



Littleton Elementary School District



January

Country Place Newsletter

January 2017

Administrative Team:

Michael Cagle
Principal

Jazmin Pacheco
Asst. Principal

Tony Balsama
Dean of Students

Important Dates in January

Jan 2	New Year's Day Observance. No School!
Jan 4	5th & 6th Gr Award Assembly 8:05
Jan 4	7th & 8th Gr Award Assembly 8:50
Jan 5	3rd & 4th Gr Award Assembly 7:50
Jan 5	1st & 4th Gr Award Assembly 8:30
Jan 6	Kinder Award Assembly 8:00
Jan 10	Governing Board Meeting 6PM
Jan 13&16	MLK Recess No School!
Jan 25	Casual Day & Munchies
Jan 26	PTA Meeting 5-6PM

A Message from the Principal

Happy New Year!

Welcome back from break! We hope you and your family had time to Sharpen the Saw and get ready for a great spring!

We have some exciting news to share! We have the opportunity to welcome a new 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Melissa Torres to our Country Place Team. Mrs. Torres student taught with Ms. S. Garcia in 5th grade and will be taking over Mrs. Hopkinson's class. Additionally, Ms. Fish will be our super **substitute** in Mrs. Hanns' class. Please welcome these wonderful ladies when you see them!

As we ring in the New Year, it is great time to focus on Habit 1, Be Proactive. Being Proactive means much more to us than just being

prepared. One of the key concepts for Habit 1 is to pause before you respond. Then respond based on your principles, not your emotions. As humans we have four unique gifts, self-awareness, imagination, conscience and independent will. If we pause before we respond to others we can use these gifts to create a response of which we can be proud. So this month, practice pausing before you respond to each other and think through how you want to respond to them. I get a lot of practice with pausing with my 3 year old son!

Have a great month and remember, Change Starts with Me!

Dr. Cagle



Country Place Leadership Academy Families we are proud to inform that our school has partnered with SRP to become a School of Energy. What that means for us is we are incorporating ways to save energy and become more green. Our two energy coaches on campus are Mrs. Ruiz and Mrs. Serrano who are in charge of the energy club. This club is in charge of raising awareness throughout the campus and provide tips on saving energy. We also have a lot of fun planned activities and competitions that the Energy Conservation Leadership Club will be hosting. We are very excited to share that there was also a 15 % reduction on our electricity bill compared to last year in the month of September. Our bill dropped from \$10,305.37 to 8,926.94 those are great news to share because it helps us save money.

Kinder

Karen Hook, Jacqueline Davis, Anastasia Hanns, Karina Serrano

We completed our benchmark testing. The students are making great progress. Be prepared to work very hard on blending of letters to read words when we get back from vacation. We would like to wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday! See you next year!

First Grade

Kathy Bigar, Catherine Grimmer, Jessica York, Kristina Palacios

Welcome Back from Winter Break first graders. Reading and Characters and Traits Oh My!!! That's right first grade parents, it's an exciting time for reading. We will be diving into books and getting more familiar with characters and how to identify traits of characters to help us comprehend our stories. LOOK OUT!!! Our little firsties will be telling time to the hour and half hour this month, so wind up your watches and get ready to watch their little minds grow!!!

Second Grade

Valerie Davis, Caroline Nicholson, Samantha Hopkinson, Tami Hopper

Hello Wonderful Mustangs! 2nd grade learned a lot during the 1st semester of school. We hope you enjoyed your winter break and now it is time to get back to work. During January we will learn about time, measurement, folktales, fables, bodily systems, and opinion writing. We will have DIBELS benchmarks January 19 and 20. Please make sure your child is here. The students are growing leaps and bounds. We are very proud of them!!

Third Grade

Lynette Hill, Maria Serrano, Maria Meza, Mary Newman

Welcome back after our break. Hopefully our students sharpened their saws and are ready to learn many new things. It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year. In reading we will be learning how to compare and contrast two stories written by the same author focusing on the narrative elements. For math we will be moving into telling time and elapsed time. We will also continue to develop our leadership skills. Remember to please have your child read every night for at least 20 minutes so they can build reading fluency. It is also very important for your child to practice multiplication facts at home. If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher directly.

Fourth Grade

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

Happy New Year Parents and Students!!! Let's kick off the year on a great start with fresh new resolutions. This month of January we will continue to focus on fractions and start our unit on Geometry. In ELA, we will be focusing on text evidence to support thinking and reasoning. So help your child become a great text detective. For writing, we will focus on persuasive writing. In Science, we will study animal classification. Don't forget we have our field trip to Arizona Science Center on January 20th. If you are a chaperone, thank you for joining us and can't wait to see you. Don't forget the plenty of resources your child has been given such as MyOn, Learning Farm, and recently added Worldbook Encyclopedia. Go on there and learn with your child something new. As always, keep reading with child at home. It's one of the best ways you can help your child.

