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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Wednesday, May 20 is Fun Day
- ◆ Memorial Day is May 25
- ◆ July 4 is on a Saturday this year
- ◆ School re-opens Aug. 5

## Maschal's Message

I cannot believe it is the end of another school year. I think this one has been a great one. We have had our kindergarten orientation, and that class is filled. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are ready to go to the middle school. Congratulations! You made it, and we are proud of you!

Let's keep our reading scores high by reading this summer. If children stop reading for the next two months, they will fall behind. So set a goal today to have your child read at least 15-20 minutes a day. Start this the day after school ends.

In March, a visiting committee came to review our school. They interviewed teachers and parents about our school, and the report was beyond our expectations. We received the highest possible score in each category. This is due to the work of teachers, parents, and students. The faculty and the advisory committee will be reviewing these suggestions and deciding where to begin. We will need to work on these areas over the next five-year period to continue our accreditation with AdvancEd. Here are the committee's suggestions:

### Recommendations

- Develop a clear, precise, and exact chart or information sheet to show relationships that exist between Kilby and Lauderdale and UNA.
- Incorporate, into the school technology plan, the use of System Technology Information (STI) Office, Classroom and Home modules.

### Opportunities for Growth

- Focus on developing instruction to incorporate higher level thinking skills and develop problem solvers.

- Implement a writing program to equip students with the necessary tools to be proficient writers and perform to their highest potential on the ADAAW.(Alabama Writing Test)
- Explore ways to validate the suggestions and input from the KKAB (Kilby Kids Advisory Board) and PTO by facilitating a joint planning session with the cafeteria personnel to better meet the needs of both entities.
- Develop a plan to obtain and implement Math software for student pacing, motivation, and data gathering of diagnostics.
- Implement a plan to incorporate data-driven programs that would provide higher order thinking for all students, especially the gifted, into the curriculum.
- Review the curriculum for gifted program to ensure that these students are afforded challenges to keep them self-motivated.
- Explore the need to accommodate special dietary needs of students in the school lunch program.
- Incorporate a public relations liaison in conjunction with the PTO Board to promote and encourage a positive image of the school in the surrounding communities.
- Explore the possibility of responding to more stakeholders, including representatives of Lauderdale County Public Schools, with a newsletter or email that shares school happenings, current events, and pertinent information.
- Incorporate time into teacher's schedules for corporate and cross grade level planning.

If you have any suggestions for where we should begin, please let me know. I hope that everyone has a safe and happy summer.

## Kindergarten News



*Read for 15-20 minutes every day even during the summer to maintain the progress you made all year.*

They aren't going to be the youngest anymore! I can't believe it! My sweet little students are going to be leaving and going to first grade! The kindergarten students deserve congratulations for all of their hard work this year. They have learned so much, but the most important thing is that they all learned to read! That's a HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT!

I have truly enjoyed this class. They are a very sweet group, and they love learning. What more can a teacher ask for? Our little buddies have grown so much, and I am proud of their progress. I will be sad at the first of next year

when I see them going into Mrs. Wick's room. I've filled her in on how special they are, and she can't wait to get her hands on them.

The kindergarten parents should be praised as well. You have helped to create this school family, and you deserve a pat on the back for all your hard work. Our class parties have been amazing, and your participation in your child's school has been appreciated. You are the reason that they are doing so well in school, and I have enjoyed working with you too. Thanks for great year.

## Fabulous first-graders

Where in the world has this school year gone? It seems like only yesterday I was welcoming these precious children to first grade, and here we are now, getting ready for our end of the year Fun Day. As you know, the end of the year is a very busy time, but we have still had time to enjoy a couple of field trips. In April, we walked to the Shoals Theater for the Stephen Fite concert. Afterwards, we walked over to Wilson Park for a picnic lunch. The weather was absolutely perfect, and we had a wonderful time with our kindergarten buddies. We also went to Sci-Quest Hands on Science Center in Huntsville on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, the kindergarten and first grade were invited to a Spring Fling at Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home. The afternoon was filled with games and activities for young and old alike.

