

The Cottonwood Buzz

Mrs. Rooks, Principal



February 27, 2009

Cottonwood Elementary
1747 N. Andover Rd.
Andover, KS 67002
218-4620
www.usd385.org

Kansas State Assessments

State assessments are quickly approaching. The teachers and staff have reviewed Kansas reading and math standards and indicators, and we believe our students are ready.

You can help your students prepare for reading by asking questions about newspaper articles, library books or textbooks. (i.e.: What is the author's purpose? What does the story tell you?) You can help your student prepare for math by providing a few math related story problems and practicing math facts.

The results of these assessments are not used to determine the students' classroom grades. Assessments are used to determine student strengths and areas for growth.

Assessments are also used to establish AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), which is a requirement of No Child Left Behind. Please note that NCLB requires 100% of students be proficient on state reading and math tests by 2014. Last years data showed that 93.3% of students were proficient and above on the state Reading assessment and 94.5% of students were proficient and above on the Math assessment. This years students are working hard to do better. Here's how parents can help:

- Do not apply undo pressure on your child regarding test results.
- Provide your child with a good breakfast on the days of assessments.
- Avoid scheduling out of school appointments during testing dates.
- Make sure your child is well rested.
- Send your child to school with a smile and word of encouragement!
- Encourage your child to take his/her time on each questions. These assessments are not timed.

Results of these assessments will be shared with parents as soon as the schools receive them.

See detailed schedule on inside.

If you know in advance that your child will be absent during a testing time, please notify the classroom teacher or call the school office.

Upcoming Events

Mar 2: Read Across America
Mar 3: Kindergarten Round-Up 6:00 p.m.
Mar 4: Math Club @ 3:40
Mar 6: Inservice—**NO SCHOOL**
Mar 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 9: Site Council @ 4:00
Mar 9: Board of Education meeting
Mar 10-12: KS Reading Assessments (Gr 3, 4 & 5)
Mar 11: Student Council @ 3:40
Mar 13: 2nd Gr. Wax Museum @ 1:00
Mar 13: 4th Grade Mad Science
Mar 13: 5th Grade Conduct Party
Mar 13: AR Parties-Grades 2-5
Mar 16-20: Spring Break
Mar 25: PTO meeting @ 4:00
Apr 1: Math Club @ 3:40
Apr 6-10: Book Fair
Apr 7: Art Fair
Apr 8: Student Council @ 3:40
Apr 9: Spring Picture Day
Apr 10: 4th Grade Mad Science
Apr 13: Site Council @ 4:00
Apr 13: Board of Education meeting
Apr 16: 1st Gr. music program @ 7:00 p.m.
Apr 22: Earth Day
Apr 27: Title I Parent Night @ 6 p.m.
Apr 29: PTO meeting @ 4:00 p.m.

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade State Assessments

To have some fun before testing, we would like to encourage ALL students to participate in the activities below.

March 2—Dress with a numbered shirt/jersey. Student may have to use that number in a story problem.

March 3—Dress as your favorite book character. If an adult asks you, be prepared to give the setting, main character or type of text structure used.

March 4th—Slipper Day—Reminder to get plenty of rest before test day.

March 5th—Thinking Cap Day—Wear your favorite hat.

March 9th—Cottonwood Spirit Day—Wear your Cottonwood or Andover Trojan shirt to encourage each student at CES to be successful!

Counselor's Corner

By, Marci Faust

March theme: Forgiveness-Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge.

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please discuss forgiveness with your child. It is an important life skill to learn. Role play ways to show forgiveness with them.

March Schedule: 3/10-3/12: 3rd-5th graders will be taking the Kansas Reading Assessments.

Please encourage your child to do their best. Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also, make sure your child is on time and at school everyday. These tests are difficult to make up. We appreciate your efforts.

3/16-3/20: Spring Break-Please spend some time with your children over the break. They really enjoy your company. Rest and Relax!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bullying: We have been focusing on bullying at school. Please review this topic with your child. What should you do if a bully bugs you:

1. Tell a parent, a teacher or an adult friend. This is not tattling. Be sure to tell them until they listen to you.
2. If the bullying happened at school, have a parent discuss it with your teacher, not the bully's parents.
3. Don't be an easy target, but don't fight back. Look the bully in the eye and walk away.
4. The bully wants to hurt your feelings. Act as if it's not working.
5. Stand up for other kids who are being bullied, and ask them to stand up for you.
6. Ignore them.
7. Agree with the bully. (ok, whatever, sure, yeah)
8. Tell a joke or use humor.
9. Be friendly.
10. Tell them how you feel.
11. Fool the bully.
12. Make and keep friendships-having a buddy along is one of the best defenses.
13. Don't show fear.
14. Use eye contact and stand up straight.
15. Stay away from isolated areas.
16. Don't threaten or challenge a bully.

If others are around you, tell loudly what the bully is doing, telling him to stop, and walking towards an adult.

