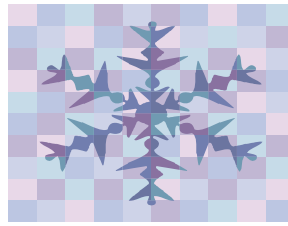


PIRATE'S PRESS



Lise Van Brunt, Principal
 Jan Castillo, Office Manager
 Julie Rauch, Office Clerk
 Phone No. 541 476 2802
 Fax No. 541 471 2449

JANUARY EVENTS

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 2 – 4 Winter Break
- 7 School starts
- 9 PTA Meeting @ 2:10 PM
- 14 Site Council @ 2:10 PM
- 14 Board Meeting at District Office
- 21 Martin Luther King observed – No School
- 25 PBIS Assembly 8:00 AM

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 4 - Kids Smile
- 6 - Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 7 - No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 8 - No School
- 11 - Site Council @ 2:10 PM
- 13 - PTA Meeting @ 2:10 PM
- 18 - Presidents' Day – No School
- 19 - Kids Smile
- 20 – District Science Fair
- 20 – Exclusion Date (immunizations)
- 22 - PBIS Assembly 8:00 AM

STUDENT AWARDS NOVEMBER – PBIS Assembly

Students recognized during our PBIS Assembly during November are as follows:

Practicing “Being Responsible”

- Lovell - Jasmine Kelly
- Tocher - Hunter Spliethof
- Kenney - Sofia McNair
- Meyer - Britannica Bennett
- Harrington - Sarah Marquez
- Katz - Draven Solano

Student of the Month

- Lovell - Morgan Neill
- Tocher - Morgan Wilson
- Kenney - Leah Beachy
- Meyer - Maxwell Sloan
- Harrington – Noel Sandeen
- Katz - Jonathan Byrd

Holiday Luncheon

Students, family and staff enjoyed a delicious holiday lunch on December 12.

Our cafeteria staff had assistance from volunteers that helped service go faster and smoother.

Sincere appreciation goes out to our volunteers:

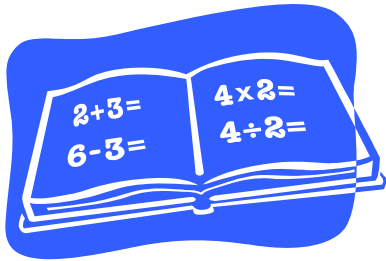
- Jessica Westling
- Becky Fisher
- Madeline Fitzsimmons
- Tina Grow
- Janell Kittleson
- Tiffany Solano



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Parents,

Our district has recently adopted the new Common Core standards for math. This change allows our students to learn math skills in a more comprehensive, developmental manner. In the past, grades 1-5 have participated in "Pirates Den" each Friday. Students were tested in the classroom on basic math facts and upon passing these tests, were challenged to pass the "Pirates Den" version (the same math facts in a shorter amount of time). We have updated these timed math tests to correlate with the new common Core standards. Students will still be expected to complete a set number of math equations within a pre-determined time. Rest assured, we are still timing students on their basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). The test will simply be given in a different format. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.



Special Occasion Food

Homemade items cannot be served at any school function during the school day. Foods must be prepared in a professional and certified kitchen. This means that it must come from a licensed kitchen. Food must come in the original, unopened packaging.

Students may bring homemade items for their own lunches but cannot share those items with others. Thank you for following this standard at all times.

Attendance Reporting

Students who have excellent attendance are more likely to have solid achievement at school. The law requires that school have an average of 92% or higher each year. For students to reach that goal, they must miss no more than 14 days of school over the entire year. That is about a day per month.

Parents, please be aware of this as you schedule appointments, shopping, dance lessons and vacations so as not to negatively impact on your child's attendance.

School begins at 7:40 AM. Students arriving after that time are marked "tardy" and must come to the office to receive a late slip. Also, students leaving before 1:55 PM are marked as "PM tardy". These both count against the perfect attendance goals. It does not differentiate between missing school at the beginning or the end of the day. Either way, it still impacts their learning.

A parent must excuse student absences. It is required that you notify us when and why your child is absent. Notification can be by telephone call on the day of absence or by a written note sent in on the day of student's return. Be sure to call or write a note or the absence will be noted as "unexcused".

Absences are only excused for illness, doctor's appointments, death in the immediate family and family emergencies. All other absences are unexcused.

For a student to earn yearly perfect attendance awards, he/she must not have been absent or tardy.

Thank you for being a partner in ensuring excellent attendance for your child.



AR Reading Goals

Beginning in February, your child will be offered the opportunity to attain new AR reading goals. The new benchmarks will help kids transition in reading, such as: moving from picture books to chapter books, prompt students to broaden their reading experiences, encourage them to tackle the complex text as defined by the Common Core State Standards as the goal for their grade level. Except for Honors Reader certificate, Accelerated Reader software keeps track of each student's certification level.

Teachers can monitor progress with the Diagnostic Report, TOPS Report, Reader Certification level Report and Goal History Report. Students may certify at a level up to five times, with the exception of Independent Reader, which students can only achieve one.

Help support your students in their achievement for the following awards listed below by reading with them at home on a regular basis. Students will earn small token prizes and receive public recognition at our monthly PBIS awards assemblies. We will begin giving out AR awards at our February assembly.