We have also been working hard in the classroom trying to get ready for the end of the year. We are reading up a storm to earn our 25 AR points so that we can enjoy the reward that is planned for May 18<sup>th</sup>. The children loved the AMSTI science kit on animals. They were able to really investigate similarities and differences between goldfish and

guppies, red worms and earthworms, land snails and water snails, and pill bugs and sow bugs. Some of the children were a little squeamish when the critters were first taken out of their containers, but most of them warmed up and really learned to appreciate the value of these little lives. We are learning about so many things with our math investigations. Telling time, fractions, measurement, and problem solving are just some of the concepts we are working diligently on every day. The children love the manipulatives and the "games" they play during math workshop time.

It is really hard to imagine that this year is almost over. I know the kids are really looking forward to Fun Day, but as the time gets closer, the sadder I get. This is such a fabulous group of first-graders, and such a supportive group of parents, so I really wish we could just start all over! Oh well, I'm just so glad the kids will be right next door in second grade so I can sneak over there and get my hugs! I hope everyone has a wonderful last few weeks of school and a refreshing enjoyable summer!



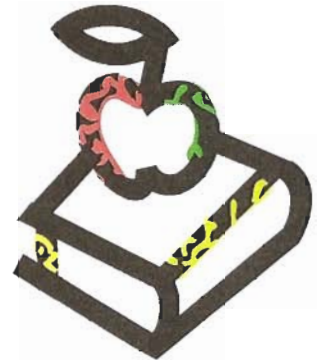
## Second-grade News

Boy has this year flown by! I just want to thank all of the second-grade parents for all of their help this year in the computer lab, parties, and field trips. A special thanks to our room mothers for such a wonderful job organizing things. You are so appreciated.

We will top off the year with a field

trip to the Amish Country. It should be very interesting and educational. I am looking forward to a great day. Thanks to Sara Huntley for making all the arrangements.

This is a very special class with some very exceptional students. They are so talented and creative. They have all touched my heart in many different ways. I will surely miss them.



## Third-grade News

The last few months of school have been a busy time for the third grade. Not only did we look forward to special events such as the talent show, art and PE show, fun day and the AR reward, we are participating in several units in class.

Mrs. Christopher and Mrs. Warren are conducting a unit on historical sites in Alabama. We go online to visit sites such as the USS Alabama Battleship, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Old Cahaba, and the Talladega Speedway. We list facts and draw a picture for each site we visit.

These will be compiled into a booklet that will remind us of all we have learned. We went on field trips to several of the sites to visit them first hand, including Constitution Hall Village, where the constitution for the state of Alabama was written in 1819.

We are completing our last science unit on plant growth and development. We planted our brassica seeds after spring break and watched them germinate in just a few days. We observed, measured, and recorded information in our science notebooks. We used bee sticks to pollinate the flowers and watched as the seed pods began to grow.

Our intern, Miss Bratcher, is teaching a unit on pioneers. We have enjoyed researching Daniel Boone and learning about the travels of Laura Ingalls Wilder. We attended the *Folk Life Festival* at Constitution Hall Village where we saw candle making, spinning, the blacksmith making nails and many other demonstrations. We walked on stilts, spun hoops, danced the Virginia Reel and played with handmade wooden toys. We also participated in craft activities such as quilting, stitching and making cornhusk dolls. Our day culminated with a picnic at the park. It was a wonderful learning experience!

Our class has been competing with the first grade to see which class can get the most AR points. The first grade is ahead, but we are not giving up! Some of us have already reached our goal, and we are still reading. Go, third grade! Go!

## Farewell

This will not be my usual newsletter. It is a farewell to all Kilby students and parents. As many of you know, I will be leaving Kilby at the end of the school year.

My family moved to Florence in 1987 when my husband came to UNA as the Dean of Information Technologies. He is retiring as the VPAA/Provost in July. I decided that we needed to leave together.

My first association with Kilby was in 1988 as a parent (my son was in Ms. Wallace's first class at Kilby). I worked as a substitute teacher for a year and became a full-time Kilby librarian in 1990.

I am sure that I will stay busy with my two grandsons. Also, I have lots of gardening to do along with some more house remodeling.

The Best to Everyone,  
Sharon Warren

## Fourth-grade News

Exciting times have been happening in fourth grade. Forty-nine of us, including parents, traveled to Montgomery for two days of touring. Since preparing for our trip during Alabama History classes, students were able to put a "face to the facts" as we met guides who had been church members when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was their pastor and had participated in the Civil Rights Movement. Our guide at the beautiful Capitol, Mr. Irby, revealed that he was one of the actual 600 marchers who participated in the entire 54 miles of the Selma to Montgomery Voters' Rights March. During our time in the Alabama State House, we were able to meet and shake hands with our legislators, Tammy Irons, Mike Curtis, Roger Bedford, and Bobby Denton.

