



Bonnie Wilkinson Elementary

The Lion's Roar

March 2017

Principal's Message – Victor Uher

Here are some helpful tips for building literacy with your child.

- **Comment** on new words as they come up in stories.
- Introduce **synonyms** for words – fun, lively, amusing, entertaining, pleasant
- **Correct word errors** with simple examples. “We runned home.” You could say, “Wow! You RAN home.”
- **Show interest** in the books your children bring home from the school library.
- Write out **pairs of opposites** on bits of paper and create a matching game.
- **Introduce a new word** like halibut and see if your child can identify it.
- **Make up stories together** by taking turns adding to the story
- Think of something you use every day and ask, “What would we do without...?”

PTA News – Christel Zuvich, President

Keep clipping those Box Tops! Our next turn in deadline for Box Tops is March 1st. This is an easy way to earn extra money for Wilkinson. Also, look for the app in the App Store or Google Play.

Don't miss out on those special memories of your student's elementary years. Order your yearbook today through the link on the Wilkinson homepage or at Balfour.com. Please email any pictures you may have taken in the classroom or at school events to amyandara@hotmail.com.

As we approach the last few months of the school year, PTA must begin to look towards the next school year. Next year's parent volunteer form came home in your child's Monday folder last week and are due March 10th. Many of our current chairs are moving on to other schools as their kids leave Wilkinson. Please consider volunteering for a committee position for next year. These positions are vital to your PTA's success.

*Interested in volunteering or getting PTA event updates? Contact us at wilkinsonvolunteers@yahoo.com!

From the Clinic – Mrs. De Baugh R.N.

Blue Health Forms: If you have moved, changed your phone numbers, or your child's medical information needs to be updated, please send the new information to the clinic. We want to have the most current information in order to best serve your child, and also to contact you in case of illness or emergency.

Wilkinson Lions are participating in the *Pennies for Patients* program benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our goal is for each class to collect at least \$100 for cancer. The contest finishes on Tuesday, March 7th. The class that collects the most money will get a free lunch donated by Olive Garden. The 2nd place class will get a pizza party, and the top classes in each grade level will get an ice cream party. Also, every class that collects at least \$100 will get to have a Popsicle party. Be sure to count the money before your child brings it to school so that you are aware of how much they are donating. Wilkinson Lions raised \$6,400.85 last year and we would love to beat that amount this year!

If you prefer, you can donate online to your child's classroom. Just visit Wilkinson's school donation page at: <http://events.ils.org/pages/txg/WilkinsonElementarySchool-2017>. Be sure to choose your student's homeroom teacher on the bottom left hand side of the page.

Thank you for your support of this important program.

Assistant Principal – Tracy Summerville

On March 28 the master schedule will change. Our 4th grade students are taking the Writing STAAR test that day, so lunch, recess, and PE will be held at different times for all grade levels. Please contact your child's teachers if you have questions about the schedule for that day.

Good luck, 4th graders. We are so proud of how hard you worked this year in writing.

Counselor's Message – Kelly Locke

Wow, February was a busy month of kindness. We had fun activities throughout the month to get our students excited about kindness. We read books about kindness on morning announcements, students became secret kindness agents, we played empathy games and much more.

R = Responsibility

During the month of March students will be learning about responsibility and how it applies to their everyday life.

Our "Always Ask" program through the Assistance League of Montgomery County is coming up March 24th! Our Pre-K and Kinder students will learn a valuable lesson when it comes to poison control. Through puppets, games and songs our students will learn to **ALWAYS ASK** before putting anything in their mouths.

PRIDE LUNCH DATE:

March 31 (Friday)

Upcoming Events:

- **Always Ask Poison Control Talk**
 - **March 24 (PK & Kinder)**
- **STAAR Relaxation Day during PE**
 - **April 26 (3rd & 4th)**

News from the Lion's Den – Michelle Vaughn

Happy spring! It is hard to believe how fast the year is flying by. Our Wilkinson students are becoming such wonderful readers. I am so proud to see them visiting the library and making such terrific book choices.

