



KING'S GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE LION'S PRIDE PARENT NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Sheila Wynn, Principal

Mr. Stephen Marvaso, Asst. Principal

VOLUME 4

December 2009 – January 2010

ISSUE 2

From the Desk of the Principal

Thank you for the wonderful start to a super school year!! It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching our second semester! It is a pleasure to work with outstanding families and I take great pride in my participation in the education of your children. We are so fortunate to be in a division that offers outstanding learning opportunities and academic activities for learners. Now more than ever, it is a most exciting time to be in the field of education with technology-enhanced environments and virtual worlds that students have to practice and gain an understanding of real-life experiences. Education is no longer just about teaching children to read. It's about teaching children to think critically about what is read, to interpret what they read, and relate that to their own personal lives. If we expect students to think critically, we must be willing to do the same, at home and at school. Our goal is to simply better understand the needs of the children. By doing this we need to improve how we teach and clearly define what we expect of our students as well as ourselves. We shift from what students are learning to how students learn best! This is how we move forward as school community this is how we grow as a nation. I am emerging myself in professional development in 21st century skills and leadership technology so that I can become a better school leader! Thanks for your continued support! Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

GUIDANCE NEWS

ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Great Neck Middle School will register our rising 6th graders on January 14th at 6:00. Parents and students are invited to learn about the Core/Advanced classes in the auditorium, view the elective offerings in the gym, and finally, make your course selections for the 2010-2011 school year in the cafeteria. This is always a fun, informative evening. Please make plans now to attend

Lynnhaven Middle Parent's Night will be December 8th 6:00-7:30



GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree is now set up in the main foyer, and we encourage any families who can help to take a gift tag. All gifts should be returned to the school unwrapped with the gift tag attached by Tuesday, December 15th. If families are unable to come in to get a gift tag and would like to participate, please call Honey McClendon at 648-2812.

PTA NEWS

PTA Parents' Night Out/Movie Night!

Friday, December 18, 5:00-8:00 PM

Movie Night

Polar Express

Pizza

Bring a blanket & pillow and wear your PJs.

\$8 for first child

\$5 each additional child

Tickets on sale at lunch

Dec 15, 16, 17

Green News

We are pleased to announce that the Green Team has made their debut around the school! King's Grant Green Team was awarded the Sustainable School Recognition Award.

Here are just a few of the things our Green Team is doing at our school: At the end of the day a group of 2-4 students are assigned to a hallway, the library or computer lab to help teachers recycle their trash bins and turn off their computers.

At lunchtime, 2-3 students observe the students at lunch and give students a "Caught Being Green" paper for recycling their milk containers, using a reusable lunchbox, water bottle, or sandwich container. The slips of paper go into a box for a drawing for a prize at the end of the month. Prizes include reusable materials.

They are creating commercials to be aired on our morning announcements educating and encouraging students to respect the 4 R's. They are taking a Green Pledge, and then encouraging other classes to do the same.

They wear their green visors so that everyone knows they are a part of the Green Team.

These are a few of the things we are doing, and have plans for more activities involving the community in the spring.

CAFÉ REMINDER

ATTENTION PARENTS

In the interest of helping us encourage our students to make healthy choices and address safety concerns, we ask that students

NOT bring sodas to school for lunch.

Sodas become warm or are shaken, and may spray when they are opened.

Thank you for helping us set good examples of healthy food choices for children.



Kindergarten Update: We can hardly believe Thanksgiving has come and gone and now the winter holidays are quickly approaching. Thanks to all the parents who shared our Thanksgiving feast with us. It is always a pleasure to share our classrooms with you. As the weather is getting colder, please make sure you dress your child accordingly. Make sure all jackets, hats, and mittens have a name on them. It also helps us if the child's mittens are attached to their jacket. December is a fun month to be in Kindergarten. We will be learning the letters Aa, Cc, Nn and Pp. The last week of December, we will celebrate the end of our unit *and* the end of the year with a pajama party complete with pjs, pretzels, popcorns, and other "p" foods. No slippers please; students must wear appropriate footwear.

Our first graders continue to move forward full speed during this busy season. We are busy learning about the past and the present and making comparisons of the two. We can always be seen reading books in our classrooms or working with reading buddies in the hallway. We are also learning about the writing process so we can become better writers.

As we enter this special season of holidays, we are busy learning about many famous people and special days. Learning about customs and traditions is just one way we are sharing and learning about each other. We will also be learning about the different seasons of the year.



