

Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 11 o. 4 December 2008

A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

For this year's Christmas Program we are doing something different. In a recent survey parents voted to have the Christmas Program at Northeastern A&M College's Fine Arts Building in Miami. This change of venue should help make things a little more comfortable and enjoyable.

The event will be held on Tuesday, December 16. The lower elementary (Pre-K through 2nd Grade) will begin their performance at 6:30 PM. The upper elementary (3rd through 5th Grade) will begin at 7:30 PM. There will be a short intermission between the two performances.

For those who may need a little assistance during this time of the year the following information is being provided:

Coats for Kids Closet- If you or your child are in need of a coat you can contact the First United Methodist Church in Miami. They have a wonderful program that provides coats in all sizes—from toddler to adult. They also have hats and gloves available. Call the church at 542-9803.

Our school is currently having a food drive. All donated food will be given to families here in Commerce. If you are in need or know of a family that is in need, please contact our School Based Social Worker, Beth Rotman. You can reach her at 675-4336.

We also encourage all families to participate in this year's "Lights on for Life." Your child will receive a "Lights on for Life" sheet to collect as many signatures as possible. Those who sign, pledge to celebrate the Holiday Season safely by refraining from drinking and driving.



December

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten to Welch State Bank (Miami) to meet Santa!- Tuesday, December 9.

Christmas Programs- Tuesday, December 16. NEO A&M Fine Arts Building beginning at 6:30 PM.

5th Grade Basketball vs Quapaw- Wednesday, December 17. Commerce High School Gym. 12:30 PM.

Santa Pictures- Wednesday, December 17, 9:00 a.m. (Photos cost \$3.00 for a 5" x 7")

Polar Express- Thursday, December 18.

Christmas Break- December 22 through January 2.

Grade Cards For First Semester- Thursday, January 8.

Vision Screening- January 20, 21, 22. All elementary students will have their vision checked.



Merry Christmas

--From the Teachers,
Staff and Principals at
Alexander Elementary!



Keep Stress Low Over the Holidays and Year Around!

A great way to keep family stress down over the holidays and year around is to play together!

Making time to play together also helps build a stronger family.

In stress and the Healthy Family, Dolores Curran says that while playing together “sounds almost too simple,” it is a major factor in living with stress in the modern family.”

As you start thinking about how your family will spend time during the holidays and the coming New Year, be sure to build in time for having fun. Start by making a list of fun things to do together. What have you done in the last year that was fun? What are some things you'd like to do together?

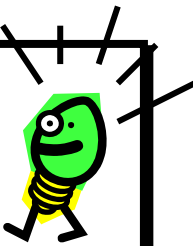
You can make many everyday activities into fun family time by thinking creatively. One family turned fall leaf raking into a great family tradition. After everyone raked the leaves, family members took turns jumping into the big pile they'd created. Then they ate hot dogs and marshmallows cooked over an open fire.

Include other people in your play activities. As your children grow older, they'll want to spend time with their friends. If you have established a tradition of welcoming others into your family play, they'll be more likely to stay connected.

One family was amazed that their traditional family New Year's Eve gathering remained a favorite of their children as they grew older. Instead of going to another party, the teenagers just asked if their friends could be added to the family guest list.

Bright Ideas!

*Don't let learning end during the Christmas Break. Find plenty of time to have fun playing but also find enjoyable ways to help your child keep learning. Some bright ideas include: Reading, art projects, trips to a museum, visit your local library or even to a zoo. When picking out gifts for your child give strong consideration to ones that increase learning!



Give Your Child Four Priceless Gifts for Christmas

As you think about giving gifts this Holiday Season, remember that there are some gifts only you can give. Unlike toys that may break before next month, these gifts will last a lifetime:

♥ The gift of time. The old saying is true. Children really do spell love T-I-M-E. Give the gift of listening to your child, reading with your child, helping your child, and just hanging around with your child.

♥ The gift of understanding. Children aren't perfect. (Who is?.) If your child makes a mistake, listen first.

♥ The gift of confidence. When you believe in your child, you help him believe in himself. When you tell him that you know he can do it, he'll never doubt that he can. Years from now when he faces another challenge, he'll hear your words in the back of his mind.

♥ The gift of enthusiasm. Whether you're working on a household project or going out to toss a ball, do it with verve. Your excitement about the task will rub off on your child. When he has to tackle a tough project in school (or later in life), he'll find the energy to carry it through.



Coming and Going To and From School

It is important for everyone to remember to be safe when bringing or picking up your children from school.

Please be mindful of buses. Remember it is against the law to pass a school bus when its' red lights are flashing and the stop sign is out. It is important to use crosswalks and try to avoid walking between or behind cars.

We should all be on the defense; looking out for others to assure everyone remains safe.