



Maschal's Message

August and September are gone. I cannot believe we are starting October and that the first 9-week grading period will end soon.

Some important dates to remember during the next nine week period include:

Oct. 7 Sign-up for Parent-Teacher Conferences begins in front hallway

Oct. 8 End of Grading Period

Oct. 17 UNA Holiday - School closed

Oct. 20 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Oct. 28 PTO Fall Festival (more information to follow)

Nov. 6 PTO Meeting, Book Fair, Dinner

Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 8 PTO Meeting-Winter Concert

Dec. 19 Winter Break begins at end of the day

The teachers have changed the report cards. We hope that the changes will give you the information you need about your child's progress without overwhelming you with too many details. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. Eventually, we hope to be able to put this information online as the surrounding school systems do.

We are very excited about the Lion Alert system. If you have not registered for this system, please let me know right away. This computerized program will call all of our parents with messages about any emergency at Kilby. You must register online using the information your child brought home on September 24. If you do not register, you will not receive communications about emergency early dismissals, weather closings etc. If you did not receive the registration information, please call me right away so we can get you registered.

Just a reminder that lunch money is due by the 10th of each month. At this time, you should have already paid for August, September, and October. The payment for November is due on October 10. This will help us keep all of our student accounts in the black. We are not supposed to let students charge lunch, so it is necessary to keep ahead of the game.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience with us this year. I know it has been difficult to reach us at times, but we do not always have coverage in the office when Mrs. Anderton is out due to illness. We do attempt to have someone here at all times, but sometimes it does not work out.

If you want to contact us about a change in student pickup or having your child stay for after school, it is best to call before 1:30. If your child is going home with another student, we need to have a note from you (this includes dismissal from the after school program.) It can be very confusing at dismissal time, and we need to know where you want your child to go. So please send a note if your child is going with a neighbor or spending the night with a friend.

Kindergarten News

A new group of students has arrived!

These kids have made the big adjustment of beginning "real school." Though a little timid at first, I believe everyone has reached their comfort level, and now individual personalities are coming out. They are bright, funny, and kind.

We started reading immediately after school began. The children are building on their knowledge of letters and sounds. They are beginning to understand how sounds and letters connect to form words. I am very impressed with their progress. They get so excited when they learn a new word or have an "ah-ha" moment.

The children have been doing AMSTI investigations on balls and ramps. They have enjoyed this unit and have created some complex ramps that allowed them to explore the different behaviors of balls as they roll down inclines, through tunnels, up hills, and around bends. This science module provided them the opportunity to use a variety of science thinking and process skills through exploration, discovery, and problem solving.

During our study of patterns in math, the students have begun to identify, predict, create, extend, and discuss patterns. Their favorite activity was making hopscotch paths in the gym and recording their hopscotch pattern onto paper.

Kindergarten is a year of transitions. We've gotten through the first transition, and everyone is doing well. Their worlds are expanding. They have 17 new friends to play and learn with. This is an exciting year for them as they grow socially, emotionally and developmentally. This is an exciting year for us as we watch them grow and as we grow with them.

Fab First-graders

What a fabulous first nine weeks we have had in first grade. As soon as these children hit the door in August, we were off and running. We have a new reading series from Scott Foresman called "Reading Street," so we plunged right in with the first unit learning all about tame and wild animals. Our phonics lessons have centered around the short vowel sounds, but our reader comes with a variety of books at different levels in order to meet the needs of all of our children. Writing is also integrated into this reading program, so we have been writing stories and doing research about various animals. We are already about to wrap up our first of five books for this year, and it has been amazing to see the progress these children have made in such a short time.

In math and science, we are using AMSTI. AMSTI is an acronym for Alabama Math Science and Technology Institute, and the lessons are designed for students to do more investigative type of learning. In math, our lessons have focused on addition and subtraction by using games with cards and number cubes. Each lesson begins with about a 15-20 minute instruction time, and then the students move into groups to practice what was taught. The children seem to love it, and the learning that is taking place requires them to really think and apply what they already know.

Our science unit has revolved around a study of new plants. We have grown brassica seeds, rye grass, and alfalfa seeds. We have rooted ivy stems and also had to cut out grass, only to watch it grow again. The AMSTI curriculum is very hands on and requires a lot of observation by the

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students as they document what is actually taking place through the investigations. Some things that we take for granted as adults are investigated on a deeper level to see the “how’s and why’s” of our environment.