Are you smarter than a second grader?

In Science we have recently been studying seasonal changes. Did you know some words like **HIBERNATION**, **MIGRATION**, **CAMOUFLAGE**, **DORMANCY** and **ADAPTATION** are words that may be included on an IQ test? Do bears really hibernate or are they just light sleepers? What's the difference between **EROSION** and **WEATHERING**? Does anyone have any interesting weather tools that a meteorologist might use? Send them in if you do not mind us looking at them. Is the **water cycle** like a **bicycle**? We have been studying these concepts and more.

Social Studies is cool! Have you heard there are five oceans now? They are the Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Indian, and **Southern Ocean**. **Did the Southern Ocean just show up?** We are also learning about the continents and landforms in America. Speaking of which: Does your second grader know his or her address? That helps too! Soon we will be "visiting" the ancient civilizations of Egypt, China, and the American Indians. From pyramids to palaces to teepees all in a couple of months, can we do it?

We also are exploring many types of literature in Language Arts. How is fiction different from non-fiction? What is special about legends, folktales, and fairy tales? Do you like poetry? Parents please continue to read daily at home and work on fluency and comprehension skills. I think someone once said, oh, yes, it was me, "**Be passionate about reading, it is the key that unlocks the door to learning!**"

The Third Grade students have had a full and challenging first quarter. As we move into the second quarter, the pace will continue to accelerate. In Language Arts, we will continue writing in our journals daily. The students are really beginning to develop their own writing voices. We continue to work with them on editing and grammar skills. Reading stamina is growing in third grade! They are reading for longer periods of time and are often reading longer chapter books. In order to promote continuity in reading and better comprehension, we are reminding students to take their library books back and forth from home to school each day. This way they can read the same book in both places. Third graders are reading a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories and learning more about the many helpful features found in nonfiction books. In fiction reading, we are working on retelling skills. Students will use graphic organizers to assist them in retelling the important elements in a story. In Math, the students are starting a unit on multiplication. Soon, all third graders will be busy memorizing the multiplication facts. We will then hone our math skills as we study numeration and decimals. In Science, we are starting a unit on adaptations, studying how plants and animals have adapted so they can live in their environment. Then we will investigate food chains and how organisms are connected together for the survival of all. In Social Studies, we will board a time machine to travel back in time to study the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and Mali. Do you know where Mali is? As we work towards the Holiday break and the end of the second quarter, please encourage your child to continue working hard.



Fourth Grade Update: We have quite a bit of bucket fillers in the fourth grade. What is a bucket filler you ask? Students that are caught encouraging one another or helping one another are bucket fillers. They make those around them feel great while making themselves feel great as well. Way to go 4th grade!



Math Tens and tenths, hundreds and hundredths...it all can be confusing when learning about place value with decimals! Thankfully, we have unique strategies that help us remember how to order, compare, and estimate decimals. Go ahead and quiz us! Soon, we will be starting measurement using the metric system. We will develop our own ways to understand measuring to the half inch and to the quarter inch. Be sure to ask us about our nifty strategies! Also, it's important that students become proficient with the basic multiplication facts. There are many ways to practice – games we have learned in class can be played at home, and the computer is a great resource for activities to strengthen these skills. Don't forget about the good ol' flash card drill!

Language Arts In a nut shell, we have been working on many 4th grade skills. We have been doing more prefixes and suffixes, synonyms and antonyms, "fact and opinion", homonyms, context clues, multiple meaning words, and idioms! It's enough to make your head spin! We are continuing to work on reading comprehension and fluency. Students will be introduced to constructing questions about a specific topic to guide research; identify the characteristics of and respond to literature for legends and tall tales; and describe the character's point of view and support with text references. Students will also learn and identify parts of a book. Did you know 4th graders still love to be read to? Why not read a good book together and talk about the story elements like the setting and characters? It's a great way to spend time together while reinforcing 4th grade strategies and skills.

Content What's the matter!?! Or, rather, What is matter? That is the question we will be asking ourselves in science! We are going to be investigating the properties of matter and exploring with various activities to measure matter. This will be a great way to implement what we already have learned in math about decimals and metric measurement! By the way, do you know what matter is??

