



Bonnie Wilkinson Elementary

# The Lion's Roar

January 2017

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## Principal's Message – Victor Uher

It is with enthusiasm and eagerness that we begin a new year. It was great seeing the students after the long break. I want to extend a welcome to all our new Wilkinson Lions and parents who have recently joined our school. Bonnie Wilkinson Elementary is a school that houses students and teachers who treat each other respectfully and have high expectations for each other. We strive to provide an environment that is safe, friendly and student-centered. Curriculum and instructional decisions are based on the needs of our students. It is with these thoughts in mind we begin the year 2017.

We have also reached the mid-point of the school year. Our district follows the state TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) curriculum. If you would like to look at the TEKS by grade level and subject on the internet the address is [www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/). TEA (Texas Education Association) has a very informative and extensive web site for teachers and parents. If you have the opportunity, please visit the site.

## PTA News – Christel Zuvich, President

I hope everyone had a nice and relaxing holiday break. PTA had a successful fall semester and we are looking forward to a fun-filled Spring semester.

**Please join us January 10<sup>th</sup> for Science Night with Dinosaur George.**

Dinosaur George is a traveling dinosaur museum that will be with us throughout the day and into the evening for our students and families to enjoy. Our PTA General Meeting will be at 5:30 pm in the Library as well. Please stop by for the meeting and hear about all the exciting things happening with your PTA.

Dates to look for:

January 10	PTA General Meeting 5:30 PM
January 10	Science Night/Dinosaur George Open to families 3:30-7:00 PM
January 10	Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night
January 20	PTA Board Meeting 9 AM

\*Interested in volunteering or getting PTA event updates? Email Holly Wells, our volunteer coordinator, at [wilkinsonvolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:wilkinsonvolunteers@yahoo.com)!

## Counselor's Message – Kelly Locke

### **A = Acceptance**

We are continuing with our ROAR program. So far this year the students have learned about RESPECT (R) and OPTIMISM (O) and this month we will begin learning about ACCEPTANCE (A). We will be looking for ways to accept when you make a mistake and what to do about it.

### **PRIDE LUNCH DATE:**

**January 27th (Friday)**

*\*If you would like to sponsor a Pride Lunch for our students please feel free to contact me.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Random Acts of Kindness Week**

- February 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>

## From the Clinic – Mrs. De Baugh R.N.

- **Flu season is here.** Encourage your children to keep their hands washed and away from their face and mouth. Children should stay home from school until they are fever free for 24 hours **without** the use of medication. **Please DO NOT** send your student to school when ill.
- Please remember that students may **NOT** under any circumstance bring medication with them to school. This is a district wide policy and parents must sign in all medications, including cough drops, to the clinic.
- A reminder that as the weather becomes colder, your child should dress in layers. Students then have the option of taking off a layer of clothing or adding that sweatshirt or jacket when playing outdoors. We will continue to have outdoor recess as the temperature allows.
- All vision and hearing screenings for PK, K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students have been completed. If a student did not pass one of the screenings, a referral form was sent home. Please be sure to seek medical advice as soon as possible so that your student will have a successful and healthy school year.

Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

## News from the Lion's Den – Michelle Vaughn

Happy New Year from the library! Thank you to everyone who supported our book fair. Proceeds raised will be used to purchase more books for our library, support our different reading programs, and support our great Wilkinson students in a variety of ways.

Our Lionopoly reading program for our first and second graders is quickly approaching. Make sure to look for more information in your child's Monday folder.

All of our students are doing a great job visiting the library, taking care of the library books, and returning them on time. We have incredible readers in our school, and I am proud of all our students. As a reminder, students have a scheduled library time each week. They also have an opportunity to visit during open check out.

The following are the days classes visit the library:

Monday –Kindergarten

Tuesday -2<sup>nd</sup> Grade & Ms. DePinto and Mrs. Estes' classes

Wednesday -3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Thursday -1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Friday –Pre K & Life Skills (Pre K students have a read aloud each week)

Remember to keep reading.

## **Pre-K**

Happy New Year! Welcome back and I hope that everyone had a restful vacation. Mid-year assessments were completed for report cards the last few weeks of December. A big THANK YOU to those families that have been working on identifying letters, sounds, numbers, counting and shapes. I am thrilled to see the progress the students have made over the last few months. At this time, many students are able to write and recognize their names already. Please continue to practice at home writing their first name. In addition, we have many new concepts that we will be learning over the next few months. We will be creating and recognizing patterns, learning about natural environments, producing letter sounds, rhyming and compound words; as well as continuing to count aloud to 30, identifying upper and lowercase letters, numbers and shapes. We will continue to work on retelling stories and identifying characters and setting. As always, thank you to our parents for their continued support and help throughout the year.

## **Kindergarten**

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that you had an amazing winter break and time with your families. With a New Year comes new things in Kindergarten! This semester we are focusing on reading. We will begin guided reading groups this month and throughout the rest of the year. Your child will be placed in a reading group on his/her reading level and will receive reading homework. When you receive their book, please look in your child's reading folder for questions to ask for fiction and non-fiction readers, discuss characters, setting, beginning, middle and ending of the book. We also ask, that you help push your child at home with their reading by making sure to read the book that evening and return it the next day to receive a new book. We are laying the reading foundation for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The students are expected to be reading on a level D by the end of kindergarten. So let's *read, read, read* this January and the rest of the semester and enjoy some good books!

## First Grade

We are very excited for the New Year! On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. First grade will be sponsoring a booth at the Science Fair. Our booth is reflecting on light and sound. More information will be coming home with your child soon.

