

Kilby Cub News

Dec. 18, 2008

DR. MASCHAL'S MESSAGE

It is time to remind everyone of our Mission and Beliefs and to let everyone know about our goals for the 2008-2009 school year. I am including the Stanford 10 test results and comparisons with Mountain Brook Elementary. I hope this will help you understand our purpose and focus for this current school year.

Mission Statement

The mission of Kilby Laboratory School is to provide a safe, stimulating, and cooperative learning environment that promotes cognitive development with an emphasis on thinking, reasoning, and problem solving. Kilby supports and respects students as individuals with unique intellectual, emotional, social, and physical developmental needs. In addition, the school provides opportunities for the University of North Alabama faculty members and students to observe and participate in the active application of current, research-based educational practices.

Belief Statement

The Kilby Laboratory School community believes that students learn best when they:

- Have supportive teachers, administrators, parents, and community members sharing the responsibility of providing a physically and psychologically safe learning environment
- Have equal opportunities to participate in a curriculum that incorporates a variety of learning experiences that accommodate individual learning styles and cultural differences
- Are actively engaged in the learning process toward achieving high standards of excellence
- Create and use a variety of thinking and reasoning strategies in solving problems, making judgments, and becoming reflective learners.

Below are three priority initiatives for the 2008-2009 school year. These have been aligned with the goals of the University.

Priority Initiative 1:

Increase student learning in reading and math 2-3 % points in selected areas as measured by the SAT 10, ARMT, and Scott Foresman Testing Program. Capitalization and punctuation will also be addressed.

Priority Initiative 2:

The faculties of Kilby Laboratory School and College of Education Elementary Department will collaborate to plan, organize, and provide staff development for teachers in the surrounding area school systems in word study, 6-Trait Writing, and technology use in the classroom.

Priority Initiative 3:

Faculty and staff of Kilby Laboratory School will continue to develop processes and procedures to meet and exceed AdvancEd (SACS) Accreditation Standards.

To develop priorities we review our test scores. We have been tracking our Stanford 10 Test results for the past five years and benchmarking with Mountain Brook Elementary.

We are pleased to see that over time we are improving our scores in most instances and are approaching the scores of our benchmark school. In a few cases we have surpassed the comparison scores. Below you will the results over time:

Grade 3 Reading

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	74 % 83 %
2004	83 % 85 %
2005	80 % 86 %
2006	71 % 84 %
2007	83 % 86 %

Grade 4 Reading

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	85 % 91 %
2004	80 % 91 %
2005	85 % 87 %
2006	86 % 89 %
2007	87 % 90 %

Grade 5 Reading

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	80 % 91 %
2004	86 % 90 %
2005	87 % 91 %
2006	85 % 88 %
2007	79 % 90 %

Grade 6 Reading

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	82 % 86 %
2004	78 % 85 %
2005	85 % 81 %*
2006	90 % 88 %*
2007	86 % 90 %

Grade 3 Math

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	82 % 80 %
2004	81 % 85 %
2005	75 % 90 %
2006	72 % 84 %
2007	88 % 89 %

Grade 4 Math

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	86 % 90 %
2004	85 % 93 %
2005	86 % 87 %
2006	80 % 87 %
2007	88 % 90 %

Grade 5 Math

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	67 % 89 %
2004	89 % 89 %
2005	73 % 92 %
2006	90 % 87 %*
2007	77 % 92 %

Grade 6 Math

Kilby	Mountain Brook
2003	86 % 89 %
2004	83 % 92 %
2005	91 % 86 %*
2006	92 % 94 %
2007	93 % 92 %*

*exceeded Mountain Brook Elementary

For the 2007-2008 test results, Kilby Laboratory School was ranked #6 out of 657 Alabama Schools for the percent of students passing the Alabama Reading and Mathematic Tests.

Dr. Mary Maschal
Kilby Director

Send your newsletter information to:
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SIXTH GRADE NEWS

The second nine weeks has been a busy time for sixth graders!! On November 24, our class traveled to the Bear Creek Educational Center. Everyone participated in survival-skill activities as well as outdoor lessons teaching environmental appreciation. We also had plenty of fun in activities that encouraged cooperation and teamwork.

Our class has enjoyed many UNA Clinicals over the past few weeks. The UNA students have conducted activities in core areas of writing, science, social studies, and math. The Kilby students were provided hands-on activities that reinforced what we have been learning in the classroom.

