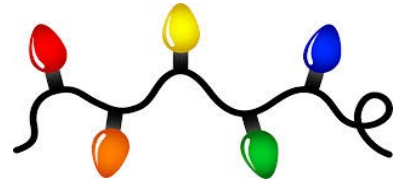


Littleton Elementary School District

Country Place



December 2015

Administrative Team:

*Michael Cagle
Principal*

*Jazmin Pacheco
Asst. Principal*

*Tony Balsama
Dean of Students*



Important Dates in December

Dec 3	CP Football & Volleyball Game vs Quentin @ Tres Rios 4:30PM
Dec 7	CP Football & Volleyball Game vs Littleton @ Tres Rios 4:30PM
Dec 7-11	Fall Fundraiser items will be delivered
Dec 9	Spelling Bee 6Pm
Dec 10	Merry Mustang Christmas 5-7PM
Dec 11	Holiday Gift Shop Preview
Dec 14-18	Holiday Gift Shop
Dec 16	Winter Concert 5PM
Dec 21-Jan 1st	Winter Break

A Message from the Principal

Dear Mustang Students and Parents,

Good December Mustangs! Our journey to become a Leadership Focus School has begun! You will be hearing more and more about focus schools within the Littleton School District in the coming months! As I sit watching my two year old son discover the world, I am reminded that each of us is born with a unique spark, a unique genius. When my son wonders about the Planet Jupiter or discovers the joy of a Jack in the Box for the first time I realize that he, like each of your children, is a one of a kind Masterpiece in the making. There has never been someone quite like them and there never will be again. Each child's uniqueness has enormous potential. Our focus, leadership, is built on the belief in the power of this potential. We be-

lieve that our role as educators is to help each student find the greatness within them and use it to make our school, our community and our world a better place.

Some of our students are already tapping into this potential in order to change our world for the better! We have 6th graders planning a Community Breakfast for local business leaders to share student created service learning projects relating to school beautification, assisting families in need in partnership with the Phoenix Rescue Mission and reading with and supplying books for our own kindergarten students. Our First Lego League Team is investigating starting a partnership within the community to begin composting food waste to reduce the

amount of trash in our local landfill. A 7th grader is writing a skit to bring attention to the issue of bullying in schools. We are very proud of all of the work that our students are doing to help make Country Place, our community and our world a better place! Albert Einstein believed that the reason HE discovered the theory of relativity was that he never stopped thinking and dreaming like a child. I encourage each of us to do something profound the next time a child comes to us with an idea...listen, do not tell them no and support them in exploring their genius! I promise that you will be amazed and inspired by what happens next!



Outerwear Dress Code

As the weather turns colder we would like to remind our students and parents about the dress code for the cooler months.

Outerwear (jackets, coats, raincoats) are designed to be worn outside as weather dictates. Outerwear must be removed in the school or classroom. Sweaters and sweatshirts that conform to district dress code colors (solid dark green, solid ash gray, solid burgundy, including black and white with no logos) may be worn inside the school building and in the classroom.

Kinder

Karen Hook, Jacqueline Davis, Anastasia Hanns, Tina Carter

Kindergarten has completed our "No More Letter of the Week". We will be starting on learning long and short vowels and building our "Vowel Wall". With the holidays upon us, kindergarten will be recognizing several different celebrations through "Holidays Around the World". The last week before our winter break. December is a very busy month for us. Please be on top of checking your child's folder EVERY day for notices and invites. We LOVE having our families come into our classrooms. Speaking of visitors... Thank you to everyone who joined us for stone soup. It was awesome!

First Grade

Kathy Bigar, Catherine Grimmer, Mary Newman, Kristina Bowers

First grade is gearing up for our Quarter 2 benchmarks in reading, writing, and math. Attendance on benchmark days is critical to success individually and as a grade level. Be on the lookout for more information on Country Place's Holiday Shop and other Holiday events. We hope you enjoy time spent relaxing with family over winter break, there is no school December 19-January 3rd. As always, call, email, or send notes with any comments, questions, or concerns! Thank you!

Second Grade

Valerie Davis, Caroline Nicholson, Jessica York, Samantha Hopkinson, Tami Hopper

Second grade has been working hard this last month on adding and subtracting three digit numbers with and without regrouping. It is a big goal that all second graders need reach by the end of second grade. We have talked a lot about how there are many strategies that we can use to solve these problems. The students have been very successful in solving problems correctly by using the strategies they are learning. If you would like to learn some of these strategies to better help your child at home please contact your child's teacher and we would be glad to meet with you and show you. All second grade students have been working so hard and we are all so proud of each of them!

Third Grade

Selma Berlanga, Hannah Moreland, Lynette Hill, Maria Serrano, Maria Meza

In third grade we have been working very hard in class learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin as well as the history of the scarecrow. Students were excited to take that knowledge and apply it to our field trip to Tolmachoff farms. We had a lot of fun seeing how what we learn in class applies to the real world.

Fourth Grade

Rocio Suarez-Ruiz, Roberta Garcia, Manuel Torres, Astrid Garcia, Ginny Biddle

4th graders are very excited to have their 1 to 1 laptops in the classroom. We are currently using them in many great and inspiring ways. Teachers have been uploading documents for students to read and complete assignments. Students should be accessing Moby Max (educational website) and MyOn (our online library) at school and at home. They are also using other educational websites. **For Reading**, students have been working on comparing and contrasting similar themes and topics in traditional literature. Soon, they will also start comparing firsthand and secondhand accounts in traditional literature. Students will also be working on comparing and contrasting the author's point of view in literature as well as connecting traditional words and phrases to modern day word or phrases. **For Math**, students will be learning about fractions. We will be adding fractions with unlike denominators, finding equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, comparing and justifying fractions, decomposing fractions, converting fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa as well multiplying fractions. Please keep practicing your multiplication facts at home with your child. Students need to master their facts in order to succeed in math. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Fifth Grade

Carrie Rodriguez, Michelle Finn, Cody Cherland, Serena Garcia, Ginny Biddle

We can't believe the school is almost half over! The year is flying and students are learning, learning, learning! As we finish up our European Explorers unit in Social Studies, we will begin to study the colonies created in the New World. In math, we will discover 3D figures and how to determine the volume of a rectangular prism. In reading, we will continue to implement all of the reading strategies we've learned and apply them to various passages to comprehend the text. Remember, to help your child continue growing as a student, please ensure they are reading at least 20 minutes every night.