Kindergarten/First grade students may begin doing AR as their skills allow. This is a teacher decision as to when they will begin AR on an individual basis. All other students will begin AR as second graders.

Ready Reader: Accumulate 5 AR points on books read to, read with and/or read independently.
Prize: Be a Reader Bookmark.

Independent Reader: Read independently and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes for three books at a 1.2 level or higher. Accumulate 10 points. Points may include books Read To and/or Read With, but only the three books read independently at a 1.2 level or higher count toward the three-book goal. Points earned for Ready Reader are not included. **Prize:** Sonic vanilla cones.

Rising Reader: Read independently and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes for three books at 1.6 level or higher. Accumulate 10 points from independent reading. Only the books read independently at a 1.6 level count toward the three-book goal. **Prize:** Special pencil.

Super Reader: Read independently and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes for three books at a 2.0 level or higher worth one or more points each.
Prize: Sonic slushie.

Advanced Reader: Read independently and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes for three books at a 3.0 level or higher worth two or more points each.
Prize: Figaro's personal pizza.

Star Reader: Read independently and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes for three books at a level of 4.0 or higher worth four or more points each.
Prize: Free popcorn or ice cream ticket.

Classic Reader: Read independently and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes for three books at a 6.0 level or higher worth seven or more points each.
Prize: Pizza lunch with principal

Honors Reader: Read and pass the Reading Practice Quizzes and accumulate 100 points for books on a list of challenging literature that a teacher creates. Teachers must manually keep track of students' progress toward this level using TOPS or Student Record Reports. **Prize:** Lunch with a friend and the principal and free JP t-shirt. Students must achieve a passing score for the quiz to count toward certification. Some prizes are tentative and may change.



Kids Smile

The "Kids Smile" Dental Prevention Program helps children receive access to dental care. Rogue Valley Dental Society participates in this program by offering an Oral Health Education lesson. This provides free dentistry for children who are uninsured and screened through the "Kids Smile" program.

Forms will be sent home with your student during the last part of January. Please complete and return to school for your student's participation in this dental program.

An Invitation to Apply for Appointment to the Three Rivers School District Board of Education

The Three Rivers School District Board of Education invites all interested patrons to apply for a vacant Zone 2 position on the Board of Education. The Board will appoint the new member to fill an unexpired position with a term to run from February 11, 2013 to June 30, 2013. They may file to run for this position in the next May election. The new board member will be selected from the list of applicants.

To be eligible for appointment the candidate must:

- 1) Live in Zone 2 Precinct (the Hidden Valley attendance area) which encompasses the Hamilton, Robertson, Jerome Prairie, New Hope and Slate Creek Precincts;
- 2) Lived in the district at least one-year immediately preceding the election;
- 3) Not an officer or employee of the School District; and
- 4) Be a qualified voter of the School District.

Applications are available at District Office or online at: www.threerivers.k12.or.us and must be received no later than Monday, February 4, 2013 by 4:00 PM. Please call 541-862-3111 Ext. 5217 if you need more information.

SCHOOL SECURITY

I know each of you must be thinking about the security of our schools for your children. Each school faces their own unique building layout and problems that impacts safety. On January 9th, we had a lockdown drill to practice how to be safe at school. This is not to scare children. It is to give them the tools to react in the best possible ways in a true emergency. The drills also give us information about what is not working or may be unclear about our procedures. It helps us improve our procedures so we can be as safe as possible. We will have lockdown drills every few months.

We are also doing some temporary things, like covering some windows with paper to help keep an intruder from having visual access directly into classrooms, the café, office, etc. We hope, in the near future, to have some other ways of blocking the vision from the outside that won't make the covering of all windows necessary. Please bear with us while we work through this problem. We know it feels strange to have our windows covered. Safety comes first, but hopefully soon we can remove some of those coverings.

We take the responsibility of trying to keep our students safe seriously. We know you have fears for your child. We do, too. We are partners and will continue to work to make our school as safe as we can. Thanks for taking a few minutes in the future to encourage your child to trust the adults at school and to take all drills – earthquake, fire or lockdowns, seriously. Those practices can save lives.

INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF JEROME PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As some of you know, our district continues to face serious financial problems. It is the intent of our district to find the best possible ways to provide service to our students. Unfortunately, after many years of cuts, we are faced with the possible need to close Jerome Prairie Elementary. Our district has lost nearly 2,000 students over the last 12 years or so. Our school, which once housed over 300 students, now has 183 students. In September, the district discussed the fact that our school may need to be closed and that other school reconfigurations might also need to happen. At our January board meeting, some of the data the district has been looking at was presented to the board. Along with that information, a number of parents and some staff also provided their concerns about this possibility. A committee will soon be formed of district and school staff as well as a few parent members to further examine the issues and possible solutions to the problems the district faces. It is important that we consider all aspects of how best to help the children of our district and specifically the students who attend Jerome Prairie.

There will be opportunities for parents to attend meetings with the designated committee. That is where parents can join with district staff to help think of innovative and realistic solutions to our serious problems. Parents are also welcome to attend board meetings and give input at the open discussion portion of those meetings. We encourage you to be involved and help forge the future of our students in partnership with the district. Please read newsletters and any fliers we send home so you can keep abreast of meeting dates and times and any other information we send regarding the process.