We just completed our study on World War II. Students have learned all about Hitler, the Holocaust, Jews and Judaism, Concentration Camps, Nazis, and Pearl Harbor. Students read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry as part of their reading assignment each day. Set during WWII, this story was about Anne Marie and her best friend, Ellen. The book's storyline and attention to detail kept us on the edge of our seats, wanting to read more!

Everyone enjoyed the Fall Festival and the Book Fair. We participated in Red Ribbon Week with Mrs. Ford and learned the importance of staying drug-free. We also learned how important it is to recycle and protect

our planet when Steve Trash came to our school.

I would like to congratulate my sixth graders for doing an OUTSTANDING job at the Winter Concert on December 1. Everyone worked hard to learn lines and songs so that it was the best program ever! Also, a special thank you to the parents who helped make this year's concert a great success, we couldn't do it without you!!

Thanks to all of you who supported our first movie night on December 5. Proceeds from the movie will help reduce the amount each child has to pay for our end of the year field trip.

Carrie Sanders
Sixth Grade Teacher

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

November was a busy month for kindergarten. Miss Rickard arrived on October 13 and is completing her 8 week internship. During this time the children have been exploring the outdoors discovering new things about leaves, trees, plants and



animals. We searched for bugs and created terrariums for them. We planted bean seeds and watched them grow as we discussed the needs for living things.

During Thanksgiving the children learned about the

Pilgrims and their trip to Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower. They also learned about the Indians that helped the Pilgrims catch fish and grow food. We took a virtual tour online of the Mayflower and watched the Pilgrims building their houses and working to create a new community. The children worked on a Thanksgiving book daily to illustrate what they had learned each day.

Now, the most exciting time has arrived in a kindergarten's life- Christmas! To top that off, it snowed on the first day of December! That made perfect sense because according to the kindergartners, "It should always snow on the first of December." We ran outside and played during the "snow storm."

Marisa Frederick
Kindergarten Teacher



FIRST GRADERS ARE "FALL"ING

Yes, that's right!! First graders are falling fast and there is absolutely no stopping any of them!!!! I could not be more proud of these children. No matter what subject we are doing, everyone gets excited and "falls" in love with it. When it is language arts time, the kids say, "I wish we could just read all day," or "Can we write stories in our journals now?" During math, I hear them say, "I just love math! This is so much fun!" During science and social studies many children are saying that those are their favorite subjects.

They love the investigations in science, and they are interested in the stories about the past. These young six and seven year olds have become so knowledgeable about the Presidential election process and the candidates. They love to vote on class-

room activities and make choices for themselves. They know about majority rules, and they have become very considerate winners and losers.

In the few short months since school started, I have watched them mature, become more independent, and take responsibility for their school work and behavior. They are working together like a family and a team – appreciating their own strengths while recognizing that someone else might need a little help.

A little over half way through this nine week grading period, some children have already earned nearly 50 AR points!! Our goal was 18 points, but they absolutely fell in love with reading for pleasure.

They love to watch those points accumulate, and they are very com-

petitive with their AR partner, but I am amazed sometimes just watching them look for books they can read with someone else.

I am thankful for all the opportunities I get to share with these precious children. I fell in love with their excitement, enthusiasm, and sweetness from day one, and there is no stopping that now either.

I am truly blessed to be able to come to a classroom full of precious children I love and enjoy. Some people call this work, but I call it "fall"ing in love with the special moments each day brings. I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to all the activities that we will be sharing together over the next few weeks.

Mandy Wicks

First Grade Teacher

THIRD GRADE NEWS

In science we just finished the AMSTI Earth Materials unit. We have taken mock rocks apart to discover their ingredients. We have compared different kinds of rocks, and performed scratch tests and chemical tests on them. We went on a calcite quest to discover which rocks contained calcite. In our last investigation we identified the minerals in granite. As a follow up, we are now learning about the three kinds of rock and how they form. We will also be learning about the layers of the earth and how the earth changes.

In math, we have begun to learn our multiplication facts and the meaning of multiplication. We have done AMSTI investigations to discover the factors of 20, 24, 36, and 48. We will soon begin more investigations on things that come in groups. Everyone is working hard to learn their facts, so we will be able to do higher level multiplication

and division after Christmas.

Our class is in the process of finishing up an economics unit with Mrs. Christopher and Mrs. Warren. Every day in class we go shopping during math time. We visit pretend stores like Target, Walmart, and Best Buy, where we purchase an item, write a check for it, enter it into our check book and then balance our check book. It's fun to see which of us are big spenders and which are savers!