As spring break approaches, please remember to keep your library books at home or at school. When library books travel to different locations they have a tendency to get lost. We want to make sure we can keep all our great books in our library for many years to come.

Our first and second graders are excited about their Lionopoly Reading Game. 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.

Our next Birthday Book Club Breakfast will be for April and July birthdays on Friday, April 7. It's not too late to sign up. Please contact Mrs. Vaughn for more details.

Remember to keep reading.

Pre-K

March is such an exciting month. We have so many exciting things that we will be doing this month. We will be discussing animal and plant life cycles. We will also be learning about Texas and the state symbols. We will continue to work on all uppercase and lowercase letters as well as their sounds. Along with the letter name and sounds, we will be practicing name writing as well. I am proud to announce that most of the class is able to write their names at this point in the year. This is such a great accomplishment!

On March 21st, we will be having our last PK Parent Engagement Night. This night will be filled with games that you can play with your child. These games are not only fun, but will contain Pre-K skills that they will be working on without actually realizing it. Join us for this fun night, with free materials for parents to use with their children at home.

As we enter the last nine weeks, I want to encourage all my students to continue to do their very best work and work extra hard to better prepare themselves for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten

March is already here and Kindergarten is going strong. Kindergarten has been a busy place and will be for the rest of the school year! We are continuing to review concepts taught throughout the year and learning lots of new ones. Please continue to work with your child in these areas daily to make sure your child is prepared for report card testing:

- letter ID/sounds
- sight words
- beginning sounds
- rhyming
- writing a complete story
- number ID 0-20
- writing numbers
- counting to 100
- joining and separating

In guided reading groups, when your child doesn't know a word use a strategy that will help them figure it out. This will help them become more independent in their reading. Thank you to all the parents who are reading with your child every night. We can see the growth your children are making.

In the month of March, we will be studying all about Texas. To celebrate this wonderful unit, we are planning a rodeo day along with a hot dog/chili cook off. More information will be coming in your child's Monday Folders!

First Grade

In first grade the students are busy little bees. They are really *blossoming* in their reading and writing. In March, we begin preparing the students for second grade responsibilities. The students are being challenged to read directions and follow them independently. The students are also tackling the task of reading grade level stories and answering comprehension questions. Fluency is becoming more and more important as we take on these responsibilities. Please urge your child to read fluently, or as we say, "Read with the same quickness in which you speak!" Students with higher fluency typically have better comprehension. Continue to read with your student nightly. This habit will build fluency and prior knowledge on topics needed in future writing.

Remember to keep your child reading over spring break. First grade teachers appreciate your dedication to your child's academic progress.

Second Grade

Need a good book to read? Ask a second grader for a recommendation. We just finished a combined reading and writing unit featuring fiction and our opinions. Students read various book then decided on what books were their favorites. In the first part of the unit, they wrote letters to other readers trying to persuade them to read their book. They had to use information about characters, setting, and be able to retell a story with only important details. They additionally used their knowledge of letter parts and sentence structure to write the letters. In the second part of the unit, they had to write for a totally different audience---first grade! They again chose a favorite book. This time they were nominating the book for an award. In their nomination, they had to have an opinion and then support it with evidence from the book. First grade came to our classrooms, and the second graders presented their nomination as well as showed them a picture from the book. They ended by encouraging the first graders to go find the book in the library!

Third Grade

At this point, the students have learned all of their basic multiplication facts. We are now reviewing their facts to increase their fluency and accuracy. We will be teaching the students geometry, perimeter, and area during the month of March. We learned about fractions last month and just wrapped up our unit. In language arts, we are fine tuning all of our reading skills and cycling back through what has been taught thus far.

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

What fraction of ____ have you eaten? What fraction have you not eaten?

What is a numerator? Denominator?

Have your child name the three-dimensional shape of objects or buildings around them.

Describe a unit fraction.

We hope everyone has a **safe and happy** spring break.