In social studies we have been doing a unit on map and globe skills. It is very confusing for children to understand the big concepts of where our town, state, country, continent, and our planet all fit into this world. It has been fun to take a look back through history to see how we got to where we are today.

As you can see, our days are packed full, but we have fun while we are learning. We are singing songs, reading stories, taking AR tests, and we even make time for our favorite subjects – recess, P.E., and lunch! It is an absolute pleasure to work with these fabulous first graders every day because they come to school every day with the best attitudes and eager to learn. I know this is because of such supportive and involved parents. I thank them all so much and I am looking forward to a wonderful year with these children and their families.

Second-grade News

The second grade has been reading, reading, reading. Most of them have already reached their goal, but they are still working on getting the most points in the class (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place). Nabeela has the most points right now with 78.2 points! Way to go, Nabeela!

Thanks so much to all the parents who have volunteered for computer lab: Shalane Heitt, Holly Persell, Malik Khan, Sandy Holcombe, Alonda Crosslin, Kristie Dickenson, and Sara Huntley. We appreciate you so much. Thanks also to Sara Huntley for organizing the computer lab and helping me with my computer problems.

Sandy Holcombe has been kind enough to organize a field trip to McGee Farm on October 10th for us. It sounds like a lot of fun, and we are all looking forward to it. Please let me know if you can drive, and let us make a copy of your drivers’ license and insurance cards two days before the trip. Thanks, Sandy.

Mr. Scott Infanger has volunteered to teach the second-grade students Spanish once a week. This will be such a wonderful opportunity for them. Thank you so much.

Mrs. Bates, my student intern, will be solo teaching from September 29th to October 10th. She has been doing a fantastic job, and we will miss her when she goes.

Don’t forget the UNA Holiday on Friday, October 17th, and report cards will be passed out at teacher conferences on Monday, October 20th. Sign up sheets will be posted in the hall a few days prior to conferences. If, for some reason, you cannot be here on October 20th, we can set up another time for you. I look forward to seeing you all.

Want to earn more box top for Kilby?
Log on to

www.boxtopsforeducation.com/passion

for five extra points!

Third-grade News

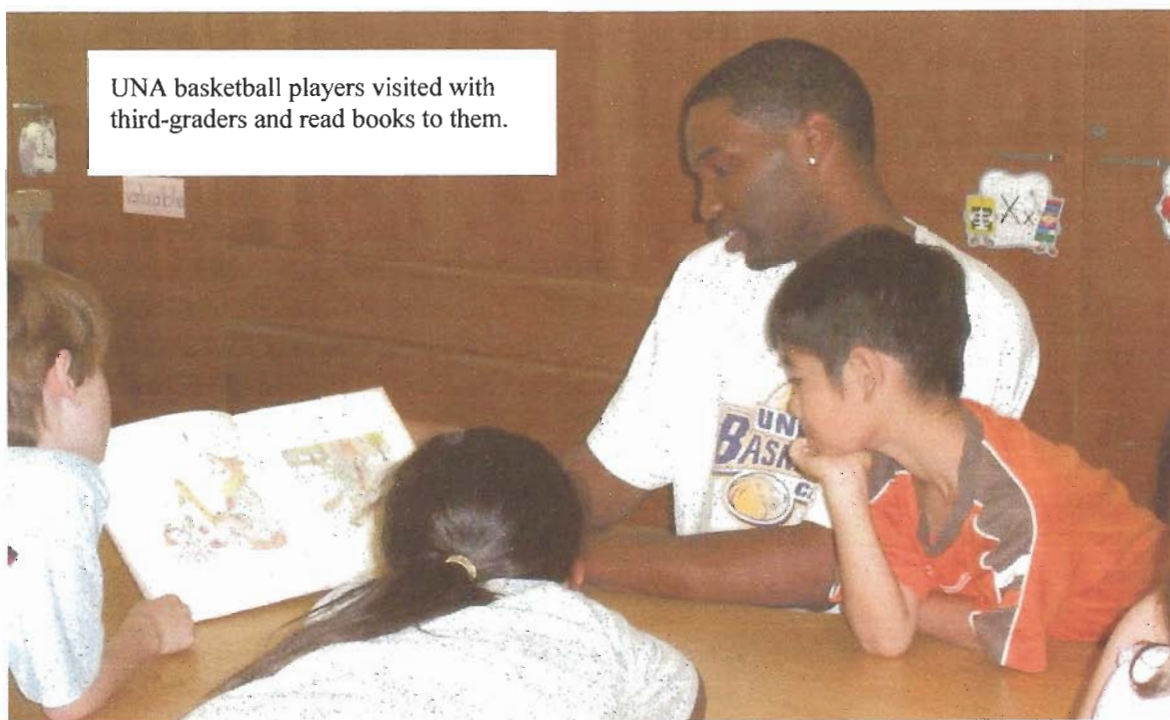
The first nine weeks of school has been full of excitement and learning. Everyone has settled in to the third-grade routine and has been working hard to do their best.

