

Alexander Elementary

Parents Make A Difference



Vol. 19 No. 3 November 2017

A note from:

Mr. Wade

Elementary Principal

With Veteran's Day just around the corner, November is a perfect month to teach patriotism. Teaching respect for our veterans is a great place to begin. If you haven't, I encourage you to talk with your child about our veterans and what they mean to our country.

In his article "Teaching Patriotism to Our Children" Steven Coffman wrote, "If we as parents teach our kids to love, honor, show compassion and respect for their country as well as their fellow man, they will not only be graced by a sense of patriotism, they will become better citizens, and in turn role models for our future generations." Students need to know that they are an important part of their country's make up. They are the future parents and leaders that will uphold the morals and ethics of our nation.



One of our greatest challenges as parents is to raise our children to show honor and respect towards others. Adopting a path of patriotism is a good reinforcement for them to learn these important traits. Setting good examples of patriotism should, in turn, teach our children that every person counts, no matter where they live, or who they might be, or what country they represent.

We are well into our 2nd quarter of school. In the blink of an eye, it will be time for Christmas Break and the first semester will be finished. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's academic progress, please do not hesitate to give us a call or come by the office. Remember, you can also keep up with your child's grades by logging into your parent account at: <http://ps.commercetigers.net/public/>

If you need help with your login information, please give us a call at 918-675-4336.

November

Picture Retakes- Thursday, November 2.

Honor Choir Performance for Disabled Veterans- Thursday, November 2, Miami Main Street, 9:00AM.

Gifted and Talented Field Trip- Wednesday, November 8, Joplin Regional Airport.

Veterans Day Assembly- Friday, November 10 in gymnasium starting at 1:30PM.

Progress Reports- Tuesday, November 14.

Thanksgiving Break- November 20-24.

PK and K to Welch State Bank (Miami) to See Santa- Wednesday, December 6.
PK- Leave at 9:30AM
K- Leave at 1:30PM

AES Christmas Concert- Thursday, December 14 at the NEO Fine Arts Center.
PK-2nd start at 6:30PM
3rd-5th start at 7:30PM

1st and 2nd Grade to First State Bank (Commerce) to See Santa- Tuesday, December 19. Transportation will begin at 9:30AM.

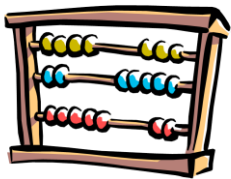
End of 1st Semester- Wednesday, December 20.

Christmas and New Year's Day Break- December 21 through January 3.

No School- Monday, January 15. Professional Development for staff.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Nothing in Particular

1. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
2. There are more chickens than people in the world.
3. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
4. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
5. A dragonfly has lifespan of twenty-four hours.
6. A dime had 118 ridges around the edge.
7. An ostrich's eye is bigger than his brain.
8. The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
9. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
10. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.



Try 'Small Numbers' if Math Problems Confuse Your Child

Solving word problems isn't easy. When they include many large numbers, the task gets harder. Students can't always see past those big numbers to figure out what steps to take to find the right answer.

Use "small numbers" instead. Your child can see how to solve the problem. Then it's easy to try the same method again with larger numbers. Suppose she is asked to restate $35/61$ as a decimal, and she's stuck. Try using 1 and 4 instead. How would she find out how to state $\frac{1}{4}$ as a decimal? She'd divide 4 into 1. The answer is .25.

So in the first problem, divide 61 into 35. The answer is 0.57.

Of course the concept of using an easier example to understand something more complex can work for various subjects and problems.

Fun With Words!

Dictionary Games -- You can help your child practice dictionary skills and build vocabulary with these activities.

Word Race -- Write down several words, and time your child to see how fast he or she can find each one in the dictionary.

Word of the Week -- Ask your child to find one word each week that is new. Post the word on the refrigerator, and challenge them to use it as often as possible during the week.

Mixed-up definitions -- Write down a new word. Then, write out two phony definitions for it, along with the true meaning. Read the three choices to your youngster, and see if they can guess which definition is the real one.

Tips for Reading Aloud

Why is reading aloud to your children the number one suggestion from reading experts across the country? Because it builds the desire to read -- in only 15 or 20 minutes a day!

Whether your children are already reading on their own or have not begun, now is the perfect time to start. Here are few tips:

1. Get Comfortable -- Let your child have a snack or drink before you get started. Give them blankets to snuggle if it is cold.
2. Remove Distractions -- Make your reading spot as quiet as possible. Turn off the television and other electronic devices.
3. Encourage Participation -- Invite your child to join in and read. Take turns turning the page or choosing the book.
4. Keep It Age Appropriate -- If you need suggestions, ask the librarian or your child's teacher.