



Bonnie Wilkinson Elementary

The Lion's Roar

April 2017

Principal's Message – Victor Uher

I recently reread a book by Dennis Mitchell who addressed some pitfalls or common mistakes made when addressing a behavior problem. Below are some areas that I thought you would find helpful.

The first pitfall is ignoring the behavior and waiting “too long or too late” to discipline a child. If you repeatedly turn a blind eye to small infractions, they may soon grow into a bigger problem that forces your action and may not be as easy to solve. Therefore, it's best to address and correct small inappropriate behaviors as quickly as they are noticed.

The second pitfall is taking misbehavior personally, and coming on too hard and too strong for all inappropriate behavior. It's best to think “small consequences” and a “fast chance for the child to learn and change the behavior” rather than reacting personally or giving a big punishment. If this doesn't work then you can take stronger actions. When you focus on big punishments rather than teaching correct behavior, you may back yourself into a corner and not have any room left to operate. Careless behavior for spilling milk should not receive the same response as hitting.

The third pitfall is trying to make a rule and penalty for everything. It's impossible. That's why it's better to believe children aren't fully educated regarding acceptable behaviors. The only way to avoid the “too many rules” pitfall is to limit the number of rules to no more than seven. One rule that covers almost everything is “being careful and kind”. That may be too broad for younger children, but if you are **consistent** with your rules this will have a strong impact. Don't assume the simplest rules, such as good manners, are simply known. Someone had to teach each of us.

The fourth pitfall is believing discipline is negative, it's not. It's a positive. Self-discipline is a valued character trait. One of the better ways to motivate children to choose appropriate behavior is to commend them for good behavior and improvement. For example, if a child starts to show responsibility by doing chores and forgets to take out the trash one day do not overreact. Remind the child that he has done well all week and if he takes care of the trash today, he'll have a perfect record.

The final pitfall is not finding the reason for the misbehavior. Remember, a child behaves appropriately for a reason and inappropriately for a reason. Unless you know the reason for the misbehavior, you don't have the vital information needed to take action.

PTA News – Christel Zuvich, President

This month, PTA will be having our Spring FundRun. All students will participate in this event April 28th. Many volunteers are needed and parents are welcome to participate with their student or just come to cheer them on! Look for the volunteer signup coming soon or email wilkinsonvolunteers@yahoo.com to help.

Our next PTA board meeting will be April 21st at 9 am. All are welcome to attend. Next year's officer nominations will begin at this meeting, as well as chairs and co-chairs for our committees. It is a great time to meet outgoing chair members and find out how you can be a part of your child's education through PTA.

From the Clinic – Mrs. De Baugh R.N.

THANKS TO ALL OUR WILKINSON LIONS!

It was an amazing year for our Pennies for Patients campaign.

Due to your over whelming generosity, we were able to raise \$ **6,356.31** to donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. **Ms. Larson's 3rd grade class collected the most money, \$527.37, and will get a lunch donated by Olive Garden.** Mrs. Morris' 3rd grade class won the pizza party for 2nd place. The grade level winners that will get an ice cream party are: Kindergarten- Nespor, 1st grade-Mrs. B. Reynolds, 2nd grade-Mrs. Corder, 3rd grade-Ms. DePinto, 4th grade-Mrs. Gilbreath.

Our classes that collected over \$100 will get popsicles. The classes are Mr. Lindsay, from PK/K: Petty, Camacho, Gaskins, King, Nespor, Ohnheiser, Pallotta; from 1st: Acreman, Anderson, Frazier, B. Reynolds, S. Reynolds, Stephenson; from 2nd: Allen, Corder, King, Leinhart, Lindsay, Winn; from 3rd: DePinto, Estes, Girard, Larson, Morris, Simmons, Wright; from 4th: Alman, Baker, Cvetovich, Gilbreath, Sutton. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Thanks to all students, parents, and staff members who contributed to this worthy cause.

PE/ recess restrictions and use of crutches

Please remember that a student cannot be withheld from PE or outdoor recess or use crutches on campus without a doctor's written order. If your child is restricted from physical and/or outdoor activity or requires the use of crutches at school, a copy of the doctor's order for the restriction or use of crutches must be given to the school nurse. The order should state the restriction or crutch use and the length of time the order applies. Please call with any questions.

