

Blackhawk Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2016



Principal's Corner

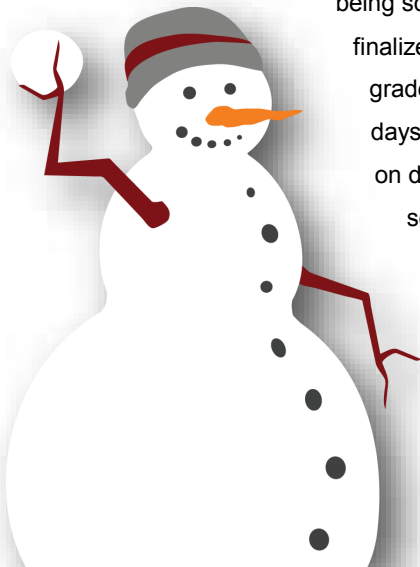
Dear Parents,

Many of you may have received a phone call from a member of the Audubon Marketing Committee during the last two weeks. Thank you for participating in the short survey and giving us your honest opinions about our school. The marketing committee will be working to analyze the survey data. If we have enough stakeholder support for bringing a STEAM focus to our instructional delivery, the staff and selected parents will begin a book study after spring break on how to begin our implementation. The staff is very excited about this opportunity.

Parking issues have again come to my attention through numerous parent complaints. For the safety of our students and your children, please do not stop or park in posted "No Parking" zones, especially by the designated cross walk on Summit Drive. Just remember that all **RED, YELLOW and BLUE** curbs are no-parking zones. I have requested assistance from C.S.P.D. to increase their presence in this area during drop-off and pick-up times. I will also be more visible at these times and will courteously ask violators to move. I am confident that parents can rectify this unsafe situation without having to get a \$100.00 ticket.

Our annual **Sock Hop** activity, usually scheduled at the end of the year, has been moved up to **February 19**. We made this schedule change because Mr. Pechek will be taking some time off when his new baby arrives this spring. Mr. Pechek, Mrs. Lopez, and Mrs. Brenn all co-teach a 3-week dance unit right before the Sock Hop, and we did not want to put this responsibility onto a guest teacher. We will use the Sock Hop as a behavior reward for students who have not received a discipline referral from January 11 to February 18.

Audubon will be a Summer Enrichment site again this summer. Coach Pechek, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Whitcomb and Mrs. Garza will be among the great enrichment teachers. Classes and topics are in the process of being scheduled. We will let Audubon parents know more about the class offerings when they are finalized and when on-line registration will begin. State assessments (CMAS) will begin for 3rd-5th graders in early March. I will post the testing schedule on the school website. Please review the days and times your child will be testing. Make every effort to schedule your child's appointments on days that they are not testing. Parents have the right to "Opt Out" their child from state assessments. Parents can access the "Opt Out" form on the school website under the parent tab and submit the form to my office prior to testing. Colorado winter weather can be so unpredictable. Please consider dressing your child in layers so that they may put on another layer if the classrooms are cool, or peel off a layer if they get too warm. Thanks for your involvement in your child's education!



Nancy Smith

Kindergarten Corner

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the school year! The students have learned their letters, sounds, sight words, and are beginning to read. In reading, we will begin unit 6 which focuses on the weather and seasons. Please continue to read the decodable readers that we send home each week. It's also important for your child to hear what fluent reading sounds like, so please make the time to read to them every night. We finished our DIBELS testing before break and have been analyzing the data to see where students need work. Our next and final DIBELS assessment will be in the spring. They should know all of their upper and lower case letters fluently by the end of the year. Their goal for phoneme segmentation fluency at the end of the year is 40 (the middle of the year was 20), and the goal for nonsense word fluency goes from 17 to 28. It's imperative that we keep working on these skills every day! **We hope to see you at our literacy night on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 from 6:15-7:30.** The Kindergarten team will be there to share ideas on strengthening literacy skills. We will have all of the materials you need to make games to take home.

We have come a long way in math! We are now working on teen numbers, partners, story problems, and comparing numbers. In unit 6, we will begin comparing length, height, weight and capacity. They should be counting by 5's, 10's, and are working on 2's.