Fifth Grade

Carrie Rodriguez, Michelle Finn, Cody Cherland, Serena Garcia

5TH Grade is starting off the new year learning lots of new things in all content areas. Reading will have students analyze the same accounts of an event and notice differences in how the same event is experienced and therefore explained. In science we will learn about what "matters" in regards to the four stages of matter and how it effects the world we live in. Students will learn about the purpose and effects of the constitution and how it has shaped our country today. Lastly, in math we will turn our learning to geometry as we study various quadrilaterals and the hierarchy they fall under. As always thank you for your support in making sure students are responsible in completing their homework. Every bit of nightly reading or math practice supports their overall learning. #5thGradeRocks

Sixth Grade

Julia Fach, Aileen Mancillas, Stephanie Budzban, Ashley Farrell

In January, sixth graders will be practicing Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then Be Understood. We have already been practicing this skill often. We are focusing on genuine listening and mirroring as active listening strategies. Ask your child to practice and teach you how to use these listening skills when you are having conversations. 6th grade is also very excited to begin our World In Motion project based learning, where students will be creating their own gravity cruisers.

Seventh Grade

Kristine Perria, Erika Poblete, Mariza Lopez, Tatum Green

The 7th grade has had a busy holiday season! Student leaders organized and ran a school-wide toy drive to collect toys to donate to the Phoenix Children's Hospital. In science, we are continuing to learn about rocks and will be starting our first engineering project - building strong bridges! In math, we are continuing in geometry, learning about angles, triangles (pizza!), and soon circles! In ELA, we are continuing to read informational text and write strong objective summaries. In social studies, we are learning about the causes of the American Revolution! It's been a wonderful first semester with lots to look forward to in the rest of the year!

Eighth Grade

Robert Lubickl, Teresita Esquibel, Ruth Miller, Shonda Roer

ELA: ELA will be taking a closer look at reading comprehension requirements to succeed in Illuminate Ed benchmarks. The students will have rigorous practice/analysis of questions and test vocabulary that have presented the most difficult to respond at the time of evaluation.

Science: Science in January will be an exciting. Our frogs are in, so we will be dissecting. We will examine the periodic Table to determine trends. We will use math to understand changes in time. We will also be studying risks associated with natural events, human induced changes, and biological changes. We will be exploring industrial effects on the environment and the impact of greenhouse gases.

Social Studies: In 8th grade Social Studies the students will be wrapping up the Unit on World War 2. The class will be focusing on the lasting effects of World War 2 and the Holocaust. Next, the students will be preparing to move on the events of the 1950's including the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement.

Math: In math we will be working evaluating expressions using exponent rules. We will interpret information using scientific notation. We will solve real world problems using two equations.

Specials

Anthony Davis, Gloria Chadwick, Derek Bates, Anitra Morin, Vanessa Lovro

PE: Quarter 3 will be introductory sports in skills for K-8. This will be the first quarter of the year where electives will not take place. I'm excited to see all the students.

Art: In art the older students will be studying art throughout time, starting with cave paintings and moving towards ceramics and then perspective drawings. In 5th grade we will be working on positive and negative space for block prints. 4th grade will be imitating a famous artist's style. 3rd grade will be working on mixing colors with shades and tints. 2nd grade will be working on paper weaving. 1st grade will be learning about primary and secondary colors. Kindergarten students will be working on fine motor skills and creative thinking skills.

Music: This month we will be rebooting our trash band groups in the 6-8 grade. In the younger grades we are excited to start working on reading notes and rhythms using classroom instruments.

Tech: In tech, all students will be learning about digital citizenship and leaving a positive digital footprint.

Tech Tips

ParentVue Activation Key letters have been sent home with students. ParentVue is an online portal that allows access to grading and attendance information for all of our students and parents in grades K-8.

Web Address:

http://littleton.apscc.org/pxp/Login_PXP.aspx



Fire Protection

Winter is a time when [household fires](#) occur. It is a good time to remember to:

- Buy and install smoke alarms on every floor of your home
- Test smoke alarms monthly
- Practice fire drills with your children
- Install a [carbon monoxide](#) detector outside bedrooms
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that could burn, and turn them off when leaving the room or sleeping.
- Do not heat your home with a gas range or over
- Never run a car or truck inside an attached garage



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 7:15.
4. The office continues to be open at 7:00. You can enter the parking lot at 7:00 and park in order to access the office. However, please do not drop off any students until 7:15. 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.