

Kilby Cub News

Spring 2009
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Kilby School
Florence, AL



Contents

Principal's News	1
Kindergarten News	1
Upcoming Events	1
First-grade News	2
Second-grade News	2
Third-grade News	3
Fourth-grade News	3
Fifth-grade News	4
Sixth-grade News	4
Reading News	5
Library News	5
Counselor's Corner	5

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **PTO Meeting:**
March 3, 7 p.m.
- ◆ **Spring Break:**
March 23-27
- ◆ **Spring testing:**
March 31-April 9
- ◆ **Good Friday:**
April 10

Maschal's Message

On March 3rd, we will have our third PTO meeting. We will discuss our past test scores and what we have been working on with the students. After this short presentation we will adjourn to your children's classrooms where the teachers and students will demonstrate some of the daily activities. Each classroom will have students showing their parents different things that we do during the school year. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and should be over by 8:15.

On Monday, March 9th, our visiting committee will arrive to review our procedures, processes, and teaching. This committee will interview teachers and some parents to pull together information for accreditation with AdvancEd. This is an additional accreditation that Kilby has been

participating in for many years. You may have heard it referred to as SACS, or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, accreditation. The committee will leave recommendations for improving our school that we will incorporate into our plans for improvement. We will work on these plans for five years and then another committee will come to evaluate our progress. We will keep you posted on their suggestions in the future.

This year is flying by. Our Spring Break will be here before we know it (March 23-27). When we return from break, we will immediately begin our annual testing program with students in grades 3-6. The exact schedule will be sent home at a later date.

Kindergarten News

There is no LOVE-lie place than kindergarten. Thanks to all of the parents for filling our Valentine's Day party with red hearts, kind thoughts and delicious snacks.

We celebrated Dental Health Month with a visit from our own Dental Hygienist, Ginger Holcomb. The children were educated on how to keep their smiles healthy. They got to sit on a big tooth stool and brush some huge teeth. From the looks of many kindergarteners' toothless smiles, the tooth fairy has been visiting all of you lately.

In February we also learned about a couple of our first Presidents and our newest chief officer in honor of President's Day. The children are all reading and doing a wonderful job. I am so proud of them every day. They work

so hard and are turning into big kids. Miss Holt is doing a super job in kindergarten. She's in the middle of her "solo" experience. SHE will be teaching all day...not me. I am the guide at her side. We are planning a Dr. Seuss Night on March 3 in our room.



And to think that I'm only in first-grade



*March 2nd begins
"Read Across
America" week at
Kilby. It's a way to
honor Dr. Seuss'
contribution to
the world of
children's
literature.*

Does this sound like a familiar Dr. Seuss book: "And to Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street?" I cannot believe we are heading into March! Before you know it, we will be in the last nine weeks of the year. We have been very fortunate to have an intern from Japan, Mr. Shimizu, doing his student teaching with us since January. It has been a very educational experience for all of us as we have tried to learn more about each other's cultures and celebrate both the similarities and differences. He has been doing a unit on his country since the last week in February. Mr. Shimizu will be going to a 5th grade class at Brooks following this placement and then heading back to Japan after graduation in May. We are going to miss him, but with the help of technology, we can still keep in touch!

I am very proud to say that 100 percent of the first-graders benchmarked on their latest DIBELS test. This is a testament to their focused attention and love for reading. We are also in the middle of a reading competition between three groups: the Mighty Lions, the UNA Lions, and the Ghost Readers. Although each child only has to earn 20 points by the end of the nine weeks, most of the students have already far exceeded that amount. They are truly team players, and get fired up if their team is behind in points. So far, it's a close race, so it will

be interesting to see which team wins the competition. Stay tuned for the results!

Our math and science curriculums involve many investigative activities. Most days, the children are involved in a variety of math stations and science explorations which allow for individual as well as group learning. In math, we are focusing in on time, money, addition, and subtraction. In science, we are exploring balance and motion. Our culminating activity is to design a roller coaster that allows the passengers (marbles) to stay on the roller coaster through many twists, turns, and heights. It is very exciting in the afternoon as we attempt to design the safest but most fun roller coasters!