We have had many fun times this nine weeks. Everyone enjoyed the fall festival and the book fair. We participated in Red Ribbon Week and learned the importance of staying drug free. This has certainly been a busy, fun nine weeks.

Margaret Lawler

Third Grade Teacher

ART CLASS IS GREAT

Art class is still going great! I have been overwhelmed by the support given to our Artsonia site. As of December 2nd, there have been 13,528 visitors, 549 people have joined fan clubs, and 528 comments have been left! That's amazing! Kilby is ranked #2 in the state for overall participation. THANK YOU! Happy Holidays!

Becky Hester

Art Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 19

AR reward-Popcorn and a Movie
School closes for Winter Break at regular time

Jan. 5

No afterschool program

Jan. 19

School reopens for 2nd semester

School closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

Fourth graders have participated in many activities that have highlighted our Character Education lessons on thankfulness. We are thankful for all our parents for providing both the PTO Fall Festival and Book Fair. Fourteen books were donated to our classroom library as a result of family Book Fair donations this year. Students who reached their first nine weeks AR goal were thankful for being treated to ice cream sundaes and free time outside. Fourth graders also earned a reward pin for outstanding efforts in reading AR books.

In math, we have explored the use of information in charts, graphs, and pictographs. We have seen some great, imaginative ideas when constructing individual graphs.

Mrs. Linda Keckley made a spe-

cial appearance on November 6th during Reading class. She used the tried and true Mother Goose verses in presenting shared readings. Mrs. Summy and Miss Gibson performed Jack Sprat and the entire class jumped into the fun with Humpty Dumpty. The class enjoyed it so much they've invited Mrs. Keckley to visit us again.

UNA students have given presentations during Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies clinicals. For Geography Week, Dr. Mathews coordinated research activities using our Apple laptops.

Alabama History has taken us through the Civil War and Reconstruction Era. On November 18, the class took a field trip to the Farmers Home Gin and an antebellum home at Belle Mont Mansion.

Miss Gibson, our intern, completed her two week unit in Science. She had the class work in cooperative learning groups to construct models of the planets. These models came together nicely when put into the whole solar system. Miss Gibson coordinated a trip to the UNA Planetarium to see Planet Patrol. After the show, planetarium director, Dr. Blake directed us in making model NASA gliders.

Our recent project in Language classes was to write a five paragraph expository essay about favorite sports. Completed, published papers will be displayed in the hallway after we polish them up on the laptops.

*Mary Summy
Fourth Grade Teacher*

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

In social studies, we are learning about the Revolutionary War. Our recent math lessons have included working with measurement, angles, percentages, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying and dividing large numbers.

We are working daily on reading fluency, comprehension, and the achievement of AR goals for this grading period. In preparation for the Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing, which will take place in late February, we have learned about and are practicing writing essays.

Mrs. Christopher and Mrs. Warren led fifth graders in a study of the Titanic. In art class we have just completed a tree-decorating project for a civic event in Florence.

We have enjoyed working with our intern, Mrs. Michelle Irons. As a part of her science unit on preserving and protecting the environment, we worked in groups researching and preparing presentations on eight kinds

of pollution. The presentations and handouts prepared by each group have helped us all appreciate the importance of the environment.

UNA students, as a part of their clinical experience, have conducted lessons in our class on narratives and storytelling, the three branches of government and the Electoral College, and science activities based on endangered species. These lessons have been interesting and beneficial, and our fifth grade students have enjoyed working with the UNA students.

On December 12, we traveled to Montevallo to visit the American Village and participate in the program "Liberty." It is about the struggle for American independence from Britain.

*Diane Berry
Fifth Grade Teacher*



CONGRATULATIONS!

Several Kilby students submitted posters in the Kiwanis Poster Contest. The theme was "Welcome to Our New President." These students were winners in the contest.



1st and 2nd

Grades:

1st Place - Will Champagne

2nd Place- Charlie Champagne

3rd Place- Garrett Dickinson

4th Place - Kyndall Crosslin

5th and 6th Grades:

1st Place- Kayla Holcombe

2nd Place- Allie Vance



We are very proud of these students.

Mrs. Kathy Wallace recently passed all the requirements to receive National Board Certification. This is a great achievement and such an honor for Mrs. Wallace. She worked very hard to achieve this status.

Congratulations to Mrs. Summy's

4th grade class for having the most participation in our first Kilby Night at Zaxby's. They won a lunch from Zaxby's, which will be after the first of the year. Thanks to the Kilby family, we raised \$353 for our computer fund! Look for more Zaxby's Nights next year.

