



ASHLEY ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

February 17, 2010

From The Principal's Desk

Dates On The Calendar

Wed., Feb. 24—Elementary Fun Day !

Sat., Feb. 27—P.T.O. Donkey Basketball game 7:00 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 26—Rural Bible

Wed., March 3—Early Release (1:00)

Mon., March 15—Kindergarten Round Up 8:30– 2:30.

Thurs., March 25—Parent / Teacher Conferences—Students released at 11:30, No Pre-School

Fri., March 26—End of 3rd Marking Period

Fri., March 26—Spring Break Begins at the end of the day

Mon., April 5—School resumes from Spring Break

Wed., April 14—Early Release (1:00)

Quote of the Month:

I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.

John Adams

Character Counts:

Caring: be kind; be compassionate and show you care; express gratitude; forgive others; help people in need.

Core Democratic Values:

Diversity – The differences in culture, dress, language, heritage and religion are

not just tolerated, but celebrated as a strength.

Individual Rights – Each individual has the fundamental right to life, liberty, economic freedom and the pursuit of happiness. These rights are outlined in the Bill of Rights and the government should protect these rights and not place undo restrictions upon them.

Person in History:

James Madison (March 16, 1751 – June 28, 1836), was an American politician and the fourth President of the United States (1809–1817), and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Considered to be the "Father of the Constitution", he was the principal author of the document. In 1788, he wrote over a third of the

Federalist Papers, still the most influential commentary on the Constitution. As a leader in the first Congresses, he drafted many basic laws and was responsible for the first ten amendments to the Constitution (said to be based on the Virginia Declaration of Rights), and thus is also known as the "Father of the Bill of Rights". As a political theorist, Madison's most distinctive belief was that the new republic needed checks and balances to limit the powers of special interests, which Madison called *factions*. He believed very strongly that the new nation should fight against aristocracy and corruption and was deeply committed to creating mechanisms that would ensure republicanism in the United States.

Special Needs News

We have been busy so far this month. We have made Valentine's cards for the residents at the Ashley Care Center. We decorated and wrote a message in each of the cards. We had our Valentines party on Monday the 8th, and enjoyed pancakes and

sausage. This month we are working on a persuasive writing. We are stating our concerns, "That each class should be able to make a fort, and students from other classes shouldn't be allowed to break it up."



HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY!



FOURTH GRADE NEWS

The 4th graders have been busy! In math, the students have been working hard to understand angles, and all the different types of polygons such as, triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and octagons. The students have been using geoboards to build their own polygons! We have continued our study of Poetry and are half way through. Ask your child to share some of their poems with you. We just finished our presentations of our government for an island of people in Social Studies. In Science we have been learning more and more about matter, volume, mass, and density! We also had a wonderful time with Mr. Baker on the ski trip at Snow Snake. We hope you have a very happy and enjoyable February! Here are a few poems from the 4th grade students!

(Acrostic Poem)

S altines
A jar of white stuff
L etters that spell S.A.L.T.
T he stuff you put on mac and cheese

Written by: D.J. Keller

(Cinquain Poems)

Puppy,
 Small Soft
 Eating, Biting, Barking,
 I love my puppy.
 Dogs

Written by: Stephanie Cordray

Happy Valentine's Day!

From Room 203

By Mrs. Bontrager's Class

Love means ...

- ❖ Helping people no matter what. LA
- ❖ To love someone as much as yourself. KH
- ❖ Caring for other people no matter how they look. SS
- ❖ Peace and joy and shows that someone might like you. HW
- ❖ Kind, care and polite. ND
- ❖ When people are kind and thankful to others. EM
- ❖ Family. JG
- ❖ Caring for each other. AG
- ❖ Friendship. HW
- ❖ Spending time with your family. CK
- ❖ You really love. CM
- ❖ Having a friend and family to play with and giving them joy and love. MG
- ❖ Family. LM
- ❖ Sharing with friends. SB
- ❖ Sharing. LC
- ❖ Family and friends and hug. BA



THIRD GRADE NEWS

The third graders have been busy learning their multiplication facts. They are trying to become "Multiplication Masters." When they have passed a level three times they will get

a frozen treat. In English they have been working on adjectives. Science has been interesting learning about the different roles that different living things take. In reading, we have been reading

the chapter book, "Chocolate Fever." It is about a boy who loved chocolate so much he ate it all the time. Until, he broke out in chocolate spots. It's a busy time in third grade!

FIRST GRADE NEWS

The First Graders continue to practice their Writing Skills. They recently wrote about their Gym Class and published their stories into a book for their Gym Teacher, Mr. Baker. The First Graders have finished three themes in their Reading Books. They have learned about different story genre and are now reading some fantasy stories in Theme 4. Their most recent story was by Dr. Seuss. Students enjoy

his funny stories and have learned about rhyming words and opposites. Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and half dollars! That's what the First Graders have been counting during Math Time. Students have to identify each coin and tell the value. They also have to be able to count mixed amounts of coins up to \$1.00. Before too long they'll be working on counting the bills - up to \$100!