We finally solved the mystery of the unknown powders in our AMSTI unit, Chemical Tests. It was really fun to watch the powders bubble and change color as we tested them with different liquids. The heat test amazed us as we watched some of the powders burn. Everyone did a good job working together and recording their observations.

The third grade has been doing a unit in class and with Mrs. Christopher and Mrs. Warren on economics. We have enjoyed many activities about consumers, producers, goods and services. We have learned about scarcity, opportunity cost, bartering and using money. This unit was further developed in our reading unit entitled, "Dollars and Sense." The stories we read helped us develop concepts about the value of money, when is it important, and how it affects our lives. We have read books, watched videos, and done computer activities related to this topic. The class especially enjoyed the United States Mint website for kids.

Last week, the UNA basketball team visited and read stories to the class. The children really enjoyed their visit and were excited to get their autographs.

We completed a study on animal classification at the beginning of school and are now beginning a unit on ecosystems with Miss Burgess, our student intern. Miss Burgess joined our class in late August and has really been an asset to our class. She begins her solo teaching this week and we know she will do a great job.



UNA basketball players visited with third-graders and read books to them.

Fourth-grade News

Fourth Graders are happy that we have six new classmates: Jacob Adams, Abby Clare Clark, James Green, Joseph Green, Will Letson, and Goldie O'Connor. Also, our UNA intern, Ms. Seino, has come to UNA all the way from Japan!

Science began this year with investigations of living things. We used cooperative learning groups to construct models of animal cells. Our AMSTI electricity unit taught us about how electrons move toward protons in a circuit. We made switches in order to turn light bulbs on and off. Our final project was designing and wiring houses with at least one lighted room. The hallway display has pictures of us working on our science.

Our Alabama History studies took us back to Prehistoric times. We took a field trip to the Florence Indian Mound Museum. Mrs. Adams, our guide, taught us how to use a handmade drill. The class used this educational trip to write a five- paragraph expository essay during Language class.

Another history class project these nine weeks was to use modeling clay to recreate Indian artifacts from our studies. We are studying Alabama Territory and Statehood.

In Reading class, we are using new textbooks. Our latest story was narrative nonfiction about Yosemite National Park. We were lucky to see photographs of a classmate's family trip to Yosemite.

We appreciate all Kilby families who are contributing aluminum drink cans to our recycling project. Fourth-graders will be at the front door each morning to collect cans.

So far, we have collected \$77.00 that will be used for our two-day Alabama History trip to Montgomery.

Fifth-grade News

Fifth-graders have spent the first six weeks sharpening old skills and learning new ones. We have worked on increasing our speed and efficiency on basic math facts. We have also practiced number sequences, writing word problems as equations, and using fraction pieces to identify percentage equivalents.

Our first unit in reading was about how people meet and overcome challenges. In the process of learning about this topic, we worked to increase vocabulary and reading speed and to improve comprehension skills. We have been studying life science subjects, such as cells and body systems, plant and animal classification, inherited characteristics of plants and animals, and plant adaptations. We've examined early civilizations, and we have traveled with explorers as they searched for new lands.

Practicing using our laptop computers has been one of our favorite activities. We have worked to improve our typing skills, accuracy, and search capabilities. In preparation for the Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing, we have practiced writing good paragraphs and are putting it all together to construct essays. Finally, fifth-graders are working to reach their AR goals for the first nine weeks. About half of the class has reached their goals.