Sixth Grade

Mariza Lopez, Julia Fach, Aileen Mancillas, Erika Poblete

6th grade ended November with an amazing field trip to Arizona State University Downtown campus. They toured the Walter Cronkite school of journalism and learned about college life firsthand from ASU students. Students used this experience to help them visualize their futures and determine the steps it takes to get there. In ELA and Social Studies, students are continuing their study of Ancient Egypt, including a project on different gods and goddesses. In math, students are solving one-step and two-step equations using inverse operations. In science, students are studying Earth's water, including lakes, rivers, and oceans, and will be discussing the effects of the BP oil spill on the marine ecosystem. 6th grade students are moving forward with two year-long initiatives, including a service project and a class newspaper. They are taking leadership roles in these projects and applying their learning in a meaningful way!

Seventh Grade

Suzanne Green, Carla Carranza, Kristine Perria, Danny Hernandez

ELA – Students are writing a persuasive essay on Bullying in the Schools. They must back up their reasons why they believe that bullying is a destructive thing in our schools by citing from an article. They are also writing book reports on their independent reading books.

Science: Students will begin their unit on rocks. Students will learn how rocks change over time through rock cycle simulations and they will learn how to identify different rocks based on their characteristics.

Social Studies: Students are learning about the American Revolution

Math: Students are learning about circles

Eighth Grade

David Bier, Robert Lubickl, Teresita Esquibel, Ruth Miller

Social Studies: The students have just started exploring World War 2. They are also working on a PowerPoint Project. The students will teach a lesson in American History using only images and music.

Math: 8th grade math is hard at work on functions, comparing linear graphs, slope-intercept equations, and data tables to understand the world around us. We'll continue to incorporate functions into the real world as students create a critical foundation for success in high school algebra.

Science: Eighth grade science will be busy working on properties and changes of properties in matter in the month of November. We will be identifying different physical and chemical properties of elements, compounds and mixtures. We will create a periodic table to explain the systematic organization of elements and identify important functions of the periodic table. We will also investigate how the transfer of energy can affect physical and chemical properties of matter.

Specials

Anthony Davis, Gloria Chadwick, Travis White, Rachel Watt, Lynn Ammeson, Vanessa Lovro

PE The students have been learning hockey, soccer, and basketball! We will be starting lacrosse soon as well, which they seem excited for!!! It was a great month!

In Art our kindergartens are working on coloring using the correct motions, cutting slowly and safely, and gluing without using too much glue.

6-8 are working with slab building techniques to create something out of clay and will be firing their pinch pots shortly.

Art club is currently working on how to draw cartoons as well as creating hand wreaths for a 6th grade event.

In Technology Junior high students have been learning about PowerPoint and how to put together amazing presentations for class. Students can insert images, add design, and format font on the slides. Don't forget to log in to ParentVue and StudentVue to check your grades online!

Attendance at Athletic Events

Due to some challenges with unaccompanied minors, including fighting and disruption, all minors that attend athletic events in the Littleton School District must now be accompanied by an adult. Please remember to model leadership, sportsmanship and character as we represent Mustang Pride!



FROM OUR NURSE

Dear Parents,

Donations are being accepted for New or Gently used uniforms. You may drop off your donations at the office.

Thank you!

Tech Tip Minute

What Parents can do to Prevent Kids from Cyberbullying?

- Don't Assume anything
- Communicate...a lot
- Don't ignore the technology just because you don't understand it.
- Set limits and check and then re-check

Belly Showing?



Wearing Floods?



Shrinking Tee?



Donate Your Outgrown Uniform Clothes

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Reminders

Thank you again for your support in making our parking lot safer and more efficient for our students, parents and staff! We are continuing to work on our parent pickup and drop off procedures. Some reminders:

1. Please be patient and considerate coming to and from campus.
2. Let's reduce the congestion in the parking lot! Please have walk, bike, ride the bus or carpool to school. I know this will be easier when it is no longer face-melting hot! We are also looking into putting a gate in the back of the school so that walkers and bikers that live behind Country Place can enter there. Stay tuned for updates on the new gate!
3. Drop off time in the morning is now 7:30.
4. The office continues to be open at 7:15. You can enter the parking lot at 7:15 and park in order to access the office. However, please do not drop off any students until 7:30. Thanks!
5. In the morning, if you enter the parking lot please park and walk your students to the crosswalk or the rocks. Please do not drive through the parking lot and drop off students in the middle.
6. Be mindful of the chain. The parking lot was our greatest source of congestion and unsafe behavior. We are going to start closing the parking lot at 2:40 on regular days and 12:10 on Wednesdays because it is usually full by then. It will usually only be closed for about 15 minutes and reopen after the rush of traffic.
7. In the afternoon we will load students from the office doors down to the second parent drop off zone sign. We found that loading all the way to the end of the sidewalk was inefficient. We also found that limiting the loading zone to right in front of the office doors was also inefficient and causing long wait times.
8. Please do not stop or park on Country Place Boulevard. It is illegal and creates congestion and danger.
9. Please do not stop or drop off in the traffic circle in front of the school. This also is illegal and creates congestion and danger.