This grading period, the students will be identifying the characteristics of day and night. They will be observing changes in the appearance of objects in the sky such as the moon, stars and clouds. First Grade teachers enjoy hearing the excitement in the students' voices as they discuss this new learning. A good activity for your family would be to watch the moon and its changes over a period of time. Reading books from the library should include non-fiction as well as fiction books.

Later in the month, we will study the changes in weather and identify the characteristics of each season of the year.

It is always important that your first grader receive the correct amount of sleep and are rested for the activities at school. As our school year progresses, listening skills and attentiveness should improve.

Have a Happy New Year!

## Second Grade

January brings a lot of growth in student learning in second grade. Students are becoming more and more independent and are able to think more abstractly. They now understand the relationship between cause and effect. When you are reading with your child at home you can ask questions that require them to think more deeply about what they are reading. **This is good practice for school.** Here are some questions you can ask your child about their book.

What conclusion can you make about.....?

Why do you think.....?

How would you have solved the problem?

What genre is this and how do you know?

Students should be reading nightly for their reading log, Monday through Thursday.

## Third Grade

At this point, the students have learned all of their basic multiplication facts for x0, x1, x2, x3, x5, x6, and x10. You can practice these at home to increase their fluency and accuracy. Skip counting by these numbers will help build their fluency. We will finish up our multiplication and division unit by the end of this month.

Encourage academic conversations at home. These conversations make a huge impact on the students. They love to see that someone at home is familiar with what they are learning at school. It also makes their learning more meaningful by connecting their academics to their real world experiences. Some prompts you can use are listed below:

How have you become a better writer?

Share one new thing you have learned about (subject area).

What is a FANBOY?

What do you know about synonyms and antonyms? Give me an example.

What is a way you could solve a multiplication or division fact if you don't know the answer?

Tell me about your favorite math station.

What do you do in your Kim Sutton binder?

## **Fourth Grade**

As we enter a new year, we will be very busy learning new skills and concepts that will prepare our students for fifth grade and their upcoming STAAR Tests.

In writer's workshop, fourth graders will continue writing drafts, revising and editing papers, as well as developing expository compositions. Our fourth graders have become fabulous writers, and we know they will only continue to improve as we get closer to the writing STAAR test. We will familiarize students with different types of passages in reading. Some of the passages include poems, reader's theater, fiction, non-fiction, and literary nonfiction. Please continue to have your child read at least thirty minutes each day. It is so crucial to the improvement in all subject areas.

We are still hard at work to become confident problem solvers in math. Ask your child about "Poster Friday." This is when we use cooperative learning to solve very difficult math problems by working in groups. This is a time the students really talk math and learn from each other. They have a lot to share when it comes to solving problems. We will continue to work mastering multiplication of large numbers and long division.

We are now learning about the Texas Revolution in social studies. Students will start learning about all the battles of the Revolution, including The Battle of the Alamo, Runaway Scrape, Battle of San Jacinto, and Treaty of Velasco. We will be doing interactive activities to help us remember important people, dates, and places. Also, students will understand the causes, major events, and effects of the Texas Revolution.

We are excited for the second half of the school year that will be filled with lots of new learning and reviewing. Once again, thank you for all of your continued support.

## **Special Subjects**

### **Art- Ms. DeBaugh**

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had an amazing break. I am so happy to see smiling faces fill the art room again. This month we are going to dive deeper into art history while still focusing on the different elements of art. I want to show the students how different artists and time periods have shaped art throughout the world. We will be looking at Andy Warhol with print making and Picasso with Cubism. We will also start looking into how art forms in other cultures. We'll study the Aztecs and their basket weaving, the Japanese and their origami, the Native Americans with their totems, and so much more.

I would like to recognize the students for all the hard work they put into the Western Art Show. Their projects look amazing. Some students' art projects were chosen to represent Wilkinson at our district art show. If your child's art was selected an invitation was sent home. The art show will be Saturday, January 7, 2017 3pm-4pm in the Oak Ridge 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus gym. I hope to see some of you there.

## **P.E. - Ms. Burney**

Happy New Year! The new year is a great time to start thinking about resolutions and goals to set for the upcoming year.

Your children have been doing a wonderful job in P.E. learning about “Go,” “Slow,” and “Whoa” foods. They are sharing and learning about eating and applying these foods to their everyday life at breakfast and lunch. These are simple terms used to identify healthy choice foods from unhealthy foods.

Wilkinson Lions did a wonderful job in their bowling unit and Winter Wonderland obstacle course in December. This month we will participate in our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Games and Sports Unit, and introduce hockey. We will also continue our First Tee Program this year learning basic golf terms, how to play, and core values associated with the First Tee program.

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will begin Fitness Gram testing this month.** Please encourage your children to practice proper curl ups and push-ups at home as it will help when we start testing. This month we are also going to have students share how they are physically active outside of school. Please have your child send in pictures (preferably no larger than 4x6). We will have students show their pictures and share them in P.E. Lab. The pictures will be displayed afterwards on a bulletin board, so please send something you don't mind not getting back. Thank you for your participation.

**Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy 2017.**

## **Music—Mrs. Hallbauer**

Happy New Year! We had a great holiday season in the music room with an amazing program presented by the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, numerous “Singing Pride” choir concerts as well as caroling and instrument playing in the music room. This new year, Kinder through 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes will explore instrument families including percussion, strings, woodwinds and brass. All grades will review and define many musical terms such as staccato, legato, coda and rondo. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will begin to learn the treble staff to develop music literacy. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are beginning to prepare for their music program scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017.

## **JANUARY CALENDAR**

3 – Students Return

7 - Western Art Show

9 – Report Cards Go Home

10 – Wilkinson PTA Presents – Dinosaur George’s Traveling Museum

16 – Holiday

**February 1<sup>st</sup> – 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School**

2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Program – 6:00 Cafeteria

3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Program – 9:00 Cafeteria