For the past five weeks, we have had Miss Emily Anderton as our student intern. She has worked diligently guiding the class during her stay. The students enjoyed doing research on an explorer, writing a skit about him, and then performing the skit. Miss Anderton video-taped the skits and compiled a DVD of them. The class is anticipating watching all of the acting performances and seeing the amazing costumes! We all appreciate the fine work Miss Anderton has done with our class.

Sixth-grade News

I am really enjoying my sixth grade class!

Sixth-graders were very excited to have UNA athletes read to us. Afterwards, we were able to ask them many questions. We appreciate those players who took time out of their busy schedules. GO LIONS!

We welcomed Mr. Hudson on August 20. He is teaching us about planets in science. Our AMSTI activities that correlate with his unit are out of this world!

In reading, we have a new basal textbook with new stories we have really enjoyed. We have four different groups visiting several different stations daily to help increase fluency and comprehension. In addition, we are reading "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen. Sixth-graders are learning a lot about Brian Robeson and his will to survive the Canadian wilderness. The adventures in this book always keep us in suspense and wanting to read ahead!

Sixth-graders are busy at work on a school-wide presidential mock election. On October 30, the students of Kilby will become "registered voters" and will choose their favorite candidate for president. Happy voting!

We had a great turnout for parent conferences. It was great to see all of you again. Thank you so much for all of your support and help. I truly believe that this is going to be a fun, exciting, and productive year for our 2009 graduates!

Library News

The new school year is as busy as ever in the library with many eager readers, especially the first-graders. They are already busy learning the routine of taking AR tests. Remember to check the AR listing on the Web for any books that you may have at home.

Money will be available after Oct. 1 for new books. Suggestions are always welcome. The older students are especially good at keeping me supplied with various titles of books to add to my orders.

Richard Cowdrey, the illustrator of the Marley books, came to Kilby on October 3. Three of his books are available in the library for checkout.

National Mock Election Day is October 30. The sixth graders will conduct the election for Kilby School.

P.E. News

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. This year in P.E., we are doing several new things. The Kilby Cubs and I have started a mileage club. The students will walk or jog during their P.E. time every Wednesday, and every time they complete three miles, they will receive a foot charm. To help track our progress and to prevent the charms from being lost, I have asked the students to keep them on their backpacks or shoestrings. Last week, the students made "body words" to practice spelling words for the week and played Card Shuffle to sharpen their math skills. Of course, everyone seems to look forward to Friday's favorite: Choice Day. Also, Kilby students will be participating in the Walk for Diabetes on October 22nd or 29th (depending on weather). I will be sending home more information in the next couple of weeks. Keep those hearts healthy, and happy fall!

Greetings from the Counselor

We have really started this year in a big way. From my regular work in the classroom with students to our latest outreach project, I have had many wonderful experiences with your children.

I have never seen the students as excited as they are now about our well-drilling project for the orphanage in Zimbabwe. When students bring their full water bottles, I am letting them come to my room to add their collections to the big water bottle I have. In one week's time, we have one of the bottles almost half full! Some students have even brought more than one full bottle from home. They are really showing a generous spirit of giving to those who have so little of what we have so abundantly -- clean water. If possible, it would be good for the students to have some tasks around home where they earn money to place in their bottles; working for some of the money might make the project even more meaningful to them.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you will probably have received a letter from me concerning the art project that Mrs. Hester and I are working on together. Please remember that the collections that the students are making in their water bottles and from the sale of their artwork are to come from family and friends. We do not want children approaching strangers or going door-to-door to solicit funds or sell their artwork.

Be sure to talk with your child about our "Caught Doing Good" project. They are spending a lot of time looking for good in others; as a result, I continue to have fewer students coming to my room to complain about others and more students coming to say something good about someone else. They are good examples to all of us to minimize the negative and emphasize the positive in those around us.

As always, let me know how I can serve you and your child; that is my mission at Kilby.

Meet Mrs. Hester

We are off to a great start in art class! I have really enjoyed my first couple of months at Kilby -- so many artistic students! So far, our Artsonia website has had around 4,000 visitors!

The students have been so excited about having their artwork published. It takes a good bit of my personal time to upload artwork to the site, so I can't publish every student every week. Parents, please feel free to publish your child's artwork at home, either artwork they do at school or things they create at home. Each student can have a school and personal gallery. Look for this link [Upload more Artwork!](#) at the bottom right-hand corner of your child's page for info on how to publish artwork from home. And if you haven't already, please remember to register as parent on the website so that you will receive e-mail notifications when your child has new artwork published. I thank all of you for your support and interest in our art program.