February was a time to celebrate black history and presidents. Our first-graders are working on a project at home related to one of these topics. The projects are posted in the hall, so please take time to enjoy their hard work and efforts.

The week of March 2nd begins "Read Across America" in honor of Dr. Seuss. We will be doing a variety of activities related to different themes to celebrate reading. Look for these fun activities to be announced on the weekly calendar.

As you can see, we are extremely busy, and I am truly amazed at all these children are doing. And to think - they are only in the first-grade!

Second-grade News

The second-grade class has been learning so much.

In math, they are learning to subtract two- and three-digit numbers with borrowing from the tens place.

In science, we have been learning about weight and balance using our equal-arm balances. Miss Black is teaching them about different careers in social studies. If you would like to come and share your career with them, that would be great! Sara Holcome's aunt came and talked about dental health.

She did a fantastic job and brought a nice dental

care bag for all of them. Mrs. Khan came and spoke about Pakistan, and what a wonderful experience that was.

Mr. Infanger is still coming every Tuesday and doing an outstanding job teaching Spanish. I want to thank all of these people, as well as all who help out in computer lab and helped with the Valentine's party. It was terrific!

Miss Black will be solo teaching until March 4th. She is working very hard and doing a great job. We will all miss her when she leaves.

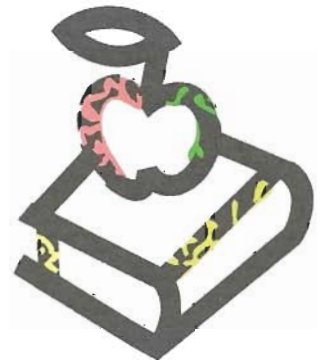
Third-grade News

The third-grade has been busy since Christmas learning their multiplication facts and getting ready for their first SAT and ARMT tests. We have been working on many skills in class and have begun to practice for our tests using ARMT practice, Web Achiever, and COACH, which is a math and reading practice for the SAT. We want to be ready to do our very best!

We have had a lot of fun doing a data and probability unit with Mrs. Lawler, Mrs. Christopher, and Mrs. Warren. We have done many activities in the computer lab using data. We collected data from all the Kilby students on their favorite lunches, made spread sheets, and then made graphs on the computer. In the classroom, we made line graphs comparing the low temperatures of Florence with New York City. Our graphs are being displayed in the hall for everyone to see!

In science we recently began a unit on the human body. We jumped rope to see what parts of the body move when we are active. We counted our bones and have learned what bones do for the body. Next, we dissected owl pellets, and were amazed at what we found. We matched the rodent bones to its skeleton. Now we are ready to begin the joint tasks and discover the ways our joints help us move.

In social studies we have been learning about map and globe skills. We used the globe to learn continents, oceans, hemispheres, and latitude and longitude. We have done activities on kinds of maps, reading map keys, using the compass rose and map scales. We will also create a town for our walk on grid map and practice using coordinates. Our study will conclude with completing a map of Alabama by locating its major cities, rivers and regions.



Fourth-grade News

Students in fourth-grade have been actively participating in various academic competitions. Class members submitted entries to the 2008 Alabama History Timeline Bookmark Contest at the beginning of the school year. This was a statewide contest sponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. We've learned that Gracie Crowley received Honorable Mention for her design. Congratulations, Gracie!

Our classroom Spelling Bee was held before Winter Break. We had 17 students participate. They were: Abby Clare, Gracie, Parker, Kaitlyn, Payton, James, Roman, Will, Triston, Andrew M., Goldie, Lexi, Bailey, Antawn, Andrew T., Catherine, and River. I was pleased to see so many students enthusiastically participate and trying to qualify for the big Kilby Bee. Our first-place winner was Abby Clare. Second- and third-places went to Payton Frederick and Triston Marks.

