

Kilby Cub News

Fall 2009
Volume 2, Issue 1

Kilby School
Florence, AL



Maschal's Message

How can we have finished nine weeks already! We have some busy times ahead of us with:

- Pictures are October 14.
- Parent Conferences October 21 and 22.
- School closed for October 22-23-Conference and Fall Break.
- Fall Festival is October 29.
- Book Fair, Swamp Johns, PTO Meeting November 5th.
- Thanksgiving Break November 25th-27th.

December will bring the Winter Concert, Movie Night, and much, much, more.

Please remember to save your box tops. The first class to win the box top contest was 4th grade. I'd like to see every class win at least once this year.

I would like to thank all our parents for keeping their children home when they had fever, coughs, and flu-like symptoms. The number of flu cases is increasing, but it would be so much worse if everyone were not cooperating. Just a reminder of the symptoms: fever of 100 degrees or more, cough, tired/weak, body aches, sudden onset headache, and sometimes vomiting. Most people are reporting that the onset is fast. A child may seem fine one minute and have fever the next. Please keep an eye on your children, and don't send them back to us too soon. With everyone's cooperation, perhaps we can keep this disease to a minimum. Thank you again for everything you are doing to help us through this long flu season.

Contents

Principal's News	1
Kindergarten News	1
First-grade News	2
Second-grade News	2
Third-grade News	2
Fourth-grade News	3
Fifth-grade News	3
Sixth-grade News	3
Art News	3
Reading News	4
Counselor's Corner	4
Meet our Librarian	4

Kindergarten News

We have made great strides in our kindergarten class. The children are becoming more independent every day and have adjusted to the life of an elementary student. We have had our first intern, Ms. Barnett, who will be leaving October 16 to be replaced with Star Dolan. Our classroom is in a unique situation where we will be getting two interns each semester. I am very thankful for this because it allows more individualized attention for your children.

classroom. Parents are invited to go with us. Bring your camera so you can get some great fall pictures. Be looking for more information in your child's folder.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Wednesday is Picture Day!
- ◆ Parent-teacher conferences are Oct. 21 and 22.
- ◆ School will be closed Oct. 22 and 23 for Fall Break.

On October 28 we will be going on our first field trip to McGee Farm from 9:00-11:30. The children will enjoy a hay ride to the pumpkin patch to pick a pumpkin and later paint it. They will visit barnyard friends, feed the chicken, play in the hay, pick cotton and make a scarecrow for our

*The
Kindergarten
class will be
going to McGee
Farms on Oct.
28. Parents
welcome!*

Fabulous first-graders

This has been such an exciting beginning, and we are looking forward to many upcoming events.

Reading has really taken off, so our second nine weeks goal will be 15 AR points. We will enjoy swimming until November 16th. New units in our math and science investigations will begin on geometry and weather.

We are really excited about purchasing flocks of chickens for the outreach project.

We are looking forward to our intern, Cory Daughtery, rejoining us on October 19th. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 21st and October 22nd. With Christmas just around the corner, we will begin to make plans to adopt an angel and go to the performance of Christmas in Toyland. A busy few months are ahead, and I am so very grateful for such wonderful parents and a fabulous group of first graders.



Second-grade News

In our AMSTI Soil Unit, students will participate in investigations that include working with clay, humus, and sand; planting seeds to discover how soil types affect root and plant growth; working with worms to observe how they affect the decomposition of plant life.

Miss Birmingham, our intern, will be with us until October 16th. Her Social Studies Unit will be on "People at Work." If anyone would like to come and share your occupation with us, we would be delighted.

The end of the nine weeks (and last day for AR points) was October 7th. An ice cream party was rewarded to all students who have reached their goal. School pictures will be on October 14th. Report cards will be given to parents on Parent Conference Days (October 21 p.m., October 22 a.m.). Students will be out Friday, October 23 for a UNA holiday.

We appreciate all your help! Thanks!

Third-grade News

The third grade is excitedly looking forward to activities coming up this fall. Everyone has parts and solos for the Christmas musical entitled, "I Need a Little Christmas Vacation," and we are looking forward to the book fair and fall festival.

In the classroom, our intern, Mrs. Pierce, is teaching a unit on map and globe skills. We are learning about kinds of maps and how to read maps. We will use the globe to learn about continents, hemispheres, and longitude and latitude. Finally, we will create a map of our own.

Our next science investigation is called earth materials. In this unit we will take our mock rocks apart to discover what they are made of. We will test real rocks for hardness and perform chemical tests on them. We will observe crystals and make crystals of our own. We will discover the minerals in granite and do activities at learning centers.

We have been working on an economics unit in the classroom and with Mrs. Hellums and Mrs. Christopher. This unit will continue into the fall as we design and create posters on a business we want to start. The class will take a walking field trip downtown where they will visit several business and get ice cream at Trowbridges. The students are creating posters on the many economics concepts they are learning about with Mrs. Christopher. Then, each child will enter his best poster in the economics poster-coloring contest, sponsored by State Farm insurance, entitled, "Color the Concepts!"

Finally, we also have Patty Westmoreland, of Listerhill Credit Union, to speak to the children about banking and saving.

In December we will be reading the book, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". We plan to attend the play at the Ritz Theater in Sheffield after we finish the book.