Ask your child the difference between fact and opinion. They should be able to tell you. We have been writing our opinions on different things. They are to give at least 2 reasons why they like something. Students should state their topic, write their opinion, and give 2 reasons why they like or dislike something, and write an ending to their piece. We will also write book reviews and persuasive pieces as well! They need to use the lines for proper letter formation. It's very difficult to break poor handwriting habits once they are developed. That is why we ask students to fix letters that are floating or sinking on the lines. We always start our letters at the top! Please work with writing at home, make it fun. Ask them to help make a grocery list, write a letter to a relative, or make a daily journal like Junie B. Jones.

Let's make the most of this next semester and work together for your child's success!

Together in Education,

Mrs. McClellan

Ms. Thomas

Mrs. Pelt

Library News

There will be a handwriting contest on March 15th. More information to come soon. Look in your students backpacks for the information.



First Grade News



This quarter we are working on opinion writing. We have had a great deal of fun discussing some of our favorites, such as who makes the best burger in town. You can help with your student's opinion writing by talking about some of their favorites while just sitting around the dinner table. You will notice a grading rubric attached to returned writing assignments that will help you understand the expectations and how their work is scored. Our science focus continues to be on states of matter as we move from solids to liquids. Place values of numbers in the tens and one's place will continue as a math focus. We will soon move forward with all the skills we have learned, applying them to higher numbers. This means we will be adding and subtracting and solving story problems to twenty. Students will also learn to add with three addends and decade numbers. Sadly, we must share with you many students are reporting they are not practicing their spelling and reading at home. This has been evidenced in declining grades on weekly assessments have declined. Last month only 14 of 54 students turned in their reading log with required signatures. On February 16th we will be hosting a First Grade Night to go over many ways you can help your student be successful. Look for more information on this night as the date gets closer.

Our Hundredth day of school and Valentine's Day both fall in the same week so we are planning on celebrating them together, Friday, February 12th. We will need your help with contributions for these celebrations, and a letter will come home with your student a week prior to the 12th. It should be a super fun day for everyone. Please feel free to join us.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Watson

Music Notes



Winter has arrived and this quarter we are now focusing on reading, writing, and improvising rhythm as per state standards. Rhythm is always my favorite unit because of all of the wonderful games and activities they can play while learning quarter notes, eighth notes, rests, and so on. Classroom music teachers use syllables like "ta" and "ti-ti" to describe note values so it almost feels like a different language. I'll be breaking out the xylophones soon to put these rhythms more to practical use.

The Sock Hop will be in February this year rather than spring semester. Brian and I will combine classes and begin our dance unit the first week in February. Be sure to put a pair of tennis shoes for dancing in your child's backpack so we don't scratch the gym floor.

The Wizard of Oz auditions have finished and now I have to decide who will make it into the play and what their part will be in the play. By Jan. 15 the number of students who ultimately tried out was 55! Unlike choir, I do have to limit the number of students in Drama Club or it becomes too unwieldy. I will choose between 30-40 students for this one, and that includes stage crew. Thank you so much for allowing them to try out. The results will be posted by my door sometime the last week of January.

Mrs. Lopez



2nd Grade News

Welcome back! It is hard believe that it is the third quarter already. We hope everyone had an awesome break after an absolutely FABULOUS 2nd grade play. Thank you to Mrs. Lopez, the students, and parents for making the play so wonderful.

In science, we are continuing to investigate force, motion, magnets, and gravity. We finished the measurement unit in math, and we have started multi-digit subtraction with borrowing; which is a HUGE skill. Every second grader should be able to tell time on an analog clock, subtract with borrowing, and add with carrying. In writing, we will be writing opinion and persuasive paragraphs. Be ready to be convinced and persuaded to buy and do stuff, lol!

Please remember to have your students share the information that is being brought home with you. By third grade, they should be remembering to share the information from their backpacks with you; however, a gentle reminder is probably still needed at times. As you know, homework has increased for 2nd graders. You can expect spelling practice every night, as well as 20 minutes of reading. Please sign the weekly reading log each night stating that the reading was done. There will also be math homework most nights. The only other homework is work that is not completed in class. Spelling words will be written every Monday, and the test will be the following Monday. Nicky folders are to come to school and go home each day/night. If your student has misplaced his or her planner, please contact the office to purchase a new for \$2.00, as we will continue to use them every day.

Thank you for all your support and please contact with any questions or concerns.



Thanks,

The Rocking Second Grade Team!

We are in need of erasable pens and dry erase markers!!



Art Corner

Students are busy creating 3DM artworks.