We had 10 students participate in the Annual Kilby Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic. This was held on Jan. 16. Representing the fourth-grade class were: Gracie Crowley, Kaitlyn

Fennell, Payton Frederick, Joseph Green, Roman Hiatt, Will Letson, Andrew Mitchell, Camille Musgrove, Brady Townsend, and River Zurinsky. Congratulations on your participation. You made us proud!

In Language classes, we have been working on biography poems. Check out our hallway display of silhouettes and laptop published poems. We might learn a lot about each other!

On Feb. 16, Kilby fourth-graders enjoyed a special treat from the Zaxby's Chicken mascot, Little Zach. We were served lunch! It was our prize from the Kilby PTO and Zaxby's for having the most coupons turned in at the Kilby Night fundraiser. Yum and thank you.



Fifth-grade Happenings



Kilby fifth-graders have been learning about a variety of interesting subjects.

In science, we have studied about the spheres of the Earth. In connection with the geosphere, the class made "Rock Cycle" fudge - a very tasty lesson! Along with our study of the solar system, we constructed a scale model which shows the vastness of just one system in the universe.

In math, we have been working on all things fractions, with a smattering of geometry and expanded notation (exponents) thrown in.

Reading lessons have included work on word count per minute (in relation to fluency) and comprehension skills for understanding.

For language, Kilby fifth-graders have been diligently preparing for the Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing (ADAW), a statewide essay writing test given each year near the end of February. Our students have been learning how to write essays in three

different modes: expository, descriptive, and narrative. We are working on narrative essays, and the students have been sharing some very interesting, funny, and/or scary stories with the class.

On Feb. 5th, our class finally traveled to Montevallo to the American Village. (The trip had been planned for mid-December but was postponed due to icy weather conditions.) At the American Village, fifth-graders from Kilby and several other schools participated in six vignettes (with actors in costume) portraying different events that occurred in American history from the Virginia Convention in 1775 to the inauguration of George Washington as the first president in 1793. The settings for the events were housed in scaled replicas of the original eighteenth century buildings. Although it was a very cold day, 23 students, nine parent chaperones, and Mrs. Berry all enjoyed a very entertaining and educational trip!

*Congratulations to
winners of Kilby's
Geography Bee
and Spelling Bee!
Way to go!*

Sixth-grade News

January and February have been busy months! All of us were very proud of the ten sixth-graders who participated in the Kilby Geography Bee.

Congratulations to Melanie Hodges for her success in winning second place against many competitors.

Also, we would like to congratulate Tucker Sigle for winning second place in the Kilby Spelling Bee. Tucker, along with Allie Vance, traveled to the county competition earlier this month.

Social Studies was highlighted this month with a presentation from General Noles of Florence. Gen. James Noles served in the Vietnam War. He spoke to students of how his assigned area, the Mekong Delta, had terrible living conditions, such as extreme temperatures, lots of mosquitoes, and waist-high muddy areas that were used as sleeping quarters. The sixth-graders appreciated his accounts of the war and

of his personal stories.

In addition to using the basal textbook in reading, students have been listening to the trade book, "Island of the Blue Dolphins" by Scott O'Dell in one of their rotating stations. In this book, students have learned a lot about survival, but also about natural beauty and personal discovery through the eyes of the book's main character, Karana.

The sixth-grade class would like to personally thank everyone who participated in our annual movie night (both of them)! Proceeds from the movies helped to reduce the amount each child had to pay for our end of the year field trip to Georgia.

Congratulations to Mrs. Summy's class and Mrs. Wallace's class for giving the most donations. Each of these classes received a pizza party, compliments of the sixth grade. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Get ready to read!

That's right! March 2 is the anniversary of the birth of Ted Geisel, Dr. Seuss. It's also the beginning of "Read Across America" week, NEA's annual reading motivation and awareness program. It's a time to celebrate reading and emphasize its importance. Children who are motivated to read spend more time reading and often do better in school. It's also an important factor in student achievement.