For social studies we are going to continue in Virginia Studies. Afterwards, we will dive into the regions of the United States. Have you ever been to another region of the U.S.? We would love to see pictures! Some of the highlights we will be focusing on are the landforms, occupations, the natural resources, and the recreational activities for the U.S regions. If you are going away for the holidays, keep 4th grade in mind! We would love to share your pictures with our classes when we begin U.S. regions!

Fifth Grade Update: Can you say rigor? That's what our fifth grade students are saying! They have already been working rigorously in their classes completing projects and experiments, using technology to enhance their learning, and it's only the end of the first quarter!

We have moved from studying the geography of Virginia and its native inhabitants into how our country's longest governing body (the General Assembly) began and the reasons for the American Revolution. Watch out Redcoats!

Our biologists have moved on from the study of the plant and animal cells and five kingdoms into the study of our oceans. That's right—now they are specializing and becoming marine biologists and oceanographers! They are learning about one of the most unique substances on Earth—water! Fifth graders are learning just how truly special water is and why it needs to be conserved and protected. They are learning about the physical properties of both fresh water and ocean water. Ever wonder what it would be like to walk across the ocean floor? Ask a fifth grader!

Readers and writers are in bloom even in December. They are gaining writing skills each time they tackle a different kind of writing. (See if your fifth grader knows what type of figurative language "tackle" is.) They are continuing to hone their skills to get their reader's attention and keep it by using vivid verbs, alliterating adjectives, and similes as smooth as silk. Super Readers love Read About – a computer based reading comprehension program that is similar in style to a video game. Very cool stuff!

As methodical Mathematicians, our fifth grade students are exploring division concepts. They will review basic division facts and apply this knowledge to solve problems. Ask your child to teach you to teach you how to divide using partial quotients. It's never too late to learn something new!



Library Update:

Students come to the library throughout the week for lessons, and people often ask the question...“What do they do?” The lessons are always extension of the curriculum being taught in the classroom and here are some examples of lessons that were taught this month:

K and 1st grades: They got to see glow-in-the-dark books with all the lights out! 1st graders also got to go on a leaf hunt, to make a leaf man, that goes with the book called The Leaf Man.

2nd grade- American Indian lessons, starting off with an American Indian legend, followed with looking AI items found in a Bandolier bag such as dream weaver, bone tools, feathers, etc. Mrs. Hampton had fun dressing for this one

3rd grade- Intro to research! Third-graders got to spend time looking through encyclopedias, almanacs, thesauri, atlases, and online resources. They listened to music and found lots of cool facts. Amazingly, many of them now want to check these books out!

4th grade- Fourth-graders stepped it up a notch and actually worked on mini-research projects in the library, based around the different states. It was a lot of fun trying to convince Mrs. Hampton that the state they randomly chose was the best! Again, many 21st century computer skills were implemented into this lesson.

5th grade- Fifth-graders had fun looking at the book called The Z was Zapped, to learn more about alliteration. They also watched a funny video clip which showed this concept, and then worked on creating some of their own tongue twisters.

Yes, a lot happens in the library, and it is much different than “back in the day!”

Music Notes

There are several important events happening in the music department over the next two months. Here are some important events you don't want to miss:

- Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m.- The 4th and 5th grade chorus will be presenting a musical entitled “December Nights, December Lights”. They will be sharing with the audience songs from holidays that are celebrated in December.
- Wednesday, December 16, from 6:30- 6:50 p.m.- The 4th grade chorus will be singing at the entrance to the Holiday Lights at the Beach.
- Friday, January 22,- Paul Krendl, an international award-winning magician/illusionist will be at our school for two shows. All of the money raised will be used to help defray the cost of the fifth grade field trip to see the International Tattoo in the spring. **TICKET INFO WILL BE SENT HOME THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY!**
- Variety Show auditions will be held on Tuesday, January 12, and Wednesday, January 13, from 3:00- 4:45. Information will be sent home soon!

