



Meadowlark Newsletter

Principal's Message....

It's hard to believe that it is February! With the school year more than half over, it is time to begin thinking about and taking the Kansas state assessments. Although it may appear that all these assessments are taking away from instructional time, assessments can actually be a very valuable instructional tool. Assessments allow teachers and schools the opportunity to evaluate students, programs, and classroom instruction. This feedback is invaluable in our school improvement process. The assessment schedule is below. Please minimize the amount of avoidable absences (i.e., doctor's appointments, vacations, tardies, etc.) for your 3rd-5th graders during the weeks they are testing. More information about the assessments will be coming home in a couple of weeks.

Assessment Schedule:

March 6-8	4th Grade Kansas State Reading Assessment
	5th Grade Kansas State Reading Assessment
March 13-15	3rd Grade Kansas State Reading Assessment
	4th Grade Kansas State Science Assessment
March 27-29	4th Grade Kansas State Math Assessment
Apr. 3-5	3rd Grade Kansas State Math Assessment
	5th Grade Kansas State Math Assessment

January is National School Board Appreciation Month. Our school board members are just ordinary citizens – your friends and neighbors – with extraordinary dedication to our community and our children. Our Board of Education establishes a vision for the educational programs, maintains the structure to achieve that vision and provides accountability to the community. Each member is a strong advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long and the thanks few and far between. Too often we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members make. A school board member does not get paid for their service to our schools, yet they spend hours in meetings and on committees, advocating for our schools with elected politicians by speaking out against budget cuts or pushing for policy and program reforms.

This year each school “adopted” one of our school board members. Meadowlark had the great privilege to “adopt” one of our newest board members, Scott Wilson. To show our appreciation for Mr. Wilson's dedication and service to our district, we delivered Vic's popcorn to his office, invited him and his wife, Susie, to lunch and presented to him a “Key to Meadowlark,” along with homemade cards of appreciation. Mr. Wilson's children, Maddie, now a 7th grader, and Jacob, a 5th grader, have both attended Meadowlark Elementary.



Mr. Wilson was presented a “Key to Meadowlark” when he was invited to lunch at Meadowlark.



February 1st

All Day Kindergarten Payment Due

February 6th - 10th

School Counselor Week

February 6th

- Start Collecting Pennies for Patients
- STUCO @ 3:35 p.m.-4:35 p.m.
- P.T.O. Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

February 8th

- The Big Idea Character Assembly
- Boundary Committee @ 6:30 p.m.

February 10th

Last day to turn in WAW AR Reports & Projects

February 11th

Southern Plains Honor band at ACMS & ACHS 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

February 13th

BOE Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. District Office

February 14th

Valentine's Day Parties

February 15th

Site Council Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

February 16th

Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

February 17th

2nd Grade Eye Dissection

February 20th

ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED for Presidents' Day

February 22nd

WAW Voting

February 24th

- WAW Luncheon
- Doughnuts With Daddy, (Kindergarten Only)

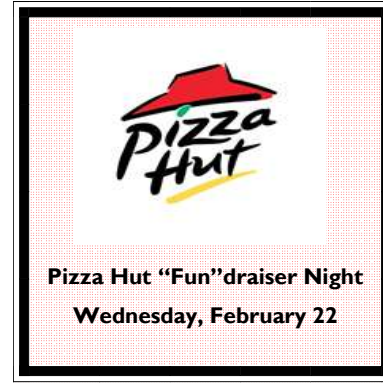
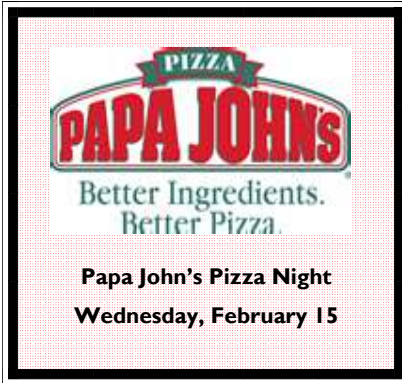
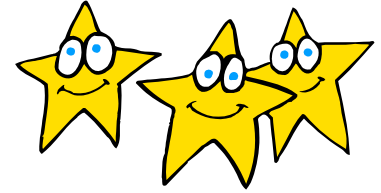


FEBRUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF MEMBERS....