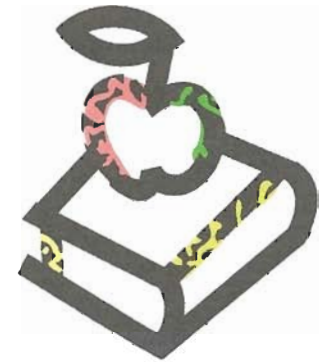
We have several fun events planned for "Read Across America" week, including an exciting surprise guest

reader on March 5 in the gym! Check out your child's classroom calendar for March 2-6 and see what they have planned during that week.

Your child won't want to miss any of the activities that his or her teacher has planned.

Please make an extra effort to have your child here on time that week as we will be doing various things in the gym that week, too. We begin our morning routines in the gym at 7:55!

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss and happy reading!



Library News

The library can be a very busy place, especially early in the morning. You can see students taking AR tests, completing homework, or checking out a book. Older students are always willing to help the younger students read AR tests. What a great way to begin the day!

The ladies' soccer team will be visiting the classrooms soon. They will be reading to the students.

Sixth-graders took a tour along Route 66 from Illinois to California. Fifth-grade students just completed a study of the California Gold Rush. The third-grade class is busy creating several different kinds of graphs on the computer. You will see them in the hallway.

Remember to encourage your child to read to friends, children in your family, or other relatives.

*Read Across America
poem*

You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,

To pick up a book and
read with a child.

You're never too busy,
too cool, or too hot,

To pick up a book and
share what you've got.

In schools and
communities, let's
gather around,

Let's pick up a book,
let's pass it around.

There are kids **all**
around you, kids who
will need

Someone to hug,
someone to read.

Come join us March 2nd
your own special way

And make this
America's Read to Kids
Day.

--Author unknown

Greetings from the Counselor's Corner

Collections for our well project in Zimbabwe are increasing. The kindergartners have been working hard and are excited about helping. We are having a school-wide contest between the boys and girls to see who can fill their bottles first, and the boys are winning. The girls have been catching up but still have a long way to go. Please send your change for the well; it is amazing how much can be collected with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Of course, a few paper bills do help! If you have any ideas for raising more money, please let me know.

My son-in-law recently returned from Kenya bringing pictures of the goats we bought for the children's home there last year. After sharing them with each class, I will display them in the hall by the outreach board. They are cute and have names that the kids selected for them at the end of last year.

The Kilby Kids Advisory Board has been busy. They are learning how to address issues in appropriate and productive ways. They conducted a survey to determine students' food preferences in the cafeteria. The students prepared and administered the survey and then tallied the results, which will be given to Lisa Keehn and Dr. Maschal for consideration. In May, we will be selecting three new students from each grade to serve on the board for the 2009-2010 school year.

Some of the topics for discussion in my classes recently have been:

1st - Honesty, Respect, etc. (Ask them about Sneezy and The Garden Club!)

2nd - Conflict Resolution

3rd - Manners

4th - Anger Management

5th - Respect for Self, Others and
Laws/Rules; Internet Safety

6th - Maintaining Healthy Friendships;
Communication Skills

Spelling Bee!

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We're on the Web!
www.una.edu/kilby

This year, 54 Kilby students participated in the annual Spelling Bee. It began with individual class spelling bees for grades 3 through 6. The top three students of each class then proceeded to the school-wide Bee that took place Jan. 8. Participants of the Kilby School Bee this year were:

Carter Bradford Abby Clare
Clark Maddison Bush Jeremy Hornbuckle
Laura Hillhouse Payton
Frederick Brandon Rieff, Anna
Richardson

Ethan Hood Triston Marks Allie
Vance Tucker Sigle

Winner of the 2009 Kilby Spelling Bee was fifth grader Allie Vance. First Runner Up was sixth grader Tucker Sigle. Both Allie and Tucker traveled to

the County Bee on February 5, 2009 where Allie represented Kilby Laboratory School. She was one of 14 spellers who participated in this year's Bee. Congratulations to all our students who participated in the Bee this year.