Fourth graders continue to work on improving writing skills. Volunteerism was the topic for recent contest entries to the Fourth Annual Youth League, Inc. Essay Contest and Youth Workshop. Of all the students from 138 classrooms participating in this contest, Kilby had 5 essays recognized in the top 35. Congratulations to our winners: Triston Marks, Gracie Crowley, Abby Clare Clark, Camille Musgrove, and Andrew Mitchell. Because of their outstanding volunteerism, these fourth graders were invited to attend a workshop at UNA conducted by Miss Colene Burns who was crowned Miss UNA in 2007. During the workshop, Camille was announced as the 2009 Grand Overall Winner! Congratulations, Camille. Come read your child's entry that is displayed in the hallway.

We are excited for Kaitlyn Fennell because of her winning entry to the 2009 Lauderdale Water Festival T-shirt Design Contest. Her design will be printed on shirts for every fourth grader in the county. For her outstanding artwork, Kaitlyn will be awarded a savings bond at the April 30 Water Festival at UNA. Congratulations, Kaitlyn.

The American Chemical Society had a Haiku poetry contest to promote Earth Day on April 22. In the fourth-grade category, we had two winners! Kaitlyn Fennell's entry, "The Windmill" won First Place and received a \$25.00 Wal-Mart gift card. She was invited to read her poem at the Earth Day Celebration at Wilson Park. Honorable Mention was given to Andrew Mitchell for his Haiku, "Saving Plants." Andrew received a glow-in-the-dark T-shirt and an Earth pen. Congratulations, Kaitlyn and Andrew.

Miss Hubbard, our UNA Intern, has finished her science unit on plants. As a culminating activity, she had us dig into our garden and add some beauty to the outdoor classroom.

We are grateful for all Kilby families who have contributed to our aluminum can recycling project. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hiatt who delivered our cans to Roberson's Recycling throughout the entire year. This project earned \$315.00. We appreciate everyone's support. Every can counts! Thanks for everyone's support.

## Fifth-grade News

Fifth graders have just finished an exciting unit on the Civil War led by our intern, Miss Holley Banks. Several interesting activities were a part of the unit. For an introductory activity, students were given a list of six battles to research. Then, working in teams of two, they used the information and an online computer program to rate the importance of each battle to the outcome of the war. Reasons had to be given for the rank of each battle. It was interesting to see how similar the battle rankings were.

For another activity, each student drew the name of a noted Civil War personality. Girls drew women, and boys drew men. Each student then researched his/her "person" for certain biographical facts. After memorizing the facts, each student dressed like her/his character and was interviewed for a fictitious TV program about famous Civil War characters. The interviews were videoed, and a DVD copy was given to each student.

The major activity of the unit was a field trip to the Shiloh National Military Park, near Savannah, Tenn. A tour of the park was led by Mr. Chuck Shull and Mr. Michael Fennell. The class, Miss Holley, Mrs. Berry, and a large group of parents were shown important areas of the battlefield. Quotes from participants in the battles were read, and weapons and ammunition used in the fight were described. Many interesting stories about the soldiers and the battle were shared with the group. It was a very informative and enjoyable experience. The day after the trip, students wrote diamantes to express their reflections about the meaning of the battle.



## Sixth-grade Happenings



Stanford Achievement Test week is over! I would like to thank all of my 23 sixth graders who diligently worked through the 10 subtests required. I really believe that everyone gave his or her best test performance. The sixth-grade group would also like to thank the cafeteria ladies for all of the wonderful snacks that were provided during testing. They were wonderful!

All of us were very proud of the 10 sixth graders who participated in the Kilby Geography Bee. Congratulations to Spencer White, who placed first, and to Melanie Hodges, who placed second. The Bee was very challenging but also a lot of fun.

Our class has enjoyed many language arts clinicals throughout the past weeks. Dr. Janice Myhan's students have been doing an excellent job teaching and reviewing out sixth graders on three of the four writing modes: descriptive,

expository, and narrative. Additionally, sixth graders have been introduced to many historical facts about the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Dr. Myhan's students have been very well prepared in teaching us about these topics.