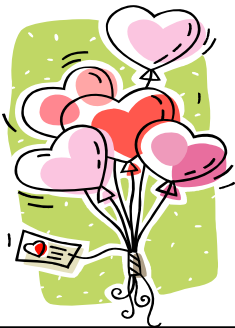


- 4 Robin Wilford (Paraprofessional)
- 6 Julie Syverson (paraprofessional)
- 10 C. J. Bextel (4th Grade Teacher)
- 11 Shannon Hobbs (3rd Grade Teacher)
- 17 Stacey King (ELP Teacher)



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!



BOUQUET DELIVERIES

We discourage the delivery of flower, balloon, and cookie bouquets to the school. The bouquets are difficult for students to transport home and often interfere with classroom instruction. If bouquets are delivered to school, they are held in the office until the end of the school day. Parents may be asked to transport the bouquets home if deemed necessary. Bouquets in glass containers and large balloons will not be allowed on the school bus.



LOST & FOUND

PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD TO CHECK THE LOST & FOUND!

We have a large selection of jackets and sweaters. Items not claimed will be donated!



"The Big Idea"

Meadowlark Elementary School "The Big Idea" Character Awards

On Wednesday, January 18th, these students were recognized for showing the character trait for **GRATITUDE.**

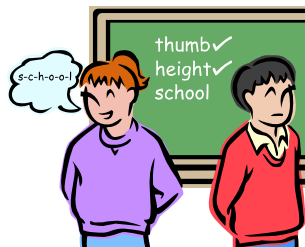


On Wednesday, January 18th, these students were recognized for showing the character trait for **GENEROSITY.**

P.E. NEWS.....

On Thursday, January 19th the traverse climbing wall was installed in the gym. The wall is a magnetic wall, which provides the capability to mark routes, play innovative games and lead cross-curricular activities, not to mention provide a great work out for the kids. Thank you to The Andover Advantage Foundation and Meadowlark P.T.O. for making this possible.





MEADOWLARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPELLING BEE 2012

The annual Meadowlark Elementary Spelling Bee took place on Thursday, January 12th, 2012 in the school cafetorium. The 2012 winner is Lauren M., a fourth grade student from Mrs. Traylor's class and the runner-up is Alexandra S., a fifth grade student from Mrs. Moss' class.



There were eighteen contestants in this year's Spelling Bee:

3rd grade: Jackson B., Ryan A., Daniel S., Cooper K., Claire A., Tori D.

4th grade: Eliya D., Avery N., Rylea B., Lauren M., Samuel A., Emmett R.

5th grade: Grant J., Jacob W., Alexandra S., Mercy M., Lauren W., Vivica H.

Mrs. Tinius pronounced the words to the students with Mrs. Kasel and Mrs. Owens serving in the role of judges for the Bee. Lauren will be representing Meadowlark Elementary at the Butler County Spelling Bee on February 10, 2012 at Butler County Community College in El Dorado, Kansas at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to all of the spellers for a successful Spelling Bee!





IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Dear Parents,

The students in my guidance classes will be learning about personal safety from January 17th through the end of February. Personal safety includes learning about “Stranger Danger” and “Safe Touches.” With spring and summer just around the corner, it’s always a good idea to teach our children how to stay safe.

Stranger Danger Unit

Students will learn who a stranger is and how to deal with strangers in public places (i.e. parks, malls, public restrooms, etc.), on the telephone, in cars and for older students on the internet.

The “3 Rules of Stranger Safety” will be emphasized. They are:

1. Yell “No!”
2. Run away fast!
3. Tell an adult right away!

Safe Touches

Students will learn about good touches, bad touches and uncomfortable touches.

- Good touches are touches that feel nice such as: hugs, handshakes, pat on the back, high-five, etc.
- Bad touches are touches that don’t feel very nice such as: hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving, etc.
- Uncomfortable touches are touches that “just don’t feel right.” Uncomfortable touches make us feel uneasy. Students will learn that its O.K. to say “No” when someone’s touching makes them feel uncomfortable. They will learn the times when some kinds of touching may be permitted, such as: If the touching is to keep us (1) clean and/or (2) healthy (i.e. doctors, bathing, diaper changing, etc.). Students will learn and recognize that: (1) No one has the right to touch the private parts of their body, unless it is for clean or healthy reasons. (2) If someone’s touching makes them feel uneasy or uncomfortable, NEVER keep it a secret....Always tell a trusted adult. If that adult doesn’t believe you, keep telling until someone does. *Terminology will be kept simple, referring to the private parts of the body as “the parts that are covered by your swimming suit”, rather than using specific body part names. Parents can teach specific body part names at home, if they so desire.

