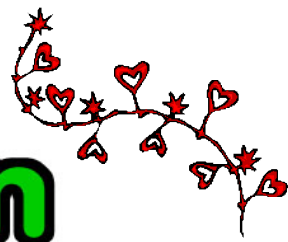


Kipps Konnection



Ray E. VanDyke, Principal
Kipps Elementary School
February 2005



Michele Wolfert, PTA President
J Dobson, Editor
Volume 10, Issue 6

LIBRARY NEWS

Remember, if we miss school for a snow day, your child should bring their library book back the very next school day. The library is open every morning and they can bring it to the library and select a new book.

Winter is here and snow --maybe? What a wonderful time to curl up with a good book and read. Here are the new 2005 Newbery and Caldecott Medal Winners. You can find these at the public library or one of our local bookstores. Happy Reading

The Newbery Medal was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbery. It is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. This award is usually for a book that is most appropriate for grades 3 and up.

The 2005 Newbery Medal winner is Kira-Kira written by Cynthia Kadohata.

Honor Books for 2005 include:

The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman and Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

The 2005 Caldecott Medal winner is Kitten's First Full Moon illustrated and written by Kevin Henkes.

Honor books include:

The Coming on Home Soon illustrated by E.B. Lewis, written by Jacqueline Woodson Knuffle
Bunny: A Cautionary Tale illustrated and written by Mo Willems.

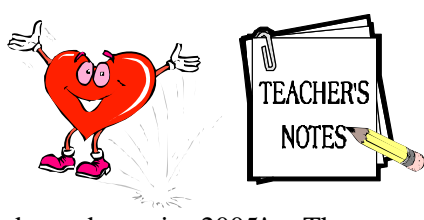
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Just a reminder that Runnin Roos will start back in mid-late February. We will send out a flyer letting the children know the exact date we'll start back up!



In case of inclement weather please remember to call the hotline at 382-5102 or watch your local television station for up to the minute information. Please do not call the school as it will tie up the phone lines.



Kindergarten-

Kindergarten has been busy in 2005! The gingerbread man has been sighted at Kipps and even left clues to help us try to find him. Unfortunately he was too fast for us to catch him. We enjoyed making our own paper gingerbread men (and women!) and ate REAL gingerbread with gusto! We also learned about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and thought of ways that we can help keep his dreams of peace and unity alive. By the time you read this we will be getting ready for the 100th day of school. We will celebrate 100 days of learning in a BIG way---with a 100th day snack with 100 items in it, counting to 100 several different ways, bringing collections of 100 items to weigh, and watching for a special appearance by Zero the Hero. Life is never dull in kindergarten; if you need peppering up in these dark days of winter, come on by to help out for awhile and we guarantee you'll leave in a better mood!

First Grade –

With the start of a New Year, we have quickly gotten back into the swing of things. The students have just finished a unit on Natural Resources. We were able to make a lot of great connections back to our previous study of plants and animals. At the conclusion of our unit, the first graders watched "The Lorax" movie.

Our next unit of study is economics. The first graders will be given a first hand opportunity to put into practice what they learn about buyers and sellers, goods and services with a bake sale. All the proceeds will go to help out the tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

Third Grade –

Third grade have been learning about European explorers in social studies, and discussing Matter in science. Our third graders are really working hard on memorizing multiplication facts and learning to write in cursive! Ms. Lester and Ms. Shull's classes have also been enjoying the novels in our "Wish" unit (The Wish Giver, The Chocolate Touch, and Chocolate Fever). They are all about wishes that go wrong and warn us to be careful what we wish for...we might just get it! Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Hicks are continuing their book reports, encouraging the children to read on level and to help improve writing skills!

We are all looking forward to beginning our units on the ancient cultures of Mali, Greece, and Rome in the near future. A trip to the science museum in Roanoke is coming up on March 1st.



Second Grade Superstars! –

Our new year has brought us to some fun explorations! Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Gendron's classes have been exploring with poetry and word play for the past couple of weeks. They have been reading a ton of books by Dr. Seuss (a.k.a Theo LeSeig) and also Amelia Bedelia, a character that takes everything literally! These two classes have had the opportunity to really look deeper into word meanings and have some fun with words!

Mr. Stenger and Mrs. Stanley's classes have been exploring economics! They have been learning all about goods vs. services and the producers and consumers that buy them. The classes have also learned about natural, human and capital resources as well as making choices and opportunity cost. Along with this unit came cause and effect and some super economic songs. Placed into groups, the students were able to choose their favorite Econ song, practice and put motions to it and then perform the song in front of their peers. What a blast!

All of the second graders will hop back into the time machine to travel farther back into time, way past the first Americans....to the time of Ancient China! Stay tuned for details on our next adventures!!



Fourth Grade –

Fourth grade has been working hard these last few weeks. Some students have been learning about the Earth, Moon and Sun and how they relate to each other, while others are focusing on the weather. They will switch their unit of study shortly. We are lucky to have the weather station right here in town that the students can visit. And what a great time of year to study the weather, there has certainly been a wide assortment to see! Ask a fourth grade student what they see in the clouds, you might be surprised with the answer you get. We are also starting our planning for the wonderful trip to Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown. We will be going at the beginning of May. It is a great way to end our Virginia Studies unit in Social Studies.