Please email me if you have any questions about Artsonia or anything we do in art class. bhester24@yahoo.com. The direct address to Kilby's artsonia site is: www.artsonia.com/schools/kilby1

Kilby Kids Advisory Board Established

By Gracie Crowley, Parker DeGroote, Andrew Mitchell, Ethan Burbank, Brandon Rieff, Anna Robertson, Amanda Lawrence, Sarah Mathews and Joshua Vardaman

This year, we started the Kilby Kids Advisory Board. The Kilby Kids Advisory Board has three representatives from each class who will get together to discuss ways to make Kilby a better school.

The Kilby Kids Advisory Board has a talented group of members this year who will bring forth the best at Kilby.

Board members from each grade are as follows:

First Grade: Lauren Bergeron, Ella Ross Edwards, and John David Lott-Haws

Second Grade: Charlie Champagne, Donovan Elsey, and Alexia Thomas

Third Grade: Laura Alice Hillhouse, Ethan Hood, and Hannah Richey

Fourth Grade: Gracie Crowley, Parker DeGroote and Andrew Mitchell

Fifth Grade: Ethan Burbank, Brandon Rieff and Anna Robertson

Sixth Grade: Amanda Lawrence, Sarah Mathews and Joshua Vardaman

Next year, teachers will select a new group of students to serve on the Board. When we first met in August with the Kilby Kids Advisory Board (KKAB), we discussed the rules and regulations that our organization will be based on.

Also, we established jobs and how we will govern ourselves.

We will be trying to improve Kilby this year with a large assortment of ideas.

News from your Reading Coach

We're off to a great start!

In August, we administered the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test to our kindergarten through third-grade students. This is the first time that 93% of our students reached or exceeded the Benchmark score. I believe that this is because of all the hard work of our excellent teachers last year and the fact that so many of our students read over the summer.

In September, members of the UNA basketball team read to your child's class. Students in Ms. Lawler's third-grade class were the first group to host these young men. It's always such a treat when we have local celebrities affirm the importance of reading by sharing a good book with us. Thanks to Coach Wright and Coach Champagne for bringing the athletes into our school.

Remember, you are your child's best advocate. Stay informed about your child's progress in school and don't hesitate to ask his or her classroom teacher about ways you can help at home. Spend some time reading with your child every day, and talk about the things that you read together. Happy Reading!

Remember! Parent/teacher
conferences are Monday,
Oct. 20.
Sign up for a time today!

Music News

These first weeks of music have been packed with fun and entertaining musical activities. Most of the students have looked at the treble clef staff and learned a song to help us remember what the names of the notes are on the lines and spaces. Have your child sing this for you: "E, G, B, D, F, these are the lines on the treble clef. F, A, C, E, the spaces are easy". . ki There are some movements that go with the song. I hope they will dance for you too! Some of the classes have already had a written quiz on the treble clef and have done very well.

Another activity the students seemed to enjoy was a tempo (speed of music) game we played like "Red Light, Green Light." The tempos we used were Presto, Allegro, Andante, and Largo. We have also enjoyed some musical scarf activities. I enjoyed seeing all of the brightly colored scarves moving in time with the music! Playing fun music games with physical activity seems to be a hit with our students.

Our first composer study was on Johann Sebastian Bach. We listened to a creative story from Susan Hammond's Classical Kids Collection about Bach coming to visit a modern day girl named Elizabeth. In this story, Bach talks about life 300 years ago, his love for the organ, why he was put in jail, his 20 children, how he walked 520 miles to study organ, and so much more. The children really enjoyed listening to the story and learned so much about Bach. Please ask your child(ren) what they know about Bach. You might be surprised about how much they know! We will study Beethoven after the Christmas Program.

And it is almost time to work on our Christmas Program music! We will have two plays again this year with the third- and sixth-grades as our stars. I will send more information home as we get closer. This is always a fun and exciting time of year, and I can't wait to get started!

Remember these important dates:

Oct. 17: UNA Holiday- School closed

Oct. 20: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Oct. 28: PTO Fall Festival (more information to follow)

Nov. 6: PTO Meeting, Book Fair, Dinner