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade teachers are very proud of how hard the students have been working on their expository writing compositions. It is amazing to see how much they have developed and grown in their writing since August. The writing STAAR test will be on Tuesday, March 28th. Please be sure that your child arrives on time, is well rested, and has a good, healthy breakfast on that day. We know they will work hard and give their very best effort.

In reading, students are working hard and mastering important fourth grade reading concepts in many different genres such as fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Many of the questions require higher level thinking and reading very carefully. Please be sure your child continues to read daily. This is only going to help them be even more successful in building academic vocabulary and reading stamina.

We will continue polishing up our math skills that are still a little tricky until we are *all* masters. At this point in the year, students should be scoring high on Math Review Quizzes. We spend two weeks reviewing the same five topics and some of these topics have been on Math Review several times. Math Review is about mastering skills. Please talk with your child about their Math Review Quiz scores when you see them in their Monday Folder. We cannot stress enough the importance of students learning their facts. If your child is still struggling with their multiplication and division facts through the 10's, please set aside some time each night to work with them on that. They should be able to repeat the answers back in three seconds or less. Try one with your child and see how he or she does. For example, 56 divided by 7.

We are continuing to explore and design experiments with science. This month in science, we will be learning about different environments. We will be exploring the wooded area, rain forest, desert, and the arctic. Students will be able to identify the producers and consumers in each environment as well as the animal adaptations for that region. We are looking forward to the many engaging activities we have planned to learn about these environments. Ask your fourth grader to tell you about their favorite one.

We hope you have an enjoyable spring break, and as always, we thank you for your continued support in your child's education.

Special Subjects

P.E. – Ms. Burney

Spring is near, and we are excited about what is happening in the gym. There are so many fun sports and activities to be enjoyed outdoors with warmer temperatures.

This month we would like to welcome a regular weekly helper in the gym Mrs. Theresa Walker. She will be coming to help Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. It's always wonderful to have extra hands and eyes in the gym to ensure student participation and safety. We look forward to Mrs. Walker joining our P.E. team during this spring semester.

Last month both P.E. and P.E. lab focused on several units including jump rope, heart healthy games, and our soccer unit. Throughout the month of March, we will continue the theme of staying heart healthy with our district-wide heart obstacle course. Students will visually and kinesthetically learn how the circulatory system works by moving through the heart obstacle course. At the end of the month, students will participate in our basketball unit working on basic skills, drills, as well as participate in basketball games.

3rd and 4th graders worked hard during their Fitness Gram Testing the month of January and February. I am very proud of the progress and hard work they showed to reach their goals.

Please remember the importance of coming prepared to P.E. by wearing tennis shoes. This will ensure that students are safely moving in the gym and outdoors. I am

proud of all our students' hard work in class and at home. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We enjoy seeing their excitement as they learn and grow in P.E.

Music--Mrs. Hallbauer

We are excited to welcome spring in the music room! Congratulations to the 2nd graders for a job **well done** on their music program. First graders will be the next to perform on April 6th and 7th. They are beginning to learn songs for this upcoming event.

Third and fourth graders will begin applying their note-reading and rhythm skills to classroom instruments. We look forward to this hands-on unit which allows students to apply their music knowledge to real music-making.

Kindergarteners are learning about melody lines using high and low, sol and mi and practicing dynamics such as forte and piano as well as simple rhythms vs steady beat.

Thanks to all for the sweet Valentine gifts.

Keep on singing!

Art- Ms. DeBaugh

During the month of March, we will be having our photography contest. The students will be encouraged to take a photograph, the subject being their choice, and bring their photo in to me. A prize will be given for first, second, and third place, but all will be displayed on our art bulletin board.

This month we are going to research the artist, Picasso, and use his style for inspiration on our projects. Pablo Picasso painted in many different styles throughout his life. He is credited for starting the Cubism Movement and many of his works include portraits with parts of the body in the wrong place. We will let our imaginations run wild and have lots of fun trying out this new art style.

I hope everyone has a wonderful spring break!

MARCH CALENDAR

10 – End of Third Grading Period

13-17 – Spring Break

27 – Report Cards Go Home

28 – Writing STAAR Test – 4th Grade Only

April

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.

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

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