Our AR reading has paid off. During the 2008-2009 school year, the sixth grade class has reached well over 7,000 points total! WOW! That's a lot of books! Isn't reading awesome! ☺

Recently, we enjoyed a trip to Atlanta, Ga. The sixth-grade class visited the Georgia Aquarium (which featured the Titanic exhibit), CNN's inside-studio tour, dined at the Hard Rock Café for dinner, and participated in math day at Six Flags Amusement Park to top it off! I want to personally thank all of the parents who chaperoned this trip. I think everyone would agree, we had a BLAST!

*Congratulations all  
the winners from  
Kilby who took  
home prizes from  
local and state  
contests!  
Y'all rock!*

## Reading News

This has been a busy year! I can't believe it's quickly coming to an end. The implementation of our new reading series has gone very well. We have learned so much (both teachers and students), and I think that next year will be even better. Thanks to all our teachers for their hard work and diligence! They are the ones who made this time of transition go so smoothly.

We did our last DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills) May 4-8 for children in Kindergarten through third grade. I am eager to see how much our students have grown in their reading skills this year. When we first began DIBELS testing several years ago, 68% of our students in K-3<sup>rd</sup> were at the benchmark score on the test in August. We ended the year with 80% of our students at benchmark. Last May, 96% of our students benchmarked the test. I have high hopes this year and I expect to see an even higher percentage reach the benchmark score! All the things we

have learned throughout our ARI training, and the willingness of our faculty to implement them has really made a huge difference.

I also want to thank all the parents for your continued support at home. I know that your children get many opportunities to read at school, but it's all those extra minutes of reading they do above and beyond the school day that really give them that extra boost. We see a tremendous difference in the students who read at home and those who do not. Believe me, it is obvious!

I will be sending home a summer packet of suggested reading activities for your children soon. It is extremely important that they read daily throughout the summer so that they continue to develop reading skills, and to ensure retention of those learned at school this year. It doesn't really matter *what* they read, as long as they **read, read, read!**  
Happy Reading!

## Counselor's Corner

What a busy end-of-school time we are having! The talent show (KATS), sixth grade middle school visit, special classroom presentations and winding up the Zimbabwe Well Project are just a few of the many challenges that students and faculty have had during the past few weeks.

If you missed KATS, you really missed a terrific production. Thanks to all who participated and to parents, faculty and staff who were encouragers of this effort in so many ways. A total of 41 students presented their talents, and many more individuals worked so hard behind the scenes to make this such a wonderful event. Students are already asking about next year's talent show, so who knows what might happen!

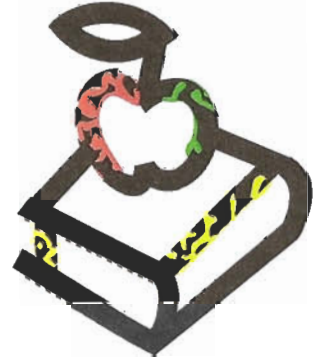
I am sorting coins for the Zimbabwe Well Project. After they have been sorted, Kathy Leavitt has arranged for the money to be counted at her bank in Russellville. This is such a help, and I hope to have a total amount of money to announce by the end of school. Thanks so much for your support and

generosity; I think we will all be amazed at the final total.

Please notice in the front hall the framed pieces that reflect our past outreach programs in Guatemala and Kenya. The goat pictures are very special and have brought such joy to the children both at Kilby and in Kenya.

Next week I will be announcing the new Kilby Kids Advisory Board members for the 2009-2010 school year. Two representatives will be chosen from grades first through third, and three representatives will be selected from grades four through six. These students are chosen from a list of students recommended by faculty whom they believe demonstrate the behavior outlined in the Kilby School Good Citizenship Pledge that we say each morning in the gym. These selections are not easy since we have so many students at Kilby who are so qualified to serve.

Best wishes to all for a terrific and restful summer!



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## Math-a-thon News

Kilby School has raised over \$31,000.00 over the years for *St. Jude's Children's Hospital*. This year alone we raised \$1,558.00. Just think of all the children and families we have helped. Thank you so much for your donations.

Please start saving your drink can pop tops and bringing them to school. There will be a green bucket to put them in just outside the office door. If you could save them over the summer too, that would be great! These will also go to help the children at St. Jude.

Thank you very much.

We're on the Web!  
[www.una.edu/kilby](http://www.una.edu/kilby)