The “3 Rules of Touching Safety” will be emphasized. They are:

1. Say “No!”
2. Get away fast!
3. Tell an adult you trust. Never keep it a secret if someone’s touching makes you feel uncomfortable!

Summary

Our children are precious...let’s work together to help keep them safe. Alertness and knowledge of safety rules are the best protection your child can have. Please talk to your children about personal safety today.

Questions

If you have any questions about the “Personal Safety Unit,” please feel free to contact me at school at 218-4630. I’d be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Tammy Clarkson,
Meadowlark Elementary Counselor



KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN PRESS RELEASE

Meadowlark Elementary

January 25, 2012

Meadowlark Elementary's fifth grade students took 7th place in the 43rd Annual Knowledge Master Open academic competition in Kansas and 3rd place in the Andover Public Schools division. The competition took place on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Andover's elementary 5th grade teams competed in an academic competition across the state of Kansas. The competition was sponsored by the Extended Learning Program teacher, Stacey King, and was assisted by paraprofessionals, Andi Crouse and Celia Ralston. The team of fifth graders scored a total of 533 points.



The 2012 Knowledge Master Open team members include:

Elizabeth S., Cailan S., Kourtney Z., Peyton J., Davis J., Gracie P.,
Alexandra S., Jacob W., Mercy M., Sarah K.

Parent-Teacher Conferences



Our spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday, February 16th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Typically, we reserve this conference time for those students who may need more attention and assistance to reach their academic potential. We hope to communicate and problem solve with parents early enough to make a difference. Your child's teacher will contact you if he/she feels a conference is necessary. However, if you have concerns or questions yourself, please feel free to contact your child's teacher to set up an appointment.



A Very Special Visitor



Jacob White with his dad Major Barry White.

Third grader, Jacob White, got the very best Christmas gift...his father returning from Afghanistan! Major Barry White had been deployed since June and Jacob thought he would return about December 28; but instead he arrived on Christmas! Jacob is a student in Mrs. Hobbs' 3rd grade class. The students had corresponded with Major White while he was deployed, and had been anxious, right along with Jacob, for his safe return.

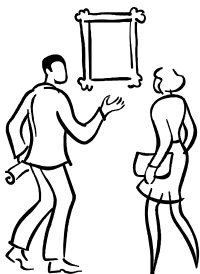
On January 10, Major White visited the class to tell about his experiences. He was a laboratory services flight commander and he worked from the Bagram Air Field. He shared about some of the jobs he did there, but the students were also interested in hearing about a young Afghan boy, about their age, that had been wounded. Major White helped care for and befriended the boy and soon was including him on Skype visits with Jacob and the rest of the family. Finding out about the more human side of a war they don't really understand made them very proud of Jacob's dad and how he was serving and representing the U.S!

Coutts Meseum Of Art

During the month of February, twenty students are representing Meadowlark at the Coutts Museum of Art in El Dorado, KS. Every year the museum hosts the Butler County Student Art Exhibit, and it is a great opportunity for local elementary and secondary students to showcase their work. It is quite an honor to have artwork displayed in an actual art museum!

I am very grateful and proud to get to work with such creative artists every day, and it wasn't easy narrowing it down to only twenty recipients. To tackle this difficult task, I consider both the finished project and classroom effort. Other factors, such as spreading it out among the grade levels and including a variety of projects, are also taken into account.

The show is open to the public until February 25th. Students and their families are invited to attend a reception. Congratulations to the following students!



KINDERGARTEN: Cole N., Ali S.

1ST GRADE: Lily C., Adam M.,

2ND GRADE: Sarah B., Emelyn C., Nicole S., Kailey Z.

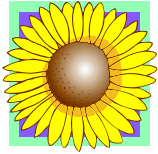
3RD GRADE: Ian C., Chase W., Allison W.

4TH GRADE: Alessandra L., Cade B., Avery N., Mia S.

5TH GRADE: Max B., Chandler C., Jenna G., Sarah K., Lauren W.