Fourth-grade News

We will top off the year with a field fourth graders loved learning how our state is prepared at "Be Ready Day" at McFarland Park. It was a great experience not only to learn from experts, but show our appreciation to the individuals who work and volunteer their time and knowledge to keep Alabamians safe.

The class Aluminum Can Recycling is off to a good start thanks to families who drop off cans each morning. We have earned over \$50 to help us on our Montgomery history trip. We appreciate all the cans!

CHANGE IN DATE: We invite you to join us **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th** for the 90 minute walking tour of historic downtown Florence. It will be an exciting way to learn local history. Call the Kilby office at 765-4303 for more details.

*The walking tour
of downtown
Florence will be
Thursday, Nov.
12. You don't
want to miss
this!*

Fifth-grade news

Fifth graders have been working on many skills since the beginning of the school year, including comprehension in reading and operations with numbers in math. We have constructed models of plant and animal cells in science and developed PowerPoint presentations in social studies. We have also been working diligently to learn the process of writing a five-paragraph essay.

In August, at "Be Ready Day" at McFarland Park, the students met Gov. Riley and learned how first responders do their jobs. Later this fall, we will travel to The American Village at Montevallo to participate in an interactive program about the founding of our nation.

Our intern, Miss Jessica Gamble, who has been working with our class since the end of August, will soon be leaving us to go to her second placement. We have enjoyed having her in our classroom, and wish her the best.



Sixth-grade news

Sixth-graders are going to be ending the first nine weeks with a bang! We have enjoyed having Ms. Lanier, our student intern, work in our classroom. She is teaching us many concepts, ranging from our solar system to a unit on poetry. We will soon be sending her to her next placement with our best wishes.

In social studies, we will soon be finishing up our WWI unit and moving straight into WWII. During this time, we will be studying about Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin, three dictators of this time period. Also, we will be integrating Social Studies into our Reading class. Students will be reading "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry. They will be learning a lot about the Nazis and about the Jews of Denmark through the eyes of the book's main character, Anne Marie.

On November 9-10, the sixth grade class will travel to Bear Creek Educational Center. They will participate in survival-skill activities as well as outdoor lessons teaching environmental appreciation. In addition, we will have plenty of fun activities that encourage cooperation and teamwork!

I am looking forward to having an excellent and productive school year. Thank you, parents, for all of the help and collaboration that you have provided and will provide throughout the duration of this school year. You are the best!

News from Mrs. Hester

Art class and our Artsonia site are off to an awesome start!

Kilby really has some artistic students! I thank all of you for your interest and participation in your child's Artsonia portfolio. The more participation we have, the higher Kilby is ranked. It is great PR for our small school, and the students LOVE it! If you haven't registered yet, please do so when you can. As a registered parent, you will receive emails when your child has new artwork published and when they receive comments, along with special offers from Artsonia featuring your child's artwork.

If you need more information, feel free to contact me at bhester24@yahoo.com.

I'm thrilled to be back at Kilby this year! Thanks again!

Counselor's Corner

Our outreach program with Heifer International is off to a great start.

Contributions are already coming in, so please remember to share your pocket change with your student for the project. The small bulletin board by the office is complete, so it is quite impressive to see the many areas of the world that Kilby Kids are touching.

The Kilby Kids Advisory Board is already addressing some student concerns. Board members for 2009-2010 are as follows:

First Grade: Connor Bergeron and Gavin Dodd

Second Grade: Mia Frederick and Evan Sims

Third Grade: Collin Huntley and Liz Infanger

Fourth Grade: Eve Mallard, Kanyon Robertson and Clark Vick

Fifth Grade: Goldie O'Connor, Triston Marks and Lexi Sigle

Sixth Grade: Chase Holcombe, Emily Shields and Allie Vance

I am looking forward to another great year at Kilby.

Meet the New Librarian!

Shelly Hellums joined this faculty at Kilby this fall as the library media specialist.

Lessons taught in the classroom are extended through the use of literature, research, and technology in the library media center.

Kindergarten - These students will soon complete their study of families by creating a family tree house.

First Grade - Animal habitats will be the research topic for these students.

Second Grade - Second-grade students will be researching squirmy earthworms.

Third Grade - Money is on the minds of the third-grade students as they will be given different money management tasks in the computer lab.

Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Grade - These students will soon be click-clacking away with a new keyboarding course available in the computer lab. They will also begin receiving all of their computer lab assignments via gaggle e-mail accounts.

"Fabulous" is the word that comes to mind when I think of my time so far here. It has been a joy to work with the students, faculty, and staff. I am looking forward to my future days at Kilby.

Reading News

I recently read an article which reported that research indicates reading is the subject in school that is the most sensitive to family influence, and that reading achievement seems to be more dependent on learning activities in the home than either math or science. It also stated that success in reading was responsible for a child's success in other academic areas, as well.

Since family involvement seems to be a key element in a child's success in reading, we must find more ways to increase family reading time. We can read aloud to our children, assist with homework, limit TV viewing, and establish (daily) family reading times and routines. We should also engage in conversation with our children, listen to them and praise their efforts.

Happy Reading!

*Be sure to join the
Kilby Cubs Fan club on
Facebook.*