Fifth Grade Rocks! –

Fifth graders are working hard as we continue to build on our writing skills. (The SOL writing test will take place March 7-9) Many fifth graders have started to explore poetry and have been writing cinquains in class. We have also been writing in our journal and examining parts of speech.

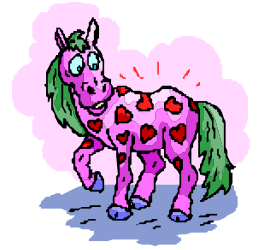
DARE classes have started and things are going great. Officer Self has given us some great advice on how to lead a safe and healthy - drug free - life!

In math we just finished learning how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. Phew, this is tough stuff! We are wrapping up journal one and will be starting with journal two shortly.

Overall things are going great. Hopefully the weather will stay nice and we can enjoy the trip that we will be taking to Lexington in February. Ghost Cadet - here we come!



FEBRUARY EVENTS



SECOND GRADE MUSIC PROGRAM – Tuesday, February 7th 7:00pm Kipps Cafeteria

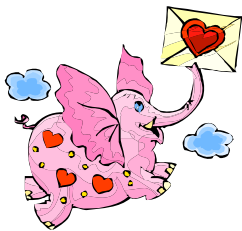
On Monday, February 7th, our superb second graders will present a program all about Connections through Communication -- a musical treat sure to please everyone. They are busily preparing the songs and dialog now, so mark your calendars -- you won't want to miss this entertaining look at all the different ways we creatures of the earth "talk" to each other! Refreshment will be provided by PTA immediately following the concert.

PTA Planning Session - February 8th – 7:00pm Kipps Cafeteria

Breakfast with the Principal - February 23rd - 9:00am Kipps Cafeteria

Breakfast with the Principal will be held on February 23, from 9-10 a.m. The topic will be our Everyday Math program. Betti Kreye, math supervisor for our school system, will be there to talk about the math program and to answer questions. Bring a bag breakfast and join us on February 23.

Kipps Elementary will have an accreditation review on January 31 and February 1. A lead reviewer from the State Department of Education will visit the school to evaluate our school's progress in meeting accreditation requirements and offer suggestions for improvement. Please contact Mr. Van Dyke if you have questions about this process.



MARCH PREVIEWS

March 7th - 9th - Fifth Grade SOL Writing Test Window

March 8th – Kipps PTA Planning Session – 7:00pm

March 16th - Barter Productions at BMS –

K-2 to see Miss Nelson is Missing from 10:00-10:50;

3-5 to see A Thousand Cranes from 1:00-1:45

March 31st - Third Grade to Monticello





MISCELLANEOUS

Eating For Kipps Kids!

Box Tops winners for the month of January are Ms. King, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Wheeler. Great job guys! Keep the coupons coming in but please be sure not to cut off the expiration dates. Coupons with out their expiration dates are not redeemable and have to be discarded. **The deadline for this school year is March 15th.** If you are holding any coupons please make sure they make it to school by that date. If you forget, don't worry you can keep sending them and they will be redeemed next school year. **Thanks for all the support for this program and keep clipping!**

“Pennies From Heaven”

Most of you are aware of the tsunami tragedy that has affected Southeast Asia. As a school we decided would like to assist the many families that are in need after this natural disaster. We have been collecting pennies and other spare change to create a fund for the tsunami victims. Due to the large response we would like to extend this project into the month of February. Each classroom has a collection jar and we have a jar in the main office. We are also happy to announce the National Bank of Blacksburg will be donating \$300 to help with the “Pennies From Heaven” fund. Friday, February 11th will be the last day for donations. We will contribute the “Pennies From Heaven” donations to one of the recommended relief organizations assisting with the tsunami victims. We will keep you posted on the progress of our penny project. Thank you for helping out with this special service project.



PARKING LOT REMINDER:

Parents please remember that when you are dropping off or picking your children up, if you are parking and coming into the school you **MUST** park in a marked parking space. Please do not park your car in the road to walk your child in. There have been several complaints of parents trapped in the parking lot because vehicles were left unattended blocking the road. If you are just dropping them of, please make sure you follow the traffic pattern outlined by the orange cones and drop/pick-up in the front of the building. The school is not opened until 8:30am so please do not drop your child off early unless they are a member of the adventure club. During inclement weather where schools open one or two hours late please be aware that the school is not open to students until: One hour delay – 9:30am, Two hour delay– 10:30am.

A big thank you to all who donated snacks for the Dance Party Celebration on December 17! You helped make the event a great success. Our committee will be planning another school wide event for spring.

Soon we will be having a "Roos Review" to remind students of the school wide expectations for respectful behavior. Keep earning those buck-a-roos!

Kipps SCA Newsletter – Clayton Proctor and Taylor Dobson

An interview with Kipps Elementary School Principal – Dr. Ray VanDyke:

Q: What is it like to be principal?

A: It is a lot of hard work but also fun work. I enjoy working with children and adults.

Q: What is your duty as principal?

A: I have lots of duties. One is to make sure children are safe, to help teachers and get all the supplies.

Q: How long have you been Principal?

A: I have been a principal for 19 years.

Q: Do you enjoy being a principal?

A: I enjoy it very much.

Q: Is it hard work?

A: Sometimes it is very hard work but it is rewarding.

Q: What is your favorite part of it?

A: My favorite part is being with the kids!