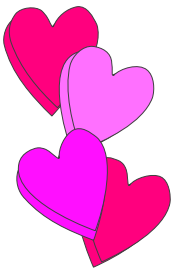


THE DIXSON/GRADY HAPPENINGS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010



The Dixson/Grady Happenings provides you with a quick glance of what is going on in both schools. You will notice a description of plans/themes by grade level as well as information from each 'special' area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 592-8962.

Happy New Year!
Mr. Harders, Principal



DIXSON/GRADY HAPPENINGS

"DYEING" to Read Challenge

I have challenged the students of Dixson/Grady Schools to read a total of 156,261 minutes between January 5-22. IF that goal is reached, the class that reads the most minutes will get to select which color I will dye my hair.

A record sheet has been sent home to keep track of the minutes. The reading can be time reading alone or being read to by another person.

Maybe this can be made into a family fun activity. Spend time together reading to each other. Discover the joy of reading together. Of course, be sure to record those minutes, title of books and parent signature. The record sheet gets returned to school January 15th and 22nd. If you run out of space, please feel free to use additional paper and attach them.

Monday, January 25th, will be the day the class that reads the most minutes will select the color to dye Mr. Harders's hair IF the overall goal is met.

Please visit the district website (www.elmsd.org) to see me in different hair colors. IF the students meet or exceed the goal, the actual hair dyeing will be recorded while it is being done at New Karma Salon (Tarrytown) and shown on the website.

Hopefully everyone is "dyeing" to read!

Wayne S. Harders
Principal
Dixson Primary/Grady Elem. Schools

DIXSON HAPPENINGS



Dixson in the winter....

Winter

The street cars are
Like frosted cakes --
All covered up
With cold snowflakes.

The horses' hoofs
Scrunch on the street;
Their eyelashes
Are white with sleet.

And everywhere
The people go --
With faces tickled
By the snow.

by Dorothy Aldis

Some Important Reminders

- Visit our website for the latest school information & to view photos of school event (www.elmsd.org);
- Please dress your children appropriately on cold days;
- If you know of someone in need of a coat, hat or gloves please let the office know immediately;
- Continue to encourage your children to keep their hands out of their mouths and to wash their hands with soap and water often;
- Please meet your child's bus at the bus stop and be on time!

PLEASE MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO PRE-PAY FOR LUNCH

- See Mrs. Watson in the main office to make payment or send money in a sealed envelope with your child's name;
 - Reduced lunch: \$0.25 each day
 - Full price lunch: \$2.00 each day
- Questions or concerns, please contact me at:
Main Office: 592-2092 or
dbarbosa@elmsd.org
- Interested in volunteering to help with an upcoming school event, please contact our PTA:
www.gpachecoa@hotmail.com or
www.my3gillgirls@yahoo.com

Ms. Barbosa/Dixson Head Teacher

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to 2010! In January, we started off the year with our New Year's celebration. In Math, we will continue our work with numbers, identifying numerals, making groups, and sequencing. We will continue our work with letters and sounds. We will also discuss Martin Luther King and we will learn about the season of winter.

February is a short month, but filled with many special days. We will start by celebrating Groundhog's Day and then move on to Valentine's Day and celebrate the 100th Day of school. We will also be learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

Kindergarten Teachers
Mrs. Capocci, Ms. DeBlasio, Mrs. Potenza, Mrs. Young

FIRST GRADE

The first graders are ready to continue our learning journey. As always, reading and writing will be our focus. We will be working on "Elements of Non-Fiction" in both reading and writing. They will become familiar with the elements of non-fiction such as, headings, labels, glossary and diagrams. In addition, the children will learn how to research and use graphic organizers to gather information in our "Reading for Research Unit". "Reading for Research" will lead into our "Writing All About Books Unit". They will be drafting, revising and editing their work!

Our math focus for the next two months will include time, measurement, place value and number comparisons through 100. We can't wait to celebrate the 100th Day of School in February! We are becoming scientists by using the scientific method to learn about matter and energy, heat and light and magnets.

We will also study some famous American such as, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The children will learn how they made a difference in our lives.

Happy Winter!

The First Grade Teachers
Ms. Plati, Mrs. Podhaiski, Miss Sanese, Mrs. Velardo

ELL

During the months of January and February, our kindergarten and first grade English Language Learners will continue to discover the English language through an

assortment of listening, speaking, reading and writing activities.

The kindergarten English Language Learners will be using their English language skills to explore a variety of units: numbers, food, and the winter season. The first grade English Language Learners will be focusing on reading and writing nonfiction.

Echo and Baby Echo will continue to help the kindergarten and first grade English Language Learners practice their reading and writing skills.

Happy Winter!

Miss Buonassisi
Miss Mendoza
ELL Teachers

GRADY HAPPENINGS

SECOND GRADE

We hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Since getting back to school we have been working hard. Our current reading theme is "Neighborhoods". We are learning about Chinatown and our own neighborhood. Our math focus is on double digit addition and subtraction. Memorizing addition and subtraction facts makes this much easier. Please be sure your child continues to read each night. We hope to see you at the Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly on January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Please send in the following: 4 glue sticks, 1 dozen sharpened pencils, a box of tissues, and antibacterial wipes.

Thank you,

The Second Grade Team
Mrs. Leibel, Mrs. Nelsen, Dr. Short, Mr. Volpe

THIRD GRADE

The third grade classes are beginning a unit of study on China. This unit will explore fascinating facts about China's geography, history, government, economy and culture. We will integrate reading, writing, math and the arts throughout this unit. In math, the third graders will be working on Money and Multiplication. The students are excited to continue working on cursive writing. We will be revisiting The Jacob Burns Film Center at the end of January. Discovering films and arts has been an adventure for the students. We look forward to a wonderful and successful year!

Third Grade Teachers
Mrs. Fulgione, Mrs. Hopper, Mrs. Morrow

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth graders have been working very hard. In ELA, we are learning to write multi-paragraph essays and various literature responses. We are also practicing listening skills through different activities. All classes are participating in Mr. Harder's reading challenge. In S.S., we are learning about life in colonial NY. Matter and measurement is the unit we are currently working on in Science. In mathematics, the students are working on multiplication and division, as well as problem solving.

The Fourth Grade Teachers

Mrs. Breen, Mrs. Budzynski, Mrs. Byrne, Mr. Hopper

FIFTH GRADE

We hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday break! In ELA class, the students will explore various genres. We will also begin the second unit on nouns in grammar. In Mathematics, we will continue our unit on algebra. As a reminder, students **MUST** be reviewing their multiplication facts on a regular basis. In Science, we will begin a unit on the study of weather. In Social Studies, we are studying the history and culture of Latin America.

SUPPLIES, SUPPLIES, SUPPLIES. Please replenish school supplies (especially pencils, erasers, and folders). Look out for Midterms in January. The science midterm date is Thursday, January 14, 2010. The social studies midterm is Friday, January 15, 2010. The math midterm is Tuesday, January 21, 2010. Students need to prepare themselves and review all topics covered from the beginning of the school year. Report cards will be sent home with the students on Friday, January 29, 2010. Attached to the report card will be a memo with midterm exam grades.

The 5th grade field trip is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2010. We will be going to the IMAX Theater at the Palisades Center to view educational movies that supplement our science and reading classes. Lunch will be included in the cost of the field trip.

The Fifth Grade Teachers

Mr. Carolini, Mrs. Cleveland, and Mrs. Katsetos

SIXTH GRADE

The sixth grade reading classes are using active reading strategies while reading their novels. Some novels being presently read are Number the Stars, Small Steps, and Where the Red Fern Grows. The students will be exploring themes in these novels and expressing their ideas in thematic essays.

In Science the students are finishing up the unit on waves. They will be preparing for their midterm exam on January 14, 2010. The new marking period will include topics such as sound, light and the electromagnetic spectrum.

In Social Studies, the students are also preparing for their midterm exam. After the midterm, the students will begin Unit 2. This unit includes the study of the Greek Civilization and the Roman Empire.

In Math, students are preparing for their midterm exam which will take place on Tuesday, January 19th. Students are also exploring the areas of measurement, area, circumference and volume. Students will be introduced to Pi and be challenged with a memorization activity to see who can memorize Pi to the furthest digit.

The Sixth Grade Teachers

Mr. Donepp, Mr. Fernandez, Ms. Proctor

ART

As always, the Art room is a busy place!!!

The students have been working hard on finishing up projects and starting new ones!

The winter season has inspired snowflakes, cold sunsets, landscape silhouettes, mittens and more!!!

Mayan mosaics, Pacific Northwest Coast Native American paintings, color gradation paintings, scratch boards in the style of Brian Pinkney, and one point perspective drawings are just some of the things being focused on in Art.

The students are attentive, enthusiastic, creative, and hard working.... It shows in the beautiful work they create!!

Mrs. Sanft

Art Teacher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Hi Everyone,

January is upon us and with the cold weather outside things are beginning to heat up inside. Basketball has begun and that means our annual Rock and Jock tournament is right around the corner. During our basketball unit all students will participate in a variety of cardiovascular basketball lead up games. Such games include Dribblerama, Knockout, King and Queen, etc... All of these games will help develop basketball skills and are great practice for our tournament. Please make sure your child has sneakers with them on their gym days. If

anyone has any questions or concerns the gym doors are always open.

Sincerely,

Mr. Watson & Mr. Tiernan
Physical Education Teachers

COMPUTERS

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog is a popular pangram (a phrase that includes all the letters in the alphabet) for typing practice. Sixth grade students will practice typing this and other phrases, sentences, and words using Dance Mat Typing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>. Fifth grade students are exploring visiting websites that allow them to create their own Natural Disasters. Thanks to a grant from the Edith Winthrop Teacher Center, fourth graders will be working on a unit called Munchies that Matter in the computer lab and the library. They will observe and then diagram the changes of states of matter that occur in favorite recipes. After an internet safety review, third grade students are going to research China. Kindergarten, first and second grade students will read, listen, and interact with their favorite characters from literature using Living Books (every minute spent reading adds up toward getting Mr. Harders to color his hair).

Dr. Davis
Computer Teacher

VOCAL MUSIC

January is the time of year that we get back to basics in the vocal music room after a busy holiday season.

From the lower grades exploring pitched and non-pitched instruments with a lesson called "We Can Play the Instruments" to the sixth grade's "Hot Marimba", we will focus on rhythmic reading and performance.

The Grady Chorus is hard at work preparing for our upcoming assembly honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. The assembly will take place on January 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grady Gym.

Mr. Brown
Vocal Music Specialist

LIBRARY

Everyone is well-rested from vacation and ready to go! January is award month in the book world, when we find out who has won the coveted Newbery, Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Award medals for outstanding children's literature. In the library, we spend time in January listening to and discussing prior award winning books while we await this year's announcements. February is Black History Month, and all grades will read books about such topics as slavery, civil rights and African-American contributions and culture.

While we are reading award winning books, Kindergarten and first graders continue to develop good library skills with an exploration of the parts of books and stories, non-fiction and fiction materials. Second grade will move from our Cynthia Rylant author study to an introduction to call numbers. Third grade begins a unit on dictionary skills, while continuing with our folk tales unit. Fourth grade will start off the year learning about idioms, and fifth grade classes will begin with a review of reference materials to be followed by learning and practicing research skills. In January and February, sixth grade students will begin to explore essential research topics, including plagiarism, use of databases, and evaluation of information.

Library programs are in full swing, so please encourage your children to participate!

- The FAB (Food and Books) program for 4th, 5th and 6th grade was a great success in the fall, and the second session will be held in January and early February.
- Once again, all Grady students are encouraged to become an Author of the Day, where they write and illustrate a book to share with their class. Pictures of the Author of the Day are displayed on the library wall, and all authors are invited to an end-of-year party where they will receive a certificate and a small prize.

You should have received flyers with details about both programs, but we have plenty in the library if you need another.

We have received a great many new books, and they will be going on the shelves in mid-January. During these cold months, reading together is a wonderful way to stay warm and connected with your children! As always, please feel free to send a note, call or stop by if you have any questions or concerns or if you just want to say hello.

Ms. Sparber
Library Media Specialist

ELL

Our second grade students are working on unit about changes that occur on the Earth's surfaces. The ESL RTI students continue to work on oral reading fluency and decoding. Our beginners group is learning the concepts and vocabulary that pertains to the season of winter. Our intermediate students have been working on academic language related to 5th and 6th grade Science and Social Studies content.

Mrs. M. Kelly, Mrs. Cronin, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Alicea
ELL Teachers

A.I.S.

READING and WRITING

Second grade has begun grouping students for skill and strategy work. I will be working with students that need additional support every other day for forty minutes. In addition, a part time reading teacher will be working with small groups of struggling readers each morning.

Third grade continues to work on reading stamina, visualizing, summarizing, vocabulary, questioning, and making connections with the text. We model and try out the strategy of the week in class and practice it at home each night with homework. This month we will also be learning to share these skills while participating in literature circles.

Sixth grade continues to work on comprehension, vocabulary, and writing about what we are reading. The students will be completing the sixth grade anchor text, Number The Stars, and writing essays on courage and friendship. In addition, the students are selecting books to read independently each evening

We look forward to meeting Mr. Harders hair raising challenge to read 157,261 minutes before January 22. If the students at Grady and Dixson accomplish this, Mr. Harders will dye his hair! Please encourage your child to read and complete their logs before the 22nd. We want to see what Mr. Harders looks like with a new hair color!

Ms. Wygant

The first grade is busy working with the basic conventions of writing. They are learning when to use capital letters and how to apply various end punctuation to a sentence. After reviewing their previously written work

folders and notebooks, students will be ready to edit this work on their own.

Fifth graders are reading Doris Buchanan Smith's, A Taste of Blackberries. In this story, a boy struggles with loss and how to handle certain feelings that accompany such an event. Students will be making similar connections to their own lives and document these connections in their writing.

Mr. Carpanzano

MATH

Basic facts mastery is crucial for math success. Students should be practicing their basic facts nightly. Once these have been mastered, students will find much of the math they do to be easier. It just takes 10 – 15 minutes a night to review. Does your child have a DSi or a PSP? Why not buy a game that allows them to practice facts?

Here are some websites that you can access to practice basic facts.

www.brainpop.com

<http://www.multiplication.com/index.htm>

<http://www.aplusmath.com/Flashcards/index.html>

http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/math2004/math2004_menu.html

<http://www.rainforestmaths.com/>

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmm/>

<http://www.eduplace.com/parents/hmm/>

<http://www.brilliantowl.com/MathFlashCards.html>

You will have to download the program.

<http://www.allmath.com/flashcards.php>

<http://www.quia.com/shared/math/>

<http://www.mrnussbaum.com/mathcode.htm>

Miss Hittner
Math Specialist

HEALTH OFFICE NOTES

Reminder:

Flu season is upon us! Please help us reduce the chances of spreading or "catching" H1N1 influenza!

- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing and sneezing.
- Use alcohol based hand sanitizers to clean hands if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue in the trash after use (if no tissue is available, cough into your arm or sleeve-not your hand)

Signs and symptoms of the flu:

Fever of 100 or greater

Cough

Runny Nose

Sore Throat

Students should stay home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Any questions, please call Nurse Lederman, 592-2252

Reminder: Please send absence notes the day your child returns to school.

Veronica Lederman, RN
School Nurse