

Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer
From: Terri Vasquez, Principal
Date: May 9, 2016
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

ENROLLMENT:

AM Kindergarten: 45	2 nd Grade: 92
ELL Kindergarten (AM): 15	3 rd Grade: 81
PM Kindergarten: 37	4 th Grade: 91
1 st Grade: 104	Special Day (COSSA): 16

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: We have had 45 incoming Kindergarten students screened and pre-registered since April 12th. They continue to come in and register during the day. There are a few out-of-district incoming Kindergarten students who did not register yet, but we know they are coming with their siblings. We will hold a special day for Kindergarten and New Student registration in August.

DEER FLAT PROGRAM: On April 14th, the Deer Flat Refuge presented a program to 2nd grade students. The presenter talked about what a wildlife refuge is, and why it is important for animals to have a safe place to live. The children talked about what animals needed to survive like water, food, and shelter, and how the wildlife refuge would provide those things for them. They discussed the relationship between prey and predator and how prey defended itself, often using camouflage. The children looked at pictures of animals using camouflage and the type of camouflage they used. Some animals used color and patterns to hide, while others used a behavior, such as a possum playing dead, to trick predators. After the program, students from Mrs. Eubanks' class made habitats and animals out of Legos.



1st GRADE ZOO FIELD TRIP: The students visited the zoo on April 25th. They also stopped by the MK Nature Center. Even though it was very windy and rainy, they all had a good time.





SPECIAL DAY CLASS FAMILY NIGHT: HHS Senior Victoria Lane planned a Family night for the COSSA Special Day Class. It was held on Thursday, April 28th. For weeks, Tori has been planning and preparing for this night. It was truly a senior project that met a need in our community and elementary school. The students were treated to fresh fruit, fresh veggies, and corn dogs before they began playing games and completing activities. Tori set up a face painting station, bowling, tattoos, macaroni lacing, tunnels, bubbles, basketball shoot, and other fun activities. There was a raffle and prizes. The families had a great time! Thanks, Tori! It was a wonderful event!



TATU ASSEMBLY: The American Lung Association's Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) Program is a nationally recognized youth tobacco prevention education program. Using a peer teaching model, ALA staff train teens in tobacco facts, history, marketing, health effects, and other issues, as well as in the skills and techniques they need to craft engaging, creative presentations for younger youth. The TATU teen teachers then take their presentations into elementary and middle school classrooms, school health fairs, or community settings. Randee Garrett set up an assembly for the 4th grade students on Tuesday, May 3rd.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: The wonderful elementary staff was treated to muffins and juice on Monday, a PTO appreciation luncheon on Tuesday, a visit from the ice cream truck on Wednesday, Luau snacks on Thursday, and a Cinco de Mayo lunch on Friday. What an honor to work with these amazing teachers and staff members!



ASSESSMENTS: We are just finishing SBAC assessments and have finished IRI and Benchmark assessments.

YMCA "Make a Splash" Program: The second leading cause of death in the United States for children between the ages of 2 and 14 is drowning (Source: CDC) and Idaho ranks 3rd in the country for drowning rates, although it is a land-locked state (CDC). The YMCA is doing everything they can to change these statistics. Treasure Valley Family YMCA, in conjunction with USA Swimming/Y-USA and Jackson's Food Store is providing free-of-charge the Make a Splash (MAS) program to all our 3rd grade students from May 9-23, 2016. Make a Splash is a national child-focused water safety initiative created by the USA Swimming Foundation with the goal of teaching every child in America how to swim. Aligning the "learn to swim" efforts of providers across the country, M-A-S saves lives. Partnering with local schools is a proactive approach to teaching basic swimming and safety skills along with hands-on fun that reaches children of all ethnicities and economic situations. At the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, M-A-S lessons are taught by experienced and certified instructors, with no more than a 6 to 1 student-to-instructor ratio, assuring that the participants will learn important skills while receiving the time and support necessary to be successful. While half the students learn to swim, the other half are on "dry land" enjoying activities such as cardio-fitness games, rock climbing activities, water and science experiments, and educational sessions with local EMT and law enforcement agencies.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 12 – Ag Expo, 4th Grade visits HMS
- May 19 – NED Show Assembly
- May 23 - 3rd & 4th Grade Field Day
- May 24 – 1st & 2nd Grade Field Day, 3rd & 4th Grade Music Programs
- May 25 – Bikes for Books Assembly, Kindergarten Field Day
- May 26 – Kindergarten Graduation, Last day for students