Upcoming Art Shows: *Air Academy Federal Credit Union Art Show-D11*

Important dates:

Artist Reception (5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.), February 10 (Tue)

Ceremony Start time is 5:00 p.m.

Last Day Open to Public, March 7 (Sat)



Other art exhibitions that Audubon Elementary will be participating in this year:

53rd Annual Young Peoples Art Exhibition - YPAE and East Library Exhibition – February. The pieces that are entered in this show will be selected by Ms. Brenn.

***Students and parents will be contacted if their pieces will be in the show.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at: brenn@d11.org

Art Club – This time only 3rd, 4th and 5th. Thursdays. Sessions will be on Feb 4,11,18,25 and Mar.3 Thank you for all your support and have a great day! Ms. Brenn

3rd Grade News

February 12th will be a celebration day. As part of our physical science unit on the states of matter and the water cycle, a guest speaker from the Colorado Springs Utilities will present an hour long experience for each class in the morning. In math, we will celebrate Hundredth Day with fun and learning activities. Then in the afternoon, after our specials, we will celebrate Valentine's Day. More information will go home at a later date.

In reading, we are continuing to sharpen our ability to read fluently, expand our vocabulary, and deepen our comprehension through the Wonders curriculum. Our current unit has included a look at people who inspire us. Through the biography research project, your students self-selected a person about whom they wanted to learn more; chose a biography from the library; and are learning to find key details about this person's life. Information about the final project will come home soon.

Learning to write opinion and informational paragraphs are our focus this month in writing. Students are writing daily in all subjects and practicing how to explain their thinking using greater detail, better constructed sentences, and organization.

We have been studying measurement and time in math. We will move to graphing and fractions later in the month. ST Math modules are open for home practice. ST Math supports students in developing stronger number sense through virtual manipulatives. ST Math can be accessed through the Audubon website.

In March, third graders will take their first state assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and math called CMAS. Some time will be spent preparing them for these on-line assessments. We use a balanced approach to these assessments, recognizing a third grader's developmental age while preparing them adequately for these testing days. The testing schedule will be posted on the school's website.

Ms. Brannan and Mrs. Cordova

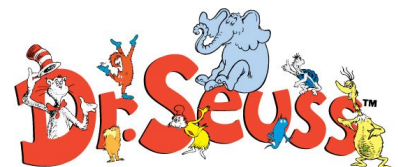


PTA Corner

Welcome back to the second half of the 2015-16 school year. PTA hopes that your winter break was relaxing and full of great memories! The holiday shop was a success, PTA would like to THANK everyone who participated. We were able to raise enough money to put \$50.00 dollars back into the classrooms! Full STEAM ahead, **PTA will be sponsoring our annual Dr. Seuss night on March 4.** Details will come home in a flyer as we get closer. Popcorn Fridays start back up in January and will continue until April. Please join us in our monthly PTA/SAC meetings. Our next meetings is Feb 17 @ 6p. We will have one every month except May.

THANK YOU AGAIN for ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

PTA



4th Grade News

4th Graders are now in their second semester and on their way to becoming responsible fifth graders. We are working hard on giving our personal best effort, listening, following directions, working independently and showing responsibility by getting homework done and turned in on time. All of these work habits make strong students and greatly effect their rate of learning and their grades.

In Colorado History, we are studying Paleo-Indians, Utes and Plains Indians, trappers, traders and miners. We will be looking closely at the economics of each era and how it affected the people and development of Colorado. To further our understanding and study, we are planning several field trips. We are hoping to go to the Cliff dwellings in Manitou, Mining Museum in the spring and to Bent's Fort, in La Junta on Friday, April 8th. Parents, if you would like to join us, please let us know. We will also be doing some mini-units on the government of Colorado and talking about current issues that affect Colorado.

In math, we are hitting fractions hard. State assessments (CMAS) will be coming in April , and the math test can be quite challenging. There is a lot of real life word problems and an emphasis on fractions and computation.

This quarter our writing curriculum starts with persuasive essay and opinion writing. Students are excited about this genre of writing. They say that they have been persuading parents about all kinds of things, and it will be easy to argue their point. We hope our students are right and we see lots of creative wording, strong position statements and convincing arguments in their essays. We also review narratives and informational writing again.