Thanks to Ms. Elsey, Ms. Dodd and all the teachers and parents who helped in coordinating the Christmas program. To the entire student body - you all did a great job!!

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Wow! What a great start we have had to our Zimbabwe well project! At the end of October, we had collected \$908.61 in the big water bottle. The largest bill was \$5.00 with most of the amount consisting of nickels, dimes, quarters and what seemed like a zillion pennies.

Incredibly, this amount was collected by only 34 students who turned in their water bottles. In addition, the collection from student art sales was \$312.00. This amount was raised by only 45 students selling their work. Our grand total deposited at the end of October was \$1,220.61.

Just think what we can do if all 144 Kilby kids sell their art and bring in their water bottles! The cost of digging a well is around \$5,000, and I really believe that we could reach that amount and fund an entire well on our own. As usual, we are capable of doing great things at Kilby.

The winner of the contest to guess how much money was in the big water bottle was Chase Holcombe. Chase's guess was \$700.00 which was the closest without going over the amount. He received a certificate that will give him free admission for a visit to the water slide next summer. We are now having a contest between the boys and girls to see who can fill up their big water bottles first. Currently, the boys are really outdoing the girls.

We had a successful Red Ribbon Week celebration in October. One name from each class was drawn every morning to receive the prize of the day which added a little excitement to our morning assembly in the gym. In each class, I presented information that was designed to help the students make wise choices in their lives with regard to the use of harmful substances. We had some interesting and meaning-

ful discussions that I hope will benefit them in the future, especially as they approach the teenage years.

The Kilby Kids Advisory Board is in full swing. We have had two regularly scheduled meetings and a few called sessions since the beginning of the school year. They have made some important decisions and have addressed some areas of concern for them.

I wish you could see how effectively they conduct their meetings. They are wonderful organizers and leaders. Next year, other students will be selected from each grade to replace the current board members. Working with this group has been such a pleasant experience for me.

Thanks so much for giving me the privilege of working with your children; I learn so much from them.

Judy Ford
Counselor



SECOND GRADERS ARE THANKFUL FOR...

Donovan

I am thankful for my family, clothes, food, parents, school, and my friend, Garrett. I am thankful for the inventions that make things go easier, games, flowers, Native Americans, Pilgrims, land, God, and Jesus Christ and everyone. I am thankful for the whole universe, Christmas, USA, Canada, Asia, Europe, Antarctica, Africa, South America, and me.

Liz

I am thankful for my teachers and food and water. I am also thankful for animals, family, friends, schools, a home and everything else.

Carly

I am thankful for every person. I share food with others, the poor and I am nice to people.

Kyle

I am thankful for my family, my brother, sister, dog, pets, aunts, uncles, grand parents, and my home.

Tucker P

I am thankful for nice clothes, mom and dad, Taylor, Colton, and Coleen. I'm very thankful for everything I have.

Tucker M

I am thankful for God, friends, family, the world, animals, school, teachers, clothes, books, imagination, food, and Christ.

Garrett

I am thankful for my home, family, God, and country. I am also thankful for grandmother's cookies.

Kyndall

I am thankful for food, clothes, family, friends, drinks, pets, color, school, teachers, T.V., love, DVDs, cars, video games, CDs, the World, the USA, wild animals, saviors, stories, poems, songs, art supplies, and paper.

Nabeela

I am thankful for my family, culture, ancestors, food, traditions, home, the Backyardigans, Mrs. Wallace, my classmates, T.V., the holidays, books, and the color, pink. Oh, and the letters, P-I-N-K.

Quinton

I am thankful for my family, God, mom and dad, my dog, teacher, Grandparents, friends, animals, school, the world, book, and everyone.

Alexia

I'm thankful for cleaning up my house, doing well in school, getting up in the morning, being able to put on clothes. I'm thankful for God.

Collin

I'm thankful for ancestors, food, holidays, houses, my culture, family traditions, family members, Landon, Charlie, baseball, basketball, football, the Wii, T.V., and The Sandlot

Landon

I'm thankful for my Mom, Dad, Pappap, Granna, Annie, Sam, Evey, Jack, Debbie, Kurk, Chris, the Wii, and everything else in my life.

Ryan

I am thankful for everything.

Alexandra

I am thankful for God, Ms. Wallace, Mom and Dad.

