

November 2008



Blackhawk Bugle

Audubon Elementary

From the Principal's Pen

A happy Autumn is one without a lot of snow before Thanksgiving! So far we've been lucky in the weather department. One quarter down, 3 to go! With the close of first quarter, we begin to see the changes in student performance data. By monitoring the rate of student growth, the staff can adjust instructional practices to have a greater impact on student learning. Our latest data (shown below) is in the area of writing. As you can see, we're moving right along.

Q1	Advanced		Proficient		Partially Prof		Marginal		Unsatisfactory	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
K	0	10	2	16	9	6	7	0	13	0
1	3	4	12	15	9	13	6	3	8	5
2	0	0	1	9	13	13	16	7	3	2
3	0	0	1	1	8	18	7	3	10	1
4	0	0	0	3	14	21	16	9	7	2
5	0		0		16		8		8	

After Audubon's HVAC system was upgraded 2 years ago, we still had some capital improvement money to use for site-based projects. Both staff and parents offered some suggestions. After looking at the quotes for the suggested improvements, two projects were approved. The first project is to install an additional electric and computer data pole by the circulation desk in the resource center. The second project is to install a video buzzer system on the front door to enhance school security. This system will keep the front door locked during school hours. **All visitors to the school will have to push the buzzer located beneath a video camera. The buzzer will sound in the main office where the secretaries can remotely unlock the front door.** Many schools have already installed such systems, and the District Security office is highly recommending that all schools consider this security upgrade. We are currently working with the installer to schedule the work. **This system will not go into effect until January when the kids return from break.** It will take some adjustment on all our parts.

Don't forget that students do not have school on Veteran's Day, November 11. Schools will also be closed from Wednesday, November 26 through Friday, November 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. I hope that you can enjoy family, friends, and good food. Be safe if you are traveling over the holiday.

Respectfully,

Kudos Winners

Congratulations to the following students whose names were drawn from the grade-level positive referral buckets in the month of **October**. These students' pictures hang in our main hall, and each student enjoyed a Kudo bar for demonstrating their great character.

LaShayna Brascom (5), Alex Burns (4), Corey Haders (3), Kaleb Mills (K), Erika Gallegos (2), Alianna House (1), Kathryn Vasquez (4), Dajia Brascom (3), Siandre Agaali (2), Ethan Baca-Vialpando (1), Rachel Cottle-Harris (5), Sonya Valdez (K), Elijah Salas (K), Samuel Hanna (4), Randy DiRocco (1), Jalen Jordan (5), Xavier Wright (2), Madison Pinela (3), Cody Wesolowski (2), Maria Bynes (2), Chelsey Wesolowski (4), Karen Magana (5), Sam EcheGARAY (3)

Honor Roll Honorees

Congratulations to the following intermediate students who earned a 3.5 g.p.a. or above on their first quarter report card. Keep up the great work!

3rd Graders: Madison Pinella, Levi Bentley, Ryan Jones, Amaya Jordan, Vanessa Magana, Audriana Maradiaga, Sarya Wilson

4th Graders: Iliana Rivera, Emily Lowery, Olivia DeRubis, Angelika Duran, Desere Dickson, Carver Engstrom, Adrianna Espinosa, Paulina Gonzalez, Jada Peacock, Jessica Roberts, Natasha Swartz

5th Graders: Josie Eder, Anjelica Valdez, Jessica Wahlen, Johnathan Hayward

Now Hiring

Looking for a little extra money? We've got the perfect job for you. Audubon is looking for 2–3 flexible men or women to assist in our lunchroom and recess duty, as well as crossing guard duty. If you are interested, please call Kathleen at the front office at 328-2610. Crossing guard is from 7:15-8:15 and 2:15-3:15 at \$9.00 per hour Monday through Friday. Lunch room aide is from 11:30-1pm also Monday through Friday and the pay is \$7.02 per hour. Come make a difference in the lives of our students. We guarantee they'll put a smile on your face.



Lost And Found



If you've been searching high and low for your child's favorite mittens, that coat you bought last winter, or that jacket you haven't seen since the first day of school, you might want to try looking in Audubon's lost and found. We always have plenty of clothing items that are needing to be reunited with their owners. Come take a look!

Physical Education

During the month of November, all 3rd-5th grade students will complete the second half of their *Fitness Gram* fitness testing. These students have really worked hard to improve their scores on all four tests (PACER, push-ups, curl-ups, & sit and reach). We have set a goal for every class that 80% of students will reach proficiency on their fitness tests. When we are finished with fitness testing, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will focus on hula hoops and team games in physical education class. Students in K-2nd are currently working on throwing and catching skills. They have learned to use these skills in a variety of games. We will also be working with hula hoops and team games during the month of November.

**Please remember that boots and dress shoes are not appropriate gym shoes.

Thank you.
Mrs. Fordyce

Music Notes

I love to focus on patriotic music during the month of November. November is the month of elections, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. This year all of my classes including first and second grade will be singing The Star-Spangled Banner. Unfortunately, many American children don't even recognize our own national anthem, so music teachers everywhere are being asked to reintroduce it in the music classroom. The vocal range of this song is roughly one and a half octaves, which makes it a challenge to sing!

My primary students in particular will continue singing and playing musical games throughout the rest

of the semester. Children need games in order to grow and develop various skills such as concentration, cooperation, and social integration. Musical games develop those skills as well as improving singing, listening, and rhythmic skills. I am continuing to notice improvement in their singing abilities. Please encourage them to sing at home as much as possible!

A final thought about music....

“Today, music is recognized as an important and essential part of a complete education. A unique approach to thinking and learning, music is a powerful tool in the development of

imagination, creativity, discipline, concentration, and critical thinking skills. Participation in musical activities enriches the spirit and satisfies basic needs for personal expression...” Joy Nelson

I hope all of you have a wonderful November.

Mrs. Lopez



Art News

Kindergarten students learned about **form** when they made pinch pots out of clay. They added **texture** to the pots using toothpicks. We will be glazing them soon and they can add the finishing touches. They drew

beautiful self-portraits which are now hanging in the hallway. This month they are learning about circles, dots, types of line and how they are used in drawing. They are learning to spot these elements in their environment, and being able

to “see” is the first step in being able to draw.

Keep creating,
Mrs. Samuels

Kindergarten

Dear Kindergarten Families,

First quarter has come and gone, and we are moving on quickly! Report cards have been given out and Parent Teacher Conferences were a huge success with a high percent of families attending! Thank you!

During second quