



Meadowlark Newsletter

December 2011

All Stars

Principal's Message....

"To whom much is given, much is expected." During this and every holiday season, this quote often comes to my mind. We have all been blessed with "gifts" that, if given and shared, will benefit others in ways beyond measure. Special "gifts" can take on many shapes...the ability to sing a song that moves people to tears, the ability to inspire a young child to dream big, the ability to write, draw, sew, or compose, a community organizer that brings improvement to neighborhoods, a helpful spirit who is always lending a hand to neighbor or friend, or the blessings of financial security and a generous spirit.

For the past 12 years, the Meadowlark community has worked together to raise money so that others less fortunate would benefit. Of all the things I love about this school, (and there are plenty), our "Giving Tree" campaign ranks up there among my favorites! I love seeing the colorful trees adorn our foyer and seeing the proud faces of the children as they bring in the bag of coins or dollar bills that they searched for all around the house. Every year, I am amazed by the generosity of our students and by the outpouring of love and support from parents to ensure that all our Meadowlark students have a wonderful Christmas. This year has been no exception and has far surpassed the previous year's efforts.

- We collected \$1,656.97 in cash donations! Our fourth grade students took this money to Wal-Mart, and with shopping lists and budgets in hand, they were able to buy presents and groceries for 7 Meadowlark families.
- One parent reported that her children voluntarily gave up presents this year so that the money usually spent on them would be donated to our Giving Tree.
- Three separate Meadowlark families each adopted another Meadowlark family, buying presents and groceries.
- The Holiday Inn Express staff (a parent works there) adopted a Meadowlark family and the East Point Church (a staff member attends there) adopted 3 Meadowlark families.
- In appreciation of their efforts, students enjoyed a PJ & Hot Cocoa Day with an added bonus of cookies donated by McDonald's.
- Total number of families helped—13; total number of children benefiting—39; total number of smiles on Christmas morning and total number of hearts touched by your generosity—COUNTLESS!

On behalf of all the families who benefitted this year, I extend a heartfelt thank you! These families were deeply touched by your generosity and your willingness to lend a hand. During these difficult economic times, families who never thought they'd find themselves in need have humbly accepted our help. Oftentimes, families who have needed our help in the past, decline due to their financial situations improving over the past year. One parent, who was laid off last Christmas, found himself in such a situation. With hesitation, he accepted our help. Back at work and back on his feet this year, this parent made sure to donate to our Giving Tree so that he could "pay it forward."

This holiday season and throughout the New Year, ponder ways to share *your* gifts, whatever they may be. The rewards you receive in return will be priceless.

May all of your Holidays and the New Year be filled with special blessings!

Jody Baker



January 3

- SCHOOL RESUMES
- All Day Kindergarten Payment Due
- Turn in WAW AR reports, projects today thru Feb. 10

January 6

A.R. Recess

January 9

- P.T.O. Meeting @ 12:15 p.m.
- Student Council Meeting @ 3:35 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.
- BOE Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ DO
- Band Parents Meeting @ ACHS 7:00 p.m.

January 11

The Big Idea Assembly @ 2:30 p.m.

January 12

Spelling Bee @ 1:30 p.m. in the Meadowlark Cafetorium

January 16

- NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance
- Teacher In-Service

January 18

Site Council @ 4:30 p.m.

Box Top Pick Up

January 25

Knowledge Master Open @ 1:30 p.m.

January 31

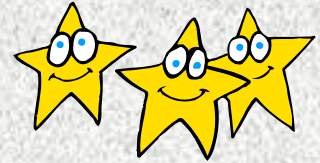
- 1st & 2nd Grade Music Program @ 7:00 p.m. ACHS
- E.L.P. Kansas Day Play @ 6:00 p.m. in the Meadowlark Cafetorium

JANUARY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF MEMBERS....

- 7 Angel McGill (Paraprofessional)
- 10 Jim Krack (Night Custodian)
- 25 Kay Lawrence (Kindergarten Teacher)



Order online ANYTIME at "PAPAJOHNS.COM" and Papa John's will donate 20% of your purchase back to Meadowlark! Just enter the promo code "**Meadowlark385**"

Papa John's and Pizza Hut Pizza donate 20% of your purchase back to Meadowlark to be used for student activities!

FAREWELL

Please join us in expressing appreciation and fond farewell to
Ms. Julie Lemon, Administrative Assistant



Julie has worked for the Andover district 4 1/2 years as an ELP Aide, then as an Administrative Assistant. While at Meadowlark, she earned a teaching degree from Fort Hays State University and graduated in December. Starting in January, Julie will be teaching 6th grade science at Brooks Technology and Arts Magnet School in Wichita. She has enjoyed working at Meadowlark and will miss the students, parents, and Meadowlark staff very

We wish her all the best and she will be truly missed!