Assistant Principal – Tracy Summerville

It seems cliché to say that this school year has absolutely flown by. However, it is now April and we only have a couple months left of the 2016-2017 school year. Congratulations to our 4th graders. They took the writing STAAR test the last week in March, and we are very proud of how hard they worked. Our 3rd and 4th grade students are currently preparing to take the math and reading STAAR test on May 8th and 9th. We are very excited about our students' success. They have worked hard all year, and many students have met or are beating their own personal academic goals.

Soon to come: GT scores should come in sometime in May, Credit by Exam opportunities and summer school information will come out soon, and we are hoping to get TELPAS results in May as well.

Counselor's Message – Kelly Locke

R = Responsibility

During April we will be discussing our R.O.A.R term of the month, Responsibility. We will be looking at lots of different ways our Wilkinson Lions can be responsible. Some examples we will be working on are: responsibility with school work, responsibility with friendships, responsibility of self-control and many more!

PRIDE LUNCH DATE: April 20 (Thursday)

Upcoming Events:

- April 12th - Dogs of Character
 - PK, Kinder, 1st & 2nd

- April 13th - STAAR Pep Rally
 - 3rd and 4th

- April 26 - STAAR Relaxation and Character lesson in Specials
 - 3rd and 4th grade

News from the Lion's Den – Michelle Vaughn

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing spring break. Our Wilkinson students continue to amaze us all with their excellent books choices and incredible reading.

Our first and second graders are doing a great job with Lionopoly. If your child has not started, it is not too late. Please contact Mrs. Vaughn if you have any questions: mvaughn@conroeisd.net or 936-709-1515. The following students have read all 30 books and will be coming to our Lionopoly Reading Celebration in May: Bailey Allen, Rylee Vaughn, Cole Roberts, Trent Henschel, Evan Hatzl and Angela De La Cruz. Good Job!!!! The last day to play is Friday, April 28.

Remember to keep reading.

Pre-K

HAPPY SPRING! I hope that everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. With the warmer weather, we are sure to spot some flowers and butterflies while at recess. It is the best time to begin our study on plants and seeds and learning about the lifecycles of butterflies and frogs.

At this point in the year, we have finished introducing all the letters and sounds in the alphabet. Although we have introduced each letter and sound, we will continue to review the letters and their sounds, as well as identifying a few Kindergarten sight words. In addition, we will be working on several emergent literacy concepts. These concepts consist of creating compound words, counting syllables in a word and identifying story elements after reading fiction stories. In math, we will be working on simple addition and subtraction up to 5 using manipulatives and graphing.

So as you can see, we are working really hard and still learning so much. As always, continue to work with your child on counting aloud to 30, number identification, and letter and sound identification. Thank you again for all your continued support.

Kindergarten

April is already here, and the Kindergarteners are in full bloom! This year has gone by so fast. Your little one will be in first grade before we know it.

We will be having an Easter Egg hunt, so be looking for more information coming home in Monday folders. Towards the end of April we will begin our study of animals to prepare for our field trip to the Houston Zoo. **** If you would like to be a chaperone for our field trip to The Houston Zoo, you will need to fill out a volunteer application through Conroe ISD. You will then get an email saying you have been approved.****

Crunch time with Guided Reading has begun. We are working hard to ensure that your child is reading on a level D by the end of kindergarten. After reading the book that was sent home, please make sure to go over the story elements of a fiction book and the important facts of a nonfiction book. We have about a month left, so please keep reading the books sent home with your child in his/her red folders and remember to send them back the next day. Also, continue to review sight words, letters, and letter sounds often.

We have one last report card to ensure mastery for first grade so be working on all skills not mastered in the 3rd grading period.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR KINDERGARTEN

- *April 13- Easter Egg Hunt
- *May 4 and 5-Kindergarten Program
- *May 8-Houston Zoo Field Trip
- *June 1-Last Day of School/Kindergarten Awards Day

First Grade

It seems like spring has been here for weeks. Our first graders are blooming and growing. The progress that our students have made since the beginning of the school year is outstanding!