Technology Bites –

As the weather turns cooler, we often look for indoor activities. Please know that there are some great resources on line. Some sites that you might want to check out: www.starfall.com ; www.pbskids.com ; www.internet4classrooms.com . Please remember the most important thing about using the Internet is to be safe. Know what sites your children are accessing what they are doing. Here are a few Internet Safety sites to check out:

http://www.vbschools.com/computer_safety/index.asp

<http://www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx#>

<http://www.ikeepSAFE.org/>

<http://home.disney.go.com/guestservices/safety>

<http://pbskids.org/license/>

PE Update: During our first semester in PE, King's Grant students were tested in Physical Fitness. The students participated in the PACER, cadence pushups, cadence curl ups, trunk lift and back saver sit and reach. 4th and 5th grade students were eligible for one of our three awards: Excellence, Achievement, and Superintendent. Congratulations to Hogan Brown, Sydney Levine, and Jennifer Mason who all received the Excellence Award. During Nov. and Dec. students will be working on Speed Stacks, throwing and catching and striking with equipment. Many of the students have expressed interest in ordering Speed Stacks, so look for the Speed Stacks order forms in their Thursday folders. Once again we will be participating in the Shamrock Marathon weekend. Students will have the opportunity to run in the Final Mile or 8K Challenge. I will be sending home an information letter on Dec. 3rd. Our 6th Annual Lion Bowl had will be played on Dec. 11th due to inclement weather on Nov. 25th.

Note from the Nurse

The most effective way to prevent the spread of germs & bacteria is by thoroughly washing your hands with soap & water.

Practices to help you stay well

1. Cover your nose & mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use your elbow to sneeze into if tissue is not available
2. Keep hands away from your eyes, nose, & mouth.
3. Stay away from sick people if possible.
4. Stay home if you are ill & don't return until free of fever for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication.
5. Get vaccinated against H1N1 and seasonal flu, especially if you have a medical condition or care for someone that has one.

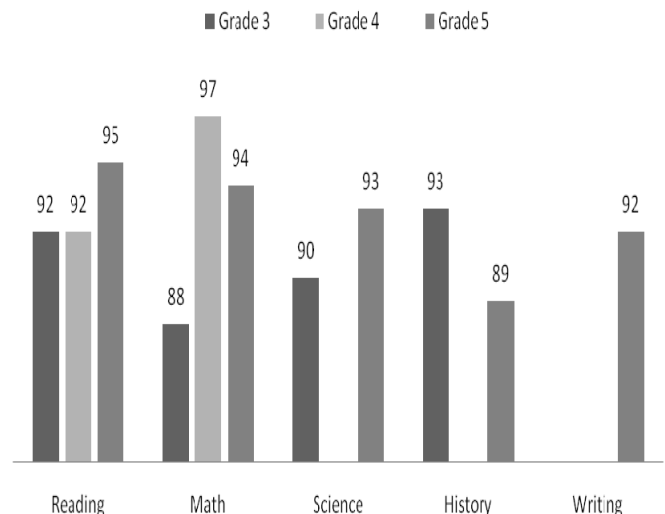
Art Update

In Art, the 1st grade students are working on clay fish dishes. The 2nd grade students are finishing up their Jazzy Jungle Cat Collages and will begin a Snowy Self Portrait. The 3rd graders have almost completed their “Worms Eye View” tree paintings and will begin Clay Greek style pottery. The 4th graders are starting an Andy Warhol Style Pop Artwork in oil pastels and the 5th graders are finishing up their Reptile Repousse` projects. Thanks to all for your support in helping make the Original Works Art Fundraiser a great success! *Michelle Wilson, Art Teacher*

Data Update: KGES Spring 2009 SOL Results

Way to go Lions!