The First Graders are just a couple of days away from their "100th Day" of School. For this special day, the students are making 100 collections to bring to school. They'll practice counting to 100 during the day, participate in some 100 Day Activities, and hear several stories about 100.

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

If you are around children, you probably hear the phrase "Good Job!" many times over. The child receiving the praise may have simply thrown something away or some other trivial task. I recently read a very interesting article titled "Five Reasons to Stop Saying 'Good Job!'" and thought I might share the summary here. The article is not questioning the merits of supporting and encouraging children, rather the praise with which we continually shower upon children.

1. Manipulating Children. Our praise becomes a way to get children to comply with our wishes, which is completely different than working with children to help them understand good choices. It is more respectful and helps to develop thoughtfulness in children to discuss, for example, what makes a family function smoothly or how other people are affected by what we have done. Praise works for a short time because children look for our approval, but we need to teach our children to rely on internal motivation.

2. Creating Praise Junkies. Not every use of praise is designed to control a child's behavior. Sometimes we complement our children because we are genuinely pleased with what they have done. However, rather than increasing a child's self-esteem, we may be increasing our child's dependence on us. It teaches children to rely on our evaluations and decisions, rather than learning to form

their own judgments. Children begin to measure their own worth based on our opinions, which results in taking away their security in making decisions.

3. Stealing a child's pleasure. A child deserves to take delight in his or her own accomplishments and to feel pride in what they can do. When we say "Good Job" we are telling our child how to feel.

4. Losing Interest. Research has shown that the more we reward people for doing something, the more they lose interest in the activity. The point becomes not the activity, but the reward or praise. Children no longer want to take creative risks, as they want to keep the positive comments coming. Praise motivates kids to get more praise, nothing more.

5. Reducing achievement. Researchers keep finding that praise interferes with how good of a job children actually do. Kids that are praised for doing well on a creative task don't do as well on the next task as children who were not praised to begin with. Why is this? Praise creates pressure to keep up the good work, which causes children to ignore other motivations such as creativity.

Praise is a hard habit to break. It may seem strange to stop praising at first. Kids need instead unconditional support and love, no strings attached. The phrase "Good Job" is just the opposite, it is con-

ditional. It means we are offering attention, acknowledgement and approval for doing things that please us. What is the alternative when kids do something impressive? The article offers 3 ideas. **Say nothing:** praise may not be necessary because the child is already proud. **Say what you saw:** a simple, evaluation-free statement ("You put your shoes on by yourself") that lets your child know that you noticed. Your child can take pride in his or herself. For a nice picture you could provide feedback ("You used a lot of different colors today") or draw attention to someone's feelings for a kind gesture ("Jane looks so happy that you shared") where you do not emphasize your own feelings. **Talk less, ask more:** questions are even better than descriptions. "What do you like best about your drawing?" "What was the hardest part to draw?" The article also assures that not all compliments are harmful, but we need to understand our motive for what we say. You don't have to evaluate in order to encourage.





The elementary students are once again raising money for the American Red Cross "Every Penny Counts" program. We are collecting pennies and loose change. Each class has a jug that they are battling furiously to fill. Any donations from you or your students are greatly appreciated. We are competing with other schools in Gratiot County and have always done a great job of keeping up with these larger school districts. The class who collects the most will have participants chosen to represent our school at a pizza party. This worthy cause is one you won't want to miss out on. The money col-

P.T.O. NEWS

Please bring in your box tops and labels. The classrooms are collecting labels and box tops and tallying the points to see who the next winners of the contest will be. Just a reminder that Nestle is no longer a participant.

Fun Day is rescheduled for Wed., Feb. 24th.

Please come to the P.T.O. Donkey Basketball game on Sat., February 27th at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available to pre-purchase in the superintendent's office and also with the P.T.O. officers, Traci, Colette, and Lynnette for \$6.00 each. They will also be available at the door for \$8.00. This will be a super, fun, fund-raiser for P.T.O., with 2 area business teams, a fire dept. team, and a school team. Hope you can come!

Kindergarten Round-Up

Ashley's Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for Monday, March 15th at 8:30 a.m. This will begin in the district Library. If you have a child who will be (5) five years old before Dec. 1st, 2010, please call (989) 847-2102 to schedule an appointment.

UPDATES FROM THE ELEMENTARY

The Ashley P.T.O. will be providing our elementary students with a fun day on Wed., Feb. 24th. This was originally planned for Wed., Feb 10th, but due to a snow day it is rescheduled. A magic presentation with cool tricks will be presented by Chris Linn. The students will also participate in several activities such as a kickball game, craft projects, Bingo, musical chairs, a movie, and a pizza and juice snack. Thank You P.T.O. for providing this Fun Day for the elementary students. We are looking forward to the festivities.