In reading, we are continuing to work on our fluency and our comprehension of reading selections. There will be a lot of informational reading in the next several units. This type of reading requires a lot of specific vocabulary and going back to the text to find specific details and text evidence. Historically students have a harder time on these assessments because it includes a lot of new information, cause and effect and complicated concepts with words they have never seen or heard before. They also do a lot of this reading as part of our science and history curriculum.

Looking forward to 2nd semester,

Mrs. Quaney and Mrs. Whitcomb

PE Corner

Hello Parents and Students,

The holidays are over, and we are getting back to work in PE. Students in grades 2-5 will be learning about various body systems as well as learning fitness routines and exercises that can help strengthen their body and mind during January. In grades K-1 students will be learning how to throw various objects at a target. In the month of February we will be starting Dance for kindergarten – 5th grade. All students will be learning a variety of movements and vocabulary that will help them dance. Our sock hop will be the culminating activity of the unit.

Thanks and I look forward to another great month in PE.
Coach Pechek



5th Grade News

Dear 5th Graders and Parents,

SCIENCE FAIR

Every 5th grader will be required to conduct a science fair project. **There will be a parent information meeting on Thursday, February 4 from 6—7 pm.** The requirements will be given out at the parent meeting.

VISIT FROM MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL

A couple staff members and a few students from Mann Middle School will be visiting the 5th graders Friday, January 29. In the spring, the 5th graders will take a field trip—walking to Mann Middle School for a tour.

FIELD TRIP

The 5th Graders will be taking a field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on March 3. This will be an extended school day. We will leave Audubon around 7:30am and return around 4pm. More information will come home soon.

CURRICULUM

Reading: Continue to implement our new reading curriculum Wonders. Each Friday we will assess on the skills taught throughout the week.

Writing: Students will continue using our writer's workshop model. Students are working on Opinion/Persuasive as well as reviewing Narrative and Expository Genres.

Science units: Students will finish the Mixtures and Solutions Unit.

Social Studies: Read and discuss why Europeans sailed to the Americas as well as 8 famous explorers.

Math: Students are using long division to divide one and two-digit divisors that are whole numbers and decimals. Then students will focus on solving word problems.

Q (ONLINE GRADEBOOK)

At conferences you were given a pin and password to access your child's online gradebook. You can be monitoring how your child is doing in each subject area. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

We will have a party in our classroom Friday, February 12 from 1:15-2:15. More information will come home by email or note about specifics to your child's class.

COMMUNICATION

Several ways to communicate with teachers is by email, voice mail, or a note in the planner. We listen to our voice mail once a day, as schedules permit. Know that even if we don't get right back to you, we have listened to your message and will be contacting you via email, phone, or your child's planner! ***A much better way to contact is through email.***

We look forward to hearing from you. Open communication is essential to your child's success in school. We also look forward to working with you when we are in need of volunteers for the activities we have planned for this year. Feel free to contact us at any time.

Mrs. Vanessa Garza 328-2652 garzavj@d11.org

Mrs. Colleen Zipf 328-2653 colleen.zipf@d11.org

Kudo Winner's for January



Kamryn H.	Emily W.	Susie W.	Abby	
Malachi A.	Cassi B.	Willow D.	Jadea J.	
Jocelyn H.	Joslyn S.	Halley R.	Savanna G.	Juliette S.
Corbin H.	Kayleigh M.		Christian C.	Katjaana M.
Rowen L.	Naya G.		Clowie B.	Elizabeth W.
Joslyn R.	Nathan M.		Jaelynn B.	Ethan O.
William R.	Zachary		Kacey M.	Natalie G.

Spirit Wear

Every Friday is Spirit Wear! Wear Red, Black or your Audubon T-shirt to have your class win the Spirit Bird! If you don't have a T-shirt you can buy one for \$10.00 or a sweat shirt for \$25.00 through PTA :-)

Yearbook



Capture the Memories of 2015-2016

Don't miss out on Audubon's yearbook. Order your yearbook today!

Cost--\$20

Do you have a business? Purchase an ad for only \$8

5th grade parents only: Purchase a spot for a baby picture and a message for only \$5.

Purchase online at www.balfour.com

If you purchase a yearbook—your child's picture is guaranteed to be in the yearbook three times—not including class or club pictures!!

Email Vanessa Garza if you have any questions garzavj@d11.org

Name: _____

Homerroom Teacher(s): _____

of copies: _____

Business ad space: I would like to purchase a space for \$8. _____