KGES Spring 2009 SOL Overview



DATE	START TIME	END TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12/4/2009	09:15 AM	12:45 PM	Field trip "The Nutcracker" (Gr 4)	Chrysler Hall
12/7/2009			Frosty's Wonderland open all week	Rm 304
	12:10 PM	03:00 PM	Gift of the Nile visits Gr 2	Library
	03:15 PM	04:15 PM	2 nd Grade Tutoring	
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	Read 180 Program (Selected Students)	
	06:00 PM	07:00 PM	PTA Board Meeting	Library
12/8/2009	07:45 AM	08:10 AM	Honors Breakfast (Gr 3)	Cafe
	08:45 AM	11:15 AM	Gift of the Nile visits Gr 2	Classrooms
	09:15 AM	01:30 PM	FT Hurrah Players (Gr 3)	
	03:00 PM	04:15 PM	Chorus Dress Rehearsal (Gr 4-5)	Cafe
	03:00 PM	04:00 PM	Royal Readers	
	03:15 PM	04:15 PM	2 nd Grade Tutoring	
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180 (Selected Students)	
12/9/2009	07:45 AM	08:10 AM	Honors Breakfast (Gr 4)	Cafe
	08:45 AM	09:30 AM	Holiday Music Program Assembly (K-2)	Cafe
	01:45 PM	02:30 PM	Holiday Music Program Assembly (3-5)	Cafe
12/10/2009	07:15 AM	08:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	07:45 AM	08:10 AM	Honors Breakfast (Gr 5)	Cafe
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180 (Selected Students)	
	05:30PM	06:30 PM	Frosty's Wonderland	Rm 304
	06:30 PM	07:30 PM	Holiday Music Program	Cafe
12/11/2009	09:00 AM	10:30 AM	Lion Bowl (Gr 5)	Field
12/12/2009			Hanukkah	
12/14/2009	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
12/15/2009	08:50 AM	09:35 AM	Ocean in Motion Assembly (Gr 5)	Gym
	10:30 AM	03:00 PM	Ocean in Motion Day (Gr 5)	Various
	10:50 AM	12:40 PM	PTA Parents Night Out ticket sales	Cafe Foyer
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
	03:30 PM	09:00 PM	KG Night at CiCi's Pizza	Lynnhaven Mall (outside)
12/16/2009	03:00 PM	04:00 PM	SCA Meeting	Cafe
	03:15 PM	04:00 PM	Newspaper Club	Rm 514
	06:30 PM	06:50 PM	4 TH Grade Chorus sings at Holiday Lights	
12/17/2009			Progress Reports Issued	
	07:15 AM	08:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
12/18/2009	05:00 PM	08:00 PM	PTA Parents Night Out	Cafe
12/21/2009	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
12/22/2009	07:45 AM	08:10 AM	Citizen Of the Month Breakfast	Cafe
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
12/23/2009			Holiday Winter Break	
12/24/2009			Holiday Christmas Eve	
12/25/2009			Holiday Christmas Day	
12/26/2009			Kwanzaa	
12/31/2009			New Year's Eve	

DATE	START TIME	END TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1/4/2010	01:45 PM	02:30 PM	Fire & Water Safety Assembly (K-3)	Cafe
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	Read 180 Club	
	06:00 PM	07:00 PM	PTA Board Meeting	Library
1/5/2010	08:30 AM	08:45 AM	Reading Buddies	
	03:10 PM	04:00 PM	Drama Club Meeting	Cafe
	03:00 PM	04:00 PM	Book Bunch	
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/6/2010	03:15 PM	04:00 PM	Marathon Training	Gym/Outside
1/7/2010	07:15 AM	08:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	03:00 PM	04:00 PM	KIDS Club Mtg.	Rm 304
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/11/2010			Krendl Magic/Illusion Show Ticket Sales	
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/12/2010	03:00 PM	04:45 PM	Talent Show Auditions	Cafe
	03:15 PM	04:00 PM	Royal Readers	Library
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/13/2010	09:30 AM	11:45 AM	Field trip Chrysler Museum (Gr 2-3 classes)	Chrysler Museum
	03:00 PM	04:45 PM	Talent Show Auditions	Cafe
	03:15 PM	04:00 PM	Newspaper Club	Rm 514
	03:15 PM	04:00 PM	Marathon Training	Gym/Outside
1/14/2010	07:15 AM	08:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	09:30 AM	10:30 AM	Magical Storyteller (Mark Daniels) Assembly	Cafe
	09:45 AM	11:45 AM	Field trip Chrysler Museum (Gr 2-3 classes)	Chrysler Museum
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/18/2010			Holiday MLK, Jr. Day	
1/19/2010			Krendl Magic/Illusion Show Ticket Sales	
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/20/2010	03:00 PM	04:00 PM	GIRLS Club Mtg.	Rm 304
	03:15 PM	04:00 PM	Marathon Training	Gym/Outside
1/21/2010	07:15 AM	08:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
			Writing Prompt (School Wide)	
	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
	05:00 PM	06:00 PM	School Planning Council Meeting	Library
1/22/2010	06:00 PM	07:30 PM	Krendl Magic/Illusion Show (6 pm show)	Cafe
	08:00 PM	09:30 PM	Krendl Magic/Illusion Show (8 pm show)	Cafe
1/25/2010	03:00 PM	04:30 PM	READ 180	
1/26/2010			Adjusted Dismissal Day	
1/27/2010	07:45 AM	08:10 AM	Citizen Of the Month Breakfast	Cafe
			Adjusted Dismissal Day	
1/28/2010	07:15 AM	08:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
			Adjusted Dismissal Day	
1/29/2010			Adjusted Dismissal Day	