events

Medford Tigers

Attendance Line 507-214-6378

Main Line: 507-214-6300

www.medford.k12.mn.us



March 2nd - MEPA meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 3rd - Conferences and Book Fair 4-7:30 p.m.

March 5th - Conferences and Book Fair 4-7:30 p.m.

March 6th - NO SCHOOL

March 12th - Preschool Open House 6 & 7 p.m.

March 26th - End of 3rd Quarter

March 27th - NO SCHOOL

A Message From Mr. Ristau

I Love to Read Month Facts...

1. Having books in the home is twice as important as the father's education level. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, 2010*
2. The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school. *National Commission on Reading, 1985*
3. The only behavior measure that correlates significantly with reading scores is the number of books in the home. *The Literacy Crisis: False Claims, Real Solutions, 1998.*
4. Children who struggle in vain with reading in the first grade soon decide that they neither like nor want to read. *Juel, 1998*
5. Two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. *BegintoRead.com*
6. Urging young people to read more when there is little available to read makes as much sense as urging starving people to eat, when no food is available. *Krashen, 2007*
7. In middle-income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children. *Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006, p. 31.*
8. 80% of preschool and after-school programs serving low-income populations have no age-appropriate books for their children. *Neuman, Susan B., et al. Access for All: Closing the Book Gap for Children in Early Education. Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 2001, p. 3.*
9. 61 percent of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children. *Reading Literacy in the United States, 1996.*

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Remember to return your library books!



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March's Focus is on being Respectful

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Medford Elementary

Annual Science Fair

More I Love to Read Month Facts:

10. Only 24% of Waukegan 6 year olds engage with books! *2009 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, United Way of Lake County 2010*
11. More than \$2 billion is spent each year on students who repeat a grade because they have reading problems. *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*
12. Perhaps the most serious problem with current literacy campaigns is that they ignore, and even divert attention from, the real problem: Lack of access to books for children of poverty. *Krashen, 2007*
13. Each dropout, over his or her lifetime, costs the nation approximately \$260,000. Rouse, C.E. (2005). "Labor market consequences of an inadequate education." *Paper prepared the Social Costs of Inadequate Education symposium, Teachers College Columbia University. October 2005*
14. When the State of Arizona projects how many prison beds it will need, it factors in the number of kids who read well in fourth grade. *Arizona Republic (9-15-2004) Advertisement by Sheahomes*
15. The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print *Newman, Sanford, et al. "American's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy"; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000*
16. Out-of-school reading habits of students has shown that even 15 minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than a million words of text in a year. *Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding, 1988*
17. A single, brief exposure to good reading material can result in a clear increase in enthusiasm for reading. *Ramos and Krashen, 1998; Cho and Krashen, 2002*
18. In 2009, Americans spent \$3.2 billion on children's books. The supply of quality used children's books far outweighs the demand.

On Thursday, February 26th, Medford Elementary students participated in the annual science fair with nearly 80 project entries from the 1st-6th grades! That is the largest Science Fair we've ever held! This year there were many outstanding projects that showcased students' hard work, creativity, and scientific knowledge!

Judging took place on Thursday the 26th from 1:15-2:00 pm in the Medford School Commons. Judges included volunteers from the River Bend Nature Center, students from Medford High School College in the School classes (Biology and Physics), and Medford community members. Awards were presented at 6:30 pm, where 15 students received blue ribbons and the chance to move on to the Southern Minnesota Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This fair will take place on Saturday, April 25th, 2015 at Mankato State University in Mankato. The following students will compete in the regional fair with their extraordinary projects:

Madison Jaster, Krista Esch, Kinsey Cronin, Jenna Berg, Hannah Fessel, Alex Oatway, MacKenzie Kellen, Jayme Stransky, Jazmyne Duncan, Justin Ristau, Henry Grayson, George McCarthy, Elizabeth Peterson and Piper Hill.

All students participating in the fair worked very hard and should feel proud to have contributed to the success of this event!

A Look into April...

April 3rd - NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

April 6th - NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

April 13th - Math Night 6 - 7 p.m.

April 25th - Regional Science Fair - Mankato



FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY

High School Students will be performing the spring musical on
Friday, March 27th - 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 28th - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 29th - 2 p.m.
Tickets \$6 for an adult & \$4 for a student

MEPA (Medford Elementary Parents Association)

Meet the first Monday of every month
@ 7:00 pm Community Room

Everyone is welcome to come!