A NOTE FROM MEADOWLARK'S HEALTH ROOM

Hard to believe we are half way through the year! With the busy season, I'm sure the Christmas break is welcomed. Just a few reminders from your nursing staff, we are well into the season of cold and flu. Keeping your children safe and healthy is a priority to us. Be sure to be mindful of the changing Kansas weather and send a coat with your child. We have been blessed with mild temperatures lately, but as you know, that can change from morning to afternoon. If your child is vomiting and/or running a temperature >100 , it is policy they be kept at home. They may return only after they are fever free and no vomiting **for 24 hours**. Next, if you have received a letter regarding missing immunizations, please send the updated information to the health office. The state has regulations and requirements the district must meet and enforce. If you have any questions, please call 218-4630.

Thank you,

Shelly Herbers R.N.

School Nurse

Meadowlark Elementary

herberss@usd385.org



5th Grade Lung Dissection

Fifth grade students dissected cows' lungs as part of their science curriculum. Dr. Gary & Dr. Cathy Harmon from Andover Veterinary Clinic came to Meadowlark to lead the dissection. Thank you to our parent volunteers who came to assist with the dissection. We had a lot of fun blowing into the





REINDEER SHIRTS

Kindergarten students turned their foot and handprints into a reindeer. The prints were put on a shirt for students to wear through the holiday season. The reindeer was completed with wiggly eyes, a red Rudolph nose and a jingle bell. Students also completed Christmas chains to help them count down the number of days until Christmas. It took the help of many parents to make the project a huge success. Teachers and students are very grateful to all the help provided by parents during December to help us make learning fun.



3rd Grade to City Arts



The children learned about portrait sketching.

Meadowlark Third Grade students recently travelled to City Arts in Wichita. The day was filled exploring different types of art media. The children made play dough out of glue and bread, learned about portrait sketching, stamping to create movement and working with lead and glass. All four areas were led by local artists. Through art, the children were exposed to many areas of the curriculum - fractions, measuring, patterns, sequence, symmetry, melting temperatures, following a recipe, and art vocabulary. The children also had a tour through the gallery. They especially enjoyed looking at specific art pieces through 3-D glasses to change the perception. We had a great day!



The children made play dough out of glue and bread.

"This is America"

On November 29th, the Meadowlark 5th grade honored our Veterans, as well as those in Fire and Rescue during their music performance. Each branch of service was honored by singing their theme song. As each were played, active and former members of the military were invited to the front of the auditorium. As the final branch was mentioned, the crowd jumped to their feet in a standing ovation for these heroes. It was a moving experience. It was a wonderful night of honoring those who sacrifice to keep us safe and the students proudly sang each song from the heart.



KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN

Meadowlark's fifth grade students will be competing on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in the 43rd Knowledge Master Open academic competition. The competition is sponsored by Extended Learning Program teacher, Stacey King. The quiz is designed to be a scholastic team competition that is a self-scoring, computer contest of 100 multiple-choice questions, with the point totals being compared across the state. Areas that will be covered include math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science, literature, English, history, general information and just plain fun trivia. The ten students will gather to answer the computer generated questions. The quiz offers the participants two chances to answer correctly. The points will be awarded based on how fast they will answer the questions as a group, as well as how accurate they answer. No adult assistance will be given, however team practices will be run prior to the competition.

The 2012 Knowledge Master Open team members include: Gracie P., Elizabeth S., Cailan S., Mercy M., Alexandra S., Davis J., Kourtney Z., Peyton J., Sarah K., and Jacob W.

SPELLING BEE IS BUZZING THIS WAY!!

Our Meadowlark school spelling bee for grades three, four, and five is soon approaching on Thursday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m.. Each classroom has selected their room representatives to participate in the school spelling bee and the spelling lists have been passed out. Everyone is eagerly anticipating who our 2012 school spelling bee winner and alternate will be. The school spelling bee winner will represent our school in the county spelling bee on Friday, February 10th at the Butler County Community College. Our school spelling bee representatives will be:

3rd Grade – Cooper K., Claire A., Jackson B., Tori D., Daniel S., and Ryan A. – 4th Grade – Rylea B., Eliya D., Avery N., Samuel A., Lauren M., and Emmett R. – 5th Grade – Vivica H., Jacob W., Grant J., Lauren W., Mercy M., and Alexandra S.

Best of luck spellers!