"March Is Reading Month" is nearly upon us. We will be having fun activities throughout the month. We are putting the final touches on our calendars for March, and these will remind our students of the fun activities planned throughout the month. The students will be reading and tallying up their totals to see how many minutes they spend reading during March. When they reach their goal, you may see someone walking the plank! Sooo... be on the lookout for those pirates and find your treasures in a good book during March.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



JORDAN RICHMOND



Cindy Vega from Gratiot County Red Cross accepts a check for over \$1,2000 for earthquake victims of Haiti.

MONEY FOR HAITI

The elementary recently joined forces with the middle school to raise money for the people of Haiti. The elementary students donated \$1.00 to wear their pajamas to school, donated \$1.00 for a popcorn snack day, and they collected spare change. The incentive for the class who collected the most money to donate to Haiti, was to earn an extra recess. Congratulations to the 4th grade class for raising over \$200.00 and winning the extra recess. Thanks to everyone who participated in helping with donations for the people of Haiti. The elementary collected over \$600.00 and together with the middle school collected a total of \$1,274.40 to donate to the causes of Haiti. WOW! They donated a check to the Red Cross at an assembly on Tuesday, February 16th.

**ASHLEY ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS OF THE 2ND MARKING PERIOD**

January 22, 2010

<i>Mrs. Grollimund, Kdg.</i>	<i>Ethan Carter</i>
<i>Mrs. Koppleberger, 1st Grade</i>	<i>Tristan Densmore & Grant Malek</i>
<i>Mrs. Hasper 2nd, Grade</i>	<i>Samantha Kvintus</i>
<i>Mrs. Bontrager, 2nd Grade</i>	<i>Liam Carter</i>
<i>Mrs. Bontrager, 3rd Grade</i>	<i>Jaden Gavenda</i>
<i>Mrs. Harmon, 3rd Grade</i>	<i>Jonathan Saylor</i>
<i>Ms. Blahnik, 4th Grade</i>	<i>Jeremiah Saylor</i>
<i>Mrs. Wolfe, Spec. Needs</i>	<i>Holden Wirt</i>

****2nd Marking Period Honor Roll ****

Mrs. Bontrager, 3rd Grade

All A's & B's

*Jaden Gavenda **
Noah Drummond
Karlie Howe
Ethan Malek
Shara Spellman
Hannah Whitford
Haley Wilson

Honorable Mention (All A's, B's & IC)

Lukas Andersen

Mrs. Harmon, 3rd Grade

All A's & B's

Luke Brown
Aidan Cano
Micayla Coleman
Trent Crumbaugh
Tate Kostal
Carter LaFleur
James Gingrich
Michael Register
Ryan Reist
Jonathan Saylor
Keagan Welch

Honorable Mention (All A's, B's & IC)

Gary Andrews
Parker Foster
Haley Maracek

Ms. Blahnik, 4th Grade

All A's & B's

Kennedy Bearden
Karah Brown
*Nick Burlingame **
Stephanie Cordray
Adreanna Crumbaugh
Bailey Edgar
Doug Gavenda
*Nicole Hardman **

Marcus Kremer

Shannon Lester

Shelly Moore

Dustin Meseraull

Brooke O'Dell

Chaz Polash

*Jeremiah Saylor **

Jacob Schmidt

Nicholas Sperling

Sky Frasier

Honorable Mention (All A's, B's & IC)

Hunter Harnick

D.J. Keller

*** INDICATES ALL A's**

Ashley Elementary
1st Semester
Honor Roll

January 22, 2010

3rd Grade Mrs. Bontrager

All A's

Noah Drummond
Jaden Gavenda
Shara Spellman
Haley Wilson

All A's & B's

Karlie Howe
Ethan Malek
Hannah Whitford

3rd Grade Mrs. Harmon

All A's & B's

Luke Brown
Aidan Cano
Micayla Coleman
Trent Crumbaugh
Tate Kostal
Haley Maracek
Michael Register
Ryan Reist
Jonathan Saylor

All A's B's & 1C

Gary Andrews
Carter LaFleur
Keagan Welch

4th Grade Ms. Blahnik

All A's

Nicholas Burlingame
Nicole Hardman
Chaz Polash
Jeremiah Saylor

All A's & B's

Kennedy Bearden
Karah Brown
Adreanna Crumbaugh
Bailey Edgar
Sky Frasier

Doug Gavenda

Marcus Kremer

Shannon Lester

Dustin Meseraull

Shelly Moore

Brooke O'Dell

Jacob Schmidt

All A's B's & 1C

Stephanie Cordray

Hunter Harnick

David Keller

PICTURES OF 4TH GRADE SKIING TRIP

