

McDowell Mountain Site Council September 2016

Principal's Report:

- Congratulations to Linda Ness, 3rd grade teacher who has been selected as Rotary Club Teacher of the Month and will be honored at their meeting this week!
- Successful recent events included Kindergarten Color Days, Student Council elections, "Ballet Under the Stars" practices, hearing and vision screenings, 1st-12th grade customized ATI Galileo benchmark development, 1-2-3 Magic Parent University Parts 1 & 2, introductory day for 2nd/3rd grade Rtl Cycle 1, Constitution Day & Citizenship assembly, and Apex Fun Run.
- The Character Counts focus trait for September-October is Citizenship. Students will be learning about doing their share to improve the school and community, being cooperative, the democratic system of staying informed and voting, obeying laws and rules, respecting authority, and protecting the environment.

Upcoming Events:

September 19-30: 1st-3rd grade ATI Galileo Benchmark 1 test window
September 21: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development; After school: Last "Ballet Under the Stars" practice; 6:30 -7:30 p.m.: Title I Annual Parent Meeting at the MMES Library
September 22: 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Preschool Ice Cream Social
September 23: 7:00 p.m.: "Ballet Under the Stars" at Fountain Park
September 23 & 30 and October 7: Falcon Friday: Wear blue!
September 28-October 7: FHPTO Fall Book Fair
September 28: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development; 6:30 p.m.: FHUSD Governing Board meeting
September 29: Banking Day; 5:30 p.m.: FHPTO Social at FHMS; 6:30 p.m.: 2nd grade fall music program at MMES
September 8 & 15: 6:00-7:00: 1-2-3 Magic Parent University Parts 1 & 2
September 30: Kindergarten Apple Celebration
October 3-7: Special activities during special area times
October 5: Child Find; 8:00: International Walk to School Day starting at Golden Eagle Park
October 5-7: Times TBD: 1st Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference
October 10-14: Fall Break
October 17: 3:30-4:30: Site Council meeting

ENROLLMENT: September 2016 - Preschool: 42; Kindergarten: 77; 1st Grade: 70; 2nd Grade: 88; 3rd Grade: 96
TOTAL: 373

Applicants for Site Council: Three letters were received from parents wishing to be on the Site Council. All three applicants' letters were reviewed and accepted. Mrs. D will be notifying these parents and they will become part of MM Site Council as of October 17th.

PTO: Astacia Vargotis reported that the APEX Fun Run donations were already \$1000.00 ahead of what we were at the same time last year. Feedback from the teachers was positive about the open time to show the videos to their classes, there was less classroom interruption this year, and that there was more "team" effort rather than "individual" effort, which allowed an entire classroom to get rewards rather than just individual students. The only negative was that some parents don't have access to the internet and some students were upset and felt they couldn't participate. Overall, the FUN RUN was a great success, especially when the Fire Department came upon the scene to cool off the participants!

PTO is selling T-shirts with new logo – Early Bird Special through Sept 30th - \$10.00. After that, the T-shirts will be \$15.00 each. Pizza Social at Four Peaks/FHMS Library on Sept 29th @ 5:30. Q & A time with Dr. Sweeney, Principal Gomez, Principal Dehombreux and Principal Jagodzinski.

Bookfair preview @ MM – Sept. 29th & 30th. Book Fair will be open Oct. 1- Oct. 9 and Dudes & Donuts will be Tuesday, Oct. 4th from 7:30 am-8:30 am in the Multipurpose Room.

GRADE LEVEL NEWS:**Preschool/SPED Notes:**

For Preschool: PS-1 and PS-2 are doing a FAMILY unit that will last until we go on fall break. Afterwards, we will be moving on to EMOTIONS.

PS-1 and PS-2 are starting Handwriting Without Tears, and are covering letters, numbers, colors, and shapes with our students. This week's focus is on the letter L.

PS-2's focus this week is on the letter L, the number six and the shape triangle. Our color of the week is purple. Daily our students are practicing writing their names, and recognizing what their first initial is.

PS-3 students have been voting every week about their favorite books. They have also been doing Zoo Phonics in which they are currently working on the letter C. For math, they have been doing some sorting and graphing. PS-3 is also enjoying and loving being able to attend their specials throughout the week. PS-3 is going on a community field trip on September 28th.

Some upcoming preschool events include:

Ice Cream Social Thursday, September 22nd 6-7pm

Scholastic Deadline Tuesday, September 27th

Specialist/Resource: Things are going well. Nothing to report at this time.