Charlie

I am thankful for my friends, family, and ancestors. My teacher, who is the best one in the whole wide world! I'm thankful for the presidents. I'm thankful for sports, video games, the Wii. I know fathers and mothers love us more than anything, but I love them way too.

Lindsey

I am thankful for my mom, dad, cousins, teacher, classmates, Mimall, God, three teachers, school, Dr. Maschal, friends, Lauren, my family, classmates, Mica and Maggie. I am thankful for the after school teachers, my baby doll, Barbie, computer, dog, cat, kittens, and good things to eat.

Maggie

I am thankful for good food to eat, beds to lay down on, paper, clothes, games, toys, a stuffed dog and pig. I am thankful for a friend that can speak two languages, same as me, which is Chinese and English. Friends like Kyndall, and Nabella. I am thankful for my Chinese and math teachers.

Sara

I am thankful for my mom, dad, and my sister, Kayla. I am thankful for Chase, Luck, Emily, Colby, Aunt Ginger, Uncle Brian, my clothes, friends, Ms. Wallace, and Mrs. McIntyre.



READING NEWS

We began mid-year testing this month with the ThinkLink assessment in grades 2-6. This test predicts student performance on high stakes tests, such as the ARMT and SAT. It also gives us critical information about our students' strengths and weaknesses and helps teachers determine how to target instruction.

Every grade will take the Diagnostic Spelling Assessment (DSA). This will be the first time that the Kindergarten children have taken the DSA. I am eager to see how much they have learned these first few months

of school. Every year I am amazed by how many words they can spell! This test gives us valuable information about a child's word knowledge.

We will conclude mid-year testing in January with the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) test in grades K-3. The data from DIBELS, ThinkLink, the DSA, and other information provided by the classroom teachers will guide the reading instruction of our students.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me. I am always happy to meet with parents and dis-

cuss any of the above information, or other concerns you may have about your child's reading progress.

I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas break and that you are able to spend time with family and friends doing things you enjoy. Take some time out to read with you child each day. Encourage them to use their reading and writing skills to make gifts or cards for someone special!

Peggy Hoekenga

ARI REading Coach

GIFTED INCLUSION NEWS

We have been busy in 3rd grade preparing for the economics contest that will be coming up after the first of the year. 3rd graders are learning that everything we see, use, and eat in our homes and communities from piggy banks to pineapples can be linked to the economy. Students have been busy learning how to draw various economic concepts such as opportunity cost, wants and needs, and supply and demand. In addition, students have learned about the history of printed money, currency exchange, and saving, spending, and investing money. Also, students have enjoyed online activities that parallel with these concepts. Soon students will be visiting through video the Jelly Belly Factory in order to discover how businesses and industries are created in the United States.

In 4th grade students are studying eight literary devices along with several forms of poetry. Soon we will be online writing poetry with the help of Jack Prelutsky. During this time students are encouraged to write original poetry and send this in to Jack Prelutsky as he reads original poetry created by students weekly. Next, we

will begin to investigate Alabama's rivers, lakes, and streams through various activities. We are building background knowledge in order to prepare the students to write original poetry to be entered in the River of Words Environmental Poetry Contest. The contest is sponsored by the state of Alabama and Auburn University. The contest is designed to promote watershed awareness, literacy, and art among children. Students will explore the natural and cultural history of rivers, lakes, and streams of Alabama and will express these discoveries through art and poetry.

Fifth graders began the year researching and creating a biography report in a teacher created template. Students read AR books and completed online research about their person to obtain the required information. In addition, they learned how to use Citation Maker to create a bibliographic entry. Presently, fifth grade students are studying a unit on the Titanic. They have learned basic facts about icebergs and glaciers and the sinking of the Titanic. Activities include Webquest games, online activities and research, AR books, mov-

ies, and the study of a heroine of the Titanic. Students will learn how this sinking changed history and laws. Finally, they will compare and contrast The Ship of Gold to Titanic.

6th graders began the year researching past presidents and then created a biography of their president on Kidspiration. Then 6th graders held a mock presidential election and helped classes vote online. This activity was reported in the TimesDaily. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Model T, and 6th graders have studied the significance of that event. They will compare the significance of the Model T to today's new hybrid cars. As they research and study these, they will take a trip across the United States on Route 66 in order to discover the importance of this highway. They will create travel brochures of tourist sites on Route 66 which will be displayed in the hallway. Look for these soon!

Debbie Christopher

Sharon Warren

Co-Teachers

Happy Holidays!