How do you handle a bully? Take this quiz with your child answers are true or false:

1. Bullying is just teasing?
2. Some people deserve to be bullied?
3. Only boys are bullies?
4. People who complain about bullies are babies?
5. Bullying is a normal part of growing up?
6. Bullies will go away if you ignore them?
7. It's tattling to tell an adult when you're being bullied.
8. The best way to deal with a bully is by fighting or trying to get even.
9. People who are bullied might hurt for a while, but they'll get over it.

COWS-(Careers on Wheels)-This is a program developed for third graders to get them interested in choosing a career. We are in need of parent volunteers that would like to come and share about their career. The date will be April 29, 2009. This activity will take place in the morning. Please let me know if you are interested. Cottonwood 218-4620 ext. 2

A special thanks to all the Cottonwood family that recognized me during School Counselor week. What a wonderful school to be a part of. I truly love my job.

Nurse Notes

Brenda Helmer, RN, MSN

Hello from the health office! Lots of things are going on in the nurse's office. We have finished vision, hearing, and dental screening and are preparing to send out referrals for those students who did not pass the screening. If you do not receive any referral, then your student passed the screening.

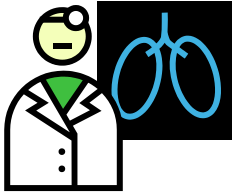
The nice weather we are having is providing an opportunity for the students to go outside for recess. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the day's weather because physical activity is important to maintain health. Going out for recess also helps to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as strep. If your child has a temperature over 100 degrees, please consult your physician to determine treatment for your child. Remember that it is school policy for your child to be fever-free without the use of over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

March is National Nutrition Month. Please visit the American Dietetic Association Website at http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/NNM_2007_home.htm for more information about activities to improve your child's knowledge about nutrition. It is important for our Cottonwood students to learn about good nutrition when they are young, so they will become healthy adults!

Have a happy, healthy month!

Nurse Brenda

5TH GRADE LUNG DISSECTION



5TH GRADE TEACHERS WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DR. CATHY HARMON FROM ANDOVER VETERINARY CLINIC AND ALL THE PARENT VOLUNTEERS THAT CAME IN TO HELP WITH THE COW LUNG DISSECTIONS. YOUR ASSISTANCE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. THE CHILDREN ENJOYED THIS UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



All Cottonwood students recently participated in the Jump-Rope for Heart, with proceeds of collections going to the American Heart Association. Our students collected \$4404! Way to go kids and supporting families!

PTO FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Approximately 60 girls and their dads enjoyed the 2nd annual Father/Daughter dance, sponsored by the PTO. In addition to dancing,



there was a buffet of sandwiches, chips, vegetables and desserts. A photographer was also available who took both posed and candid shots. Pictures that were taken can be viewed at <http://dugganphoto.lifepics.com>, event code "Cottonwood".

Severe Weather Awareness Week

March 9-13

Statewide Tornado Drill: March 10th at 1:30 p.m.



Future Kindergartners

USD 385 elementary schools are identifying students who will be attending kindergarten in the Andover Schools for the 2009-10 school year. If you live in the Andover school district and your child will be five years old before September 1st, please call the school office to be placed on the kindergarten mailing list.

If you are uncertain of which school your child will attend, you may call any of the elementary school offices for clarification.

Cottonwood Elementary will have a parent meeting on March 3rd at 6:30 pm. At this meeting, general school information will be shared and you will complete enrollment forms. More information about this meeting will be mailed to you. A special visitation day will be scheduled in May for the future kindergartners.

Please call the school office at 218-4620

DISTRICT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In an attempt to remain proactive in how our school district addresses the state's financial shortfall, the Budget Advisory Committee is working hard to develop a list of possible cuts to recommend to the Andover Board of Education. This committee has met three times and is still in the process of becoming knowledgeable of the pro and con ramifications of each of the 130 items being considered. This task must first be accomplished before the committee can prioritize issues under consideration and determine possible recommendations for the board to use as they make their final decisions.

Your input continues to be invited and valued. You may e-mail me at rookss@usd385.org with any comments. Detailed notes from each of the Budget Advisory Committee meetings are available at the district's web site at www.usd385.org. These can be found at the bottom of the front page under "Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes."

STATE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE:

March 10th, 11th, and 12th—Reading:

9:00-10:00	3rd Grade
10:30-11:30	5th Grade
1:00-2:00	4th Grade

April 7th, 8th, and 9th—Math:

9:00-10:00	3rd Grade
10:30-11:30	5th Grade
1:00-2:00	4th Grade

April 28th and 29th—Science:

1:00-2:00	4th Grade
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Thank you to Dr. Courtnee Martin for performing dental checks on all of our students. February was Dental Health month.

PTO is looking for officers for the 2008-09 school year. If you're interested in a position, or if you would like to nominate someone, please call Mrs. Rooks at 218-4620 or e-mail rookss@usd385.org.