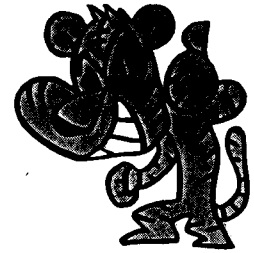


**AT  
ALEXANDER  
ELEMENTARY**

# PARENTS

**Make A  
Difference!**



Vol. 7, No. 6 February 2005

A note from:  
**Mr. Wade**  
Elementary Principal

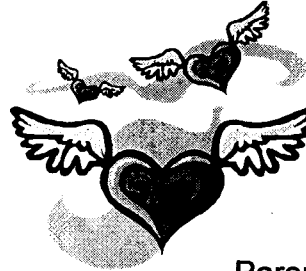
So far this year we have been fortunate not to have to cancel school due to bad weather. Of course winter is far from over and that old groundhog just had to see his shadow!

I want to take this opportunity to talk about students missing school and even tardies. I want to encourage parents to work hard to insure they have their children in school every day possible and on time.

At Alexander Elementary on average we have 31 students that are absent each day. We currently have 452 students enrolled. That means approximately 7% of our students are not in school each day. Another way of looking at it is that approximately 1 out of every 14 students at our school is absent each day.

We realize that some absences can not be prevented. When students are sick or when there is a family emergency, absences can not be helped.

We do want to encourage parents to try and make sure students are in school and on time every day possible. When students are absent they get behind missing out on important material being covered during that day. cont. col. 2



## What's Up!

Parent-Teacher Conferences-  
February 1 and 3. Conferences will be  
scheduled from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

No School- Friday, February 4.

Valentines Day- Monday, February 14.

No School- Friday, February 18. Professional  
Development Day.

Book Fair- February 21 through February 28.

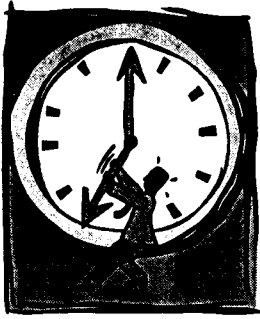
Fifth Grade Writing Test- Wednesday, February  
23.

No School- Friday, March 11. Professional  
Development.

Spring Break- March 14-18.

It is important to never fall in the habit of missing school for poor reasons. We encourage appointments to be scheduled during school breaks or after school hours. Educators will tell you that the top students in the school are the ones that are on time and never miss.

The old adage that says, "Half the battle is just showing up!" is true to help insure your child is successful in school. Making sure your children get to school every day possible and on time will teach them a life long lessons. They will learn to be responsible, dependable and punctual.



## Tips on Finding More Time

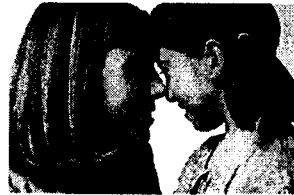
Some people seem to fit more things into a day than the rest of us. No, they haven't found a way to stop the clock—they've just learned to use their time more efficiently. Here are some ways you can get control of your time.

\*Use time in the car with children of any age, or even bath time with young children, to squeeze in a little more learning. Of course, your child can't read library books in the tub—but he can repeat the addition facts. He can't write an essay in the car—but he can talk about what he's going to write or, perhaps, review spelling words.

\*Set priorities. Decide what's really important to you. (Odds are, it's your children.) Then consciously decide how to spend your time. Make sure your decisions reflect what matters. Have a choice between cooking a fancy dinner or reading with your child? Order a pizza and read the book.

\*Spend one-on-one time. Children need both "quality" and "quantity" time. But, there's nothing like spending time alone with a parent to make a child feel special. Every week, make an appointment to spend some time alone with each child. Get out your calendar and write it in. Then treat that appointment as seriously as you would an important business meeting.

\*Remember the 80/20 rule. Businesses often use something they call the "80/20 rule." Simply stated, it means that 80 percent of the results of any job come from just 20 percent of the effort. Use this rule as you decide how to spend your time. Instead of just "doing things right" you'll start "doing the right things."



## Show Children That You Care

Valentine's Day is a special time to let those close to us know how much they are loved. Children need to know that they are loved, that you are proud of them and pleased by their accomplishments. Parents can:

Find ways to say "I love you" every day—no matter what your child's age.

Make time to talk with your children and really listen to what they say. Being listened to builds children's self-esteem and helps them learn.

Monitor your children's schoolwork. Talk about their progress and make sure they know that you are proud of their accomplishments.



is greater than

2 Hours

