

Alexander Elementary



Parents Make A Difference!

Vol. 12 No. 5 January 2010

A note from:
Mr. Wade
Elementary Principal

New Year! New Semester! New Start!

On behalf of the Alexander Elementary faculty, staff and administration we welcome our students' back to the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year!

With a new year comes a new semester. Grade cards for the first semester will go out on Wednesday, January 6. With a new semester before us it is important to understand that all students will have a fresh slate when it comes to their grades. With this new beginning we want to encourage all of our students to strive to do their very best each day.

Most would agree, education is one of the biggest factors that determine future success. We also realize that success takes more than just a good education. For a person to be successful they need a combination of things present in their lives. Some of the basic factors include food, shelter, clothing, love, guidance, and protection.

At Alexander Elementary we appreciate the many wonderful parents we have that give their children the time and encouragement they need to be successful in school. It is our hope that by continually working together we can provide the best education possible for the year 2010 and beyond!

January

1st SEMESTER GRADE CARDS OUT-
Wednesday, January 6.

ACCELERATED READING REWARD TRIP-
Joplin Chuck E. Cheese- K-1 Jan 13, 2-3 Jan 14
and 4-5 Jan 15. Time 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

GIFTED AND TALENTED- Wednesday,
January 13. Special Speaker (George
Washington)

VISION SCREENING- January 19 and 20.

LOCAL SPELLING B- Tuesday, January 26 at
1:30pm.

FIFTH GRADE BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGE-
Friday, January 22. Beginning at 1:00 PM at the
High School.

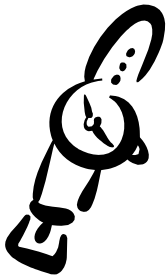
PROGRESS REPORTS- Thursday, February 4.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES-
Thursday, February 11 , 3:30pm till 6:30pm
Thursday, February 18, 3:30pm till 6:30 pm



Reading is a basic life skill.
It is a cornerstone for a
child's success in school,
and, indeed, throughout life.
Without the ability to read
well, opportunities for
personal fulfillment and job
success inevitably will be lost.

-Becoming a Nation of Readers:
The Report of the Commission on Reading



ESTABLISH DAILY ROUTINES TO START THE NEW YEAR

No one has to nag most of us to brush our teeth. It's part of our regular routine. Routines can make it much easier for your children to do their chores without nagging. Once a job becomes a regular part of the day, it will usually get done without much comment or complaint.

Here's how to set up a routine:

*Talk about a problem at a time other than when it's happening. If you're yelling about unfinished homework, it's not the time to come up with an action plan.

*Involve your child. You might say, "I'm sick of nagging you about homework. I'll bet you're sick of it, too. Let's figure out a way to get it done without so much conflict."

*Put your plan in writing. Create a checklist for things your child should do after school.

*Be patient. Your child will take a few days to get into a new routine. She may slip up a time or two.

*Review and change. If your child has made a good faith effort and the plan still isn't working, it's time to make some changes. Keep trying and you will have a routine both you and your child can live with.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO SORT HOMEWORK INTO TWO GROUPS

Do you feel that helping with homework takes all your time? Here's one way to help your child.

At the start of study time, have your child divide the work into two groups. One is "I can do it myself." The other is "I need help."
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Have your child start with the things he can do alone. Then later, you can be there to work with flash cards, quiz spelling words, or other things he can't do alone.

You'll boost your child's confidence in his own ability to do the work. You'll also find that you can spend less time on your child's work and more on the things you have to do.



PREPARE FOR TEEN YEARS BY TEACHING YOUR VALUES NOW

You are careful about the movies and videos that your child sees. But now your fifth grader is going to a friend's house. You know that this friend is allowed to watch anything she wants.

Sooner or later, your child is going to meet up with families whose rules are different. How can you teach your values while still allowing your child to be with others?

*Make sure your child knows your rules. Now is the time to build habits that you will want your child to follow when she becomes a teen. She shouldn't feel that she has to call you before she eats a second piece of pizza. But if the kids are going bowling and no adult will be present, she should give you a call.

*Take the rap. If your child is going to a friend's for a sleepover, call the parent. As you're asking about when you should pick up your child, ask some other questions. "Will the kids be watching any R-rated videos while they're at your house?"

You could then ask that the parent choose something else. Or your child might even offer to bring a favorite video to share.

*Loosen up a bit on the small stuff if you can. A month from now, it won't matter if your child ate an extra piece of birthday cake or stayed up past midnight on a Friday night. Save your worry for the things that matter most. Your child spends more time with you than anyone else. In the end, it's your values that will carry the day.