

AT
ALEXANDER
ELEMENTARY

PARENTS

Make A
Difference!



Vol. 6, No. 4 December 2003

A note from:

Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break!

The next three weeks leading up to Christmas Break is sure to go by quick. With all the activities going on in our schools and communities it makes the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas seem like one big blur.

We want to encourage you to mark your calendar to attend the Alexander Elementary Christmas Program on Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. This program is one of the biggest events of the year for our school.



What's Up!

DECORATE CITY HALL CHRISTMAS TREE-
Thursday, December 4.
(1st-3rd Grades).

WELCH STATE BANK (Miami)- Wednesday, December 10. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will visit the bank to receive Christmas gifts!

ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-
Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

QUAPAW 5TH GRADE SCRIMMAGE-
Thursday, December 18.

CHRISTMAS BREAK- Monday, December 22
–Friday, January 2. Classes resume on
Monday, January 5.

PROGRESS REPORTS- Tuesday, January 27.



This Holiday Teach the True 'Gift of Giving'



Most people agree the true 'gift of giving' during the holiday season comes from the heart, not the pocketbook. Gifts shouldn't be judged by monetary value. Parents can teach children this lesson by encouraging them to give of themselves.

Here are some ways children might share with others now and throughout the coming year:

*Create greeting cards with inexpensive art supplies. *Bake cookies or brownies as gifts. *Help grandparents or other elderly people clean or decorate their homes. *Address greeting cards or write letters for physically disabled people. *Call friends and relatives and extend best wishes for their health and happiness. *Place a drawing or picture in an inexpensive frame as a gift for a special person. *Read a story to someone, especially an elderly person. *Take telephone messages for ill parents, grandparents or neighbors.



Help Your Child Research The Etymology of His Name

Your child's name is a unique part of his identity. Here's an activity that will help him take pride in his name.

Go to the library and check out a book on the origins of names (etymology). Find your child's name. What are the origins of the name? What are the meanings associated with the name? What famous people share your child's name?

If your child has a unique name, tell him about how you came to name him. See if you can learn anything about the parts of his name.

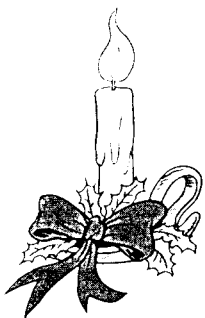
Now create a collage or a craft project that shows what you've learned. It might have your child's name in the center, with different meanings written in colored pencil around the outside. A good idea is to post this in a place of honor in your child's room.

NOTE:

VETERANS' DAY PHOTOS

If you brought a Veterans' Day photo of a relative for the "Wall of Fame", please pick them up or have your child pick them up in the office.

Thank You!



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

From the Teachers and Staff 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.