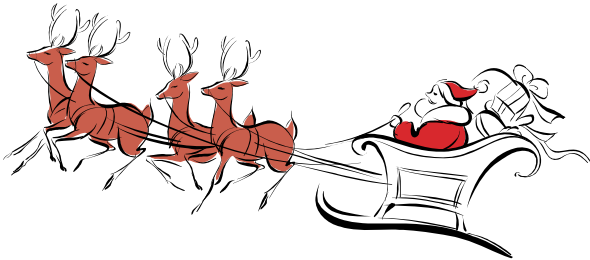
2012-2013 ENROLLMENT

*Pre-Enrollment forms will be coming home soon for
kindergarten thru 4th grade students only.*

This pre-enrollment process is a tool to assist us in determining a number of students who will be attending Meadowlark Elementary and should not be mistaken as the final enrollment process.

If you have friends or neighbors who will not receive this communication and will have a child who will attend Andover schools next fall, please encourage them to call the school office, 218-4630.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES



Kindergarten students created Gingerbread Houses after a week long gingerbread man theme. We used graham crackers, frosting and an assortment of candy! Thank you parents for your willingness to donate supplies and to take the time to help us decorate our delicious gingerbread houses.



SANTA'S VISIT

Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade students were very pleasantly surprised when the "Jolly 'ol Man" himself showed up to read them the story "The Night Before Christmas". Santa also took time to pose with each kindergarten student for a picture.



Mrs. Brooks' Class.



Mrs. Lawrence & Mrs. Pfaff's class



1st Grade



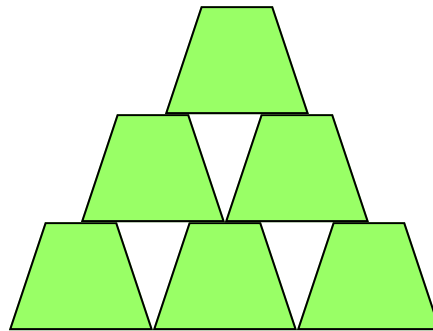
2nd Grade

P.E. News.....

On December 16, 2011 we held our 11th Sport Stacking Tournament. Everyone did such a great job! We couldn't have held this tournament without the help of some of our parents. I want to give a BIG THANKS to the following people for all their hard work: Sarah Wilborn, Carrie Kice, Janelle McCray, Chris Steward, Laurisa Condray, Kacy Collinsworth, Stephen Stewart, Randy Krueger, Amy Rech, Judi Thomas, Elaine Sherwood, Lesa Albin, Stacey Ellington, Sarah Mathews, Linda Peak, Jennifer Primm, Karen Pool, and Ginger Steck. I want to also thank my "AMP" teammates Mrs. Middleton & Miss Blumer. And a big thanks to the ACHS students who came over to help: Bailey, Taylor, Tanner, Andrew, Matthew, Lauren, Emilee, Nicole, and Jack. Thanks for making the tournament a success!

Traci Crusinberry

P.E. Teacher



THANK YOU



*Good food, good conversation, good friends. . . .
A good time was had.*

The Meadowlark staff would like to thank the PTO for decorating the Teacher Lounge, the delicious holiday lunch from Abuelos, and the generous \$12 gift card from Wal-Mart!

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT



As promised by Mrs. Baker, all students and staff enjoyed a Pajama and Hot Cocoa Day.



4th grade had fun shopping at Wal-Mart with the money raised for Meadowlark families. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped. We couldn't have done this without you!





3rd – 4th – 5th Grades William Allen White Reading Promotion

DATES & DEADLINES

Turn in AR Reports or projects January 3 through February 10

**DEADLINE FOR EVERYTHING IS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10**



WAW Voting – Wed. February 22, 2012

(The voting takes place at school in your classroom on Feb. 22)

WAW Lunch will be in the library on
Friday, February 24, 2012



LUNCH MENU

Pizza
Carrots & dip
Cookies
Water & Fruit Juice

Meadowlark Elementary
1411 N Main
Andover, KS 67002

Phone: 316.218.4630
Fax: 316.218.1000
E-mail: harveyr@usd385.org

Meadowlark All Stars



We're on the web!
www.usd385.org

KINDERGARTEN 2012-2013

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before August 31, 2012

Please call the
Meadowlark Office
218-4630

If you have friends or neighbors who will not receive this communication and will have a kindergartner who may attend Meadowlark next fall, please encourage them to call!

1/2 DAY
available



ALL DAY
available

LOST & FOUND



We have a large selection of jackets and sweaters. Items not claimed will be donated to charity at the end of the school year!

Please write your child's name on coats, lunch boxes, school supplies and other per-



HAPPY NEW YEAR