We will build on what we have learned in mathematics by solving real world problems related to money, geometry, fractions of a shape, and addition and subtraction. Continue to count an assortment of nickels, pennies and dimes with your child and have them write the value of the whole group. First graders only need to identify a quarter. Also our goal is to give these first graders a deeper understanding of number concepts and strategies so that they are successful problem solvers.

Please plan for our music program which is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 6th, 2017. We will also have a presentation at 9:00 Friday morning, April 7th. As always, hearing their beautiful voices and seeing them dressed up in costumes makes for a proud moment! We look forward to seeing all of you there. Field Day is scheduled for April 21st. We will need volunteers for this event and more information will be coming soon.

Second Grade

Did you know a hummingbird nest is the size of a walnut? Did you know that the cheetah is the fastest land animal? Our Second Grade Researchers have been busy gathering information about different insects and animals. Just like an excellent researcher, they first wrote the questions they needed to answer. Then, they learned about KidRex a kid safe search engine on Google. They searched online for information to help answer their questions. They also used www.pebblego.com to find information. Finally, if a library book was available on the topic, students looked for information in it. We then used our answers to create a book. We learned that researchers want others to read their information so we worked to have interesting introductions to our books. After completing rough drafts and editing, students made final copies complete with pictures and a diagram. We shared our research with each other on March 24th! It was so exciting!

Third Grade

We have been reviewing and preparing for the upcoming Math Benchmark which will be given on Tuesday, April 4.

On Thursday, April 13 we will have a STAAR Pep Rally to get our students excited about STAAR. Each class has been working hard to accomplish the "Hula Hoop Challenge!" The students will compete at the pep rally. The goal is for each class to hold hands and get the hula hoop from one end of the class to the other without letting go of each other's hands. It has been so fun, exciting, and encourages team work. The 3rd and 4th grade classes will compete against one another. We can't wait to see how the students do!

We are preparing for "Wacky Wednesdays." On April 19, April 26, and the first Wednesday in May. The students will be rotating to different language arts and math

classrooms. Each teacher will be re-teaching and reviewing an intensive lesson based on a skill that the grade level needs to review as a whole. We will base this decision off of our benchmark data. These lessons are geared to be extremely hands-on and get the students excited to go deeper with a more challenging skill. Each week will have a different theme such as wacky socks, wacky thinking caps, etc. We will send home more information as these dates approach.

Fourth Grade

Spring is here and Math and Reading STAAR tests are just around the corner. The Math test is on May 8th with Reading on the 9th. We have a fun and exciting math and reading camp planned for the week of May 3rd-5th. The math and reading camp will be called Super STAAR Crash Course. It will be a Mario Kart themed camp, and we are really looking forward to it. Our camps are a great way to review all the skills and concepts we have learned throughout the year in a fun and stress-free way.

This month we are reviewing reading concepts to help us get ready for STAAR. We have a strong focus on main idea, summarization, drawing conclusions and inferring in all genres, making connections across genres, and drama and poetry. We will continue to stress the importance of reading and believe reading ensures success in school and beyond. In addition, fourth graders need 100 A.R. points to attend our school reading carnival in May.

Measurement is the focus for April. Measurement is a skill that 4th graders often struggle with because of lack of experience. A good way to expose your children to measurement is to cook together. Another way is to include your children in a DIY project at home. The car is another place to bring in measurement when going on a trip discuss how far you are going and when filling the car with gas, talk about how many gallons of gas your vehicle holds. We are also working on developing an appropriate problem-solving strategy to solve a problem and reviewing concepts students still need to master. Some of the tougher 4th grade math concepts are long division, fractions and multiplication of large numbers. If your child has a good grasp of these things, then they are on the right track. The students are expected to be “thinkers” and, we are giving the students many opportunities to “think” it out in math. We are growing their brains!

In science, we will be exploring the different types of environments including Wooded Areas, Rain Forests, Deserts, and the Arctic. Students will be creating projects based on these four types of environments and will identify adaptations as well as producers and consumers in these areas.