PENNIES FOR PATIENTS WILL BEGIN FEB. 5TH!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY KANSAS!

Kindergarten students celebrated Kansas' 151st birthday.



Mrs. Brooks' students played Kansas Bingo, Kansas Memory Match, completed pattern block puzzles and did a Kansas state test. Thank you to the parent helpers that made this event possible!



Mrs. Lawrence's Class



Mrs. Pfaff's Class

Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Pfaff's All Day Kindergarten students had a taste test and tasted Kansas foods: soy sauce from soybeans, honey from honeybees, bread from wheat, butter from cows, popcorn from corn, and sunflower seeds from sunflower plants! They designed pattern block puzzles of Kansas Symbols like the Jayhawk, Box Turtle and Sunflower. They played Symbols of Kansas Bingo and learned about types of Indian homes and prairie homes. Classes also made a Kansas book and painted sunflowers to make a Sunflower quilt since Kansas is the "Sunflower State"!

Kindergarten are needing small pieces of scrap wood for their Doughnuts with Daddy day on Friday, February 24th. If you can help, please contact the kindergarten teachers. 218-4630 or harveyr@usd385.org



LUNCH ACCOUNT

Email Notification

Lunch email notification is sent each Thursday for each meal account with a balance of **+\$30.00 and below**. You will be notified at your PowerSchool email address.

How to setup PowerSchool Email Notifications:

1. Log into PowerSchool, using your parent login username and password. If you do not have your username and password, contact your student's school.
2. Click the Email Notification icon at the top of the page.
3. Check the box beside any information you would like sent to your email address.
4. Select how often you would like to receive the emails.
5. Type in your email address.
6. Click submit.

Please remember that this is the email address that will be shared with Nutrikids, our lunch cashier system. We do not use PowerLunch, which is the lunch management portion of PowerSchool.

If you are having trouble receiving lunch email notifications, please review these steps:

1. Wrong address in PowerSchool
2. No email address in PowerSchool
3. Multiple email addresses in PowerSchool
4. Email provider is blocking email from Nutrikids
5. Cannot get into PowerSchool

To correct items #1-3, please verify your email address in the *Guardian Email Notification* section of PowerSchool for each of your students. For item #4, contact your email provider to learn why this email is blocked. You may also contact Bonnie Scarth bonniescarth@usd385.org, in the Food Service Office, to verify your email address or to substitute a different email address. For #5, call the school office at 218-4630 or harveyr@usd385.org.

If you do not have email or access to online account information, please contact the Food Service Office, (316) 218-4603 to receive current account information.

Ann Katt
Food Service Director
katta@usd385.org

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*William Allen White
Children's Book Awards*

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



<u>LUNCH MENU</u>
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

Please call the Meadowlark Office if you have a child who will be 5 years old before August 31, 2012

If you have friends or neighbors who will not receive this communication and will have a kindergartner who will attend Andover Schools next fall, please encourage them to call the Meadowlark Office 218-4630

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

MARCH 6TH, 2012

1/2 DAY
 available



ALL DAY
 available

Fee-Based Pre-Kindergarten Program Now Available

Andover Public Schools is accepting applications for a **Fee-Based** Pre-Kindergarten Program for students who do not qualify for the At-Risk grant funded program or Early Childhood Special Education program in the district. Any child who is 4 years of age as of August 31, 2012 and lives within the boundaries of the Andover school district can submit an application to Prairie Creek Elementary School, 654 YMCA Drive, Andover, KS 67002 by February 3, 2012. A minimum of 14 students are required for the program and maximum class size is 16. A lottery for positions may be implemented.

[Call the Meadowlark or Prairie Creek office for Pre-Kindergarten general information and application.](#)

In order for a child to qualify for the **grant funded** Pre-K program, they must meet one or more of the following criteria in order to qualify:

1. Single parent household
2. Parent does not hold a high school diploma or GED
3. Teen parent at the time of the child's birth
4. Family qualifies for the federal free/reduced lunch program
5. Limited English proficiency (English is not the primary language of the child's home)
6. Child has a developmental delay as documented through assessments

[Call the Meadowlark or Prairie Creek office for At-Risk \(grant-funded\) Pre-Kindergarten application.](#)

Prairie Creek Elementary School at 218-4830

Meadowlark Elementary School at 218-4630