Kindergarten:

Bridges Mathematics: Focusing on patterns, 5-frames/10-frames, subitizing to 10, writing numbers to 10, counting forward and backward to/from 20, comparing quantities

Being a Writer: drawing, writing, and Author's Chair sharing –pieces that tell things they want to do when they get bigger, places they would like to go, favorite colors and shapes, and things they love about themselves.

Orton Gillingham phonemes and graphemes: C, D, G, A, M, L, O, H, T, I

Sight Words: I, see, a, the, my, like, to, do, we, me, be

Rhyming

Science: Bears – focusing on identifying things that are living and non-living and Five Senses

First Grade:

We are in Week 6 of our Spelling and Reading curriculum. We are just starting Unit 2 of our Bridges math curriculum.

We are still working on completing baseline reading assessments on all students in order to begin reading groups and literacy centers.

The ATI/Galileo testing window begins this week and closes at the end of next week (September 30th).

Apple Experiments on Friday, September 30th in the afternoon.

Second Grade:

Bridges Math Objectives:

Addition and Subtraction Strategies

Solving Word problems

Identifying the time one hour ago and one hour from now

Identifying to the half hour

Numbering a clock face

Addition Facts to 20

Counting and Modeling 2 & 3 digit numbers

Place Value

This Week's Story:

The Enormous Turnip- Folktale- This is a story about several characters working together to pull out an enormous turnip. Students will be focused on sequence and summarizing.

Vocabulary words: Enormous, granddaughter, grew, planted, strong, turnip

We will begin ATI 1st quarter benchmark testing later this week

Grammar: punctuation, telling parts of sentences

Phonics: open and closed syllables

Third Grade:

Spelling/Phonics: Accurately spell words with y as short and long i.

Language: Identify and classify nouns - common and proper nouns, abbreviations and titles, singular and plural nouns, irregular plural nouns

Reading: **The Keeping Quilt** – Personal Narrative, Patricia Polacco tells the story of the homemade quilt that has been in her family for over four generations. Students will listen for clues to identify author’s viewpoint.

Vocabulary words: border, gathering, needles, scraps, sewn, threaded

Math:

Module 3 begins with measurement context in which students search out objects that have certain lengths. The class uses these measurements to build the open number line, and then uses the open number line to model strategies to add double-digit length measurements.

Special Area Teachers:

Music: We continuing to practice for the Second Grade Performance on September 29th @ 6:30 pm. Some of the third grade students are working hard on their dance with the Arizona Ballet Company Wednesdays after school for their performance at the Fountain Park on Sept. 23 @ 7:00 pm.

PE: We are working on our Soccer skills. The students have been doing a great job with learning how to control the ball. On the last day together we play a fun 4-6 ball soccer game that focuses on offense and defense.

Technology: The students are following the engineering design process to create a house for the 4th little pig with specific constraints using limited materials. Their house will be tested against the breath of the big bad wolf (a fan) and redesigned/improved.

Art: Preschool is working on their fine motor skills (cutting and tearing for mosaics) and K is working on mixing primary and secondary colors. 1st grade: elements of art and lines. 2nd and 3rd are practicing their directed drawing skills using lines and shapes.

Student Council:

We learned a Citizenship Rap and presented the meaning of citizenship at our assemble last week. Students did an awesome job of putting together their presentation. We extend big “thank you” to our Falcon leaders for assisting us during our performance.

We are gearing up to begin our yearly recycling in the building and we are looking into volunteer in a community garden with Ms. Smart and the Falcon leaders as soon as the weather permits.

Student Council officers were elected and are as follows:

2nd Grade – President: Cooper Lupein

Vice Presidents: Chase Johnson

3rd Grade – President: Taleigha Bonnaha

Vice President: Austin Miller

Junior Achievement: All classrooms have volunteers to teach the lessons. Tami Helm and Jill Cooper are training the new volunteers Thursday afternoon. Once they are all trained, they will be ready to go! There was discussion on possible dates to have a “School Wide Junior Achievement Day”, where those volunteers would teach all 5 lessons in one day. Teachers will be contacted soon on the exact date.

Site Council Members: Valerie Dehombreux, Lynn Fink, Julie Boyce, Danielle Fisher, Talia Houseal, Jami Rodriguez, Jill Cooper, Tomeka Wilbourn, Peter Conti, Jr., Connie Barczak, Nita Sayles, Roger Owers & Nicole Perkins and/or Astacia Vagotis