Our fourth graders have been working very hard this year, and we are very proud of them. A special thanks from all the fourth grade teachers to our parents for their constant support.

Special Subjects

P.E.-Ms. Burney

We continue to stay very active in the gym! Last month students participated in Conroe ISD's Heart Obstacle Course and followed it with our basketball unit. Students learned drills and skills related to basketball including dribbling while controlling the ball, three basic passes, and basketball games and rules. During our basketball unit, we also took time to relate basketball skills with soccer skills learned this year in the gym. We would like to congratulate 4th graders Lillian Niemeyer and Dominik Contreras on a job well done at the First Tee Champions Challenge at the end of March. They competed with other school districts around the Houston area and represented our Wilkinson Lions well.

This month students will participate in various recreational and leisure sports as well as cup-stacking and geo mats. 3rd and 4th grade students will get an opportunity to participate in a STAAR Relaxation class led by a fitness instructor on April 26th. 4th grade students who have shown good behavior and participation in the gym this year will be working on preparing for the Future Tiger Challenge. This event will take place at Moorhead Stadium on Friday, May 19th. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at aburney@conroeisd.net. We can always use extra water bottles, cool towels, and snacks.

Another event occurring this month is our Fund Run. The Fund Run event is a PTA fundraiser that will occur on April 28th. Students and families will be participating in this school wide event during your students' specials time. We are excited about this event, and are looking forward to seeing student and family participation.

As always, it's so wonderful to see student progress. We look forward to finishing the school year strong as we continue to build healthy and strong bodies.

Art- Ms. DeBaugh

Thank you for all of our photography submissions! I love seeing the students apply what they've learned in art outside the classroom. Great job everyone.

We had four students that were selected to show their art in the North Montgomery County Library in Conroe. Congratulations to Anna Summerville, CJ Ford, Phu Le, and Amy Silva. They worked so hard and were great representatives for Wilkinson.

This month we are going to start our clay projects. We will learn the history behind ceramics in different countries of the world and complete our own clay project. I will walk the students through each step in the process: prepping the clay, forming, attaching details, and glazing. We will be learning some new vocabulary as well. The students have been waiting for this project since day one. I'm not sure who is more excited—the students or me! If anyone would like to help out in the art room during this clay unit, please e-mail me. Thank you parents for your support.

Music-Mrs. Hallbauer

We are excited to present our 1st grade program, “BUGS!” this month. Performances are Thursday, April 6th at 6 p.m. and Friday, April 7th at 9 a.m. Kindergarteners will begin preparing their program this month as we look forward to performing for friends and family on May 4th and 5th. 2nd graders begin a bell and boomwhacker unit in April exploring the way melodies rise and fall. 3rd graders are excited about their recorder unit this month. They will practice using this woodwind instrument to read the treble staff. 4th grade students will explore mallet techniques on classroom instruments such as xylophones and read and perform rhythms using various drums and tuned/untuned percussion instruments. All these instruments provide young music students a rewarding opportunity to tie all our music concepts together—rhythm, note-reading, tempo and dynamics to experience making music in an ensemble.

APRIL CALENDAR

1 – Conroe ISD Early Childhood Resource Fair – Sam Houston Elem. School – Sat. 9-12
This event will have information for parents of PK and kindergarten children.

3 – **PK and Kindergarten Registration Opens** for new students. PK enrollment is based on federal guidelines. Please ask our registrar if you have questions about qualifying.

6 – First Grade Music Program – 6:00 - Cafeteria

7 – First Grade Music Program – 9:00 – Cafeteria

14 – Holiday

19 – Fund Run Kick-off 2:00

20 – PRIDE Lunch

21 – 1st Grade Field Day

21 – 2nd Grade Field Day

27 – Kindergarten Pictures

28 – Fund Run

May

4 – Kindergarten Music Program – 6:00 Cafeteria

5 – Kindergarten Music Program – 9:00 Cafeteria

8 – Math STAAR Test – 3rd and 4th Grade

9 – Reading STAAR Test – 3rd and 4th Grade