

Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 12 No. 6 February 2010

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

FEBRUARY

Parent-Faculty Club Meeting- Tuesday, February 2, starting at 3:30 PM.

Groundhog Day- Tuesday, February 2.

Progress Reports- Thursday, February 4.

Parent-Teacher Conferences-
Thursday, February 11
3:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Thursday, February 18
3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Valentine's Party- Friday, February 12.

Valentine's Day- Sunday, February 14.

No School- Friday, February 19.

Book Fair Begins- Monday, February 22-
Wednesday, March 3.

"Words to Gold" Parent Workshop- You are invited!
Monday, February 22 at 6:00 PM in the elementary
cafeteria. Come and hear how your words can
make a world of difference in the life of your child.
Special Guest Speaker- Vicki Funk

Fifth Grade Writing Test- Wednesday, February 24.

Trash 2 Treasure- Friday, February 26 from
1:00PM to 2:30PM in the gym.

Third Quarter Grade Cards- Tuesday, March 9.

Spring Break- March 15-March 19.

Sesame Street Live- Kindergarten Field Trip.
Friday, March 26.

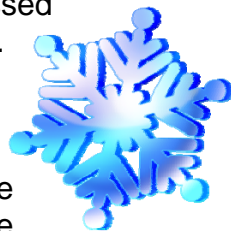
Parent/Teacher Conferences- We would like to remind everyone that Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, February 11th and Thursday, February 18th. There is no school Friday, February 19.

If you have not scheduled a time during Parent-Teacher Conferences between 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Most would agree when parents and teachers maintain strong communication student performance increases. Conferences provide an opportunity to discuss the progress your child is making. Meeting with your child's teacher should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships—partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teacher are to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

Snow Days- To date we have missed four days of school due to weather. Make-up days include:

February 12, March 12, April 2 and May 19. These were days scheduled to be out that will now be used to make-up days missed. The next day used would be February 19. Any further cancellations will be added to the calendar at the end of the school year.





Sometimes...Behavior Can Be More Than Just a Phase

When your children do something that drives you crazy, it's tempting to excuse their behavior as "just a phase." But that attitude can lead parents to overlook real problems.

Every stage of childhood presents certain challenges. As children overcome these challenges, they gain the skills they need to become healthy adults. But if children don't get the help they need at a particular stage, they can actually get "stuck" at that point in their development. That's one reason you may see teenagers who still throw tantrums to get what they want.

If you tend to dismiss your child's experiences as "just a phase," you may overlook the seriousness...and the depth...of your child's feelings. That may lead your child to believe you don't understand, you aren't listening, or you just don't care.

Children who don't feel they can turn to their parents for support will get help elsewhere. Here are some ways to help your child deal with a difficult emotional stage:

1. Carefully examine the problem. Does your son seem to use lots of unacceptable language after playing with a particular friend? Does your daughter seem especially fearful on the day of a spelling test? Watch your children carefully. Then ask them to talk about what's going on.
2. Listen to your children. Sometimes children know exactly what's wrong but don't want to tell you because they're afraid of your reaction. In that case, try to listen without getting angry, sarcastic or defensive. If your children don't know what's causing the problem, keep watching and listening until you start to figure it out.
3. Encourage your child to solve the problem. Many parents want to solve all problems for their child. That doesn't help them grow to be strong adults. For many problems, your role is to listen to your child, to suggest some alternative and to help your child deal with the issue.
4. Correct inappropriate behavior. You're still the parent. If your child is suddenly using bad (cont. col. 2)

language, you have a right to tell him to stop. A bad phase can drag on longer if parents don't set some limits.

5. Ask what you can do to help. Children can't solve all problems on their own. You can let your child know you'll always be there to help.



Does Your Child Really Know That You Love Him?

As parents, we have unique ways of sending our children messages of love. Sometimes, a child just doesn't get the message and thinks his parents don't care.

The problem usually is we're sending the message in the wrong language!

"There are at least three languages of love", says child development specialist H. Wallace Goodard. They are showing, telling and touching:

*A child who wants to be shown love—wants you to do things for and with her. Spend time with her, take her for an ice cream, or fix her bike.

*A tell-me child wants to hear words like, "I love you," "I'm so glad you're my child" and "I enjoy being with you."

*A touch-me child needs a parent to hug him, wrestle or snuggle up together with a good book.

To find out which kinds of messages your child is most likely to hear:

*Notice what your child asks for. Does he want your time and attention? Does he ask you to listen or supply materials for a hobby?

*Watch how your child sends her own messages of love. Does she tell you, hold your hand, write someone a note, or volunteer to do a chore for you or others?

Once you've figured this out, plan how you will send your child at least one love message a day. To be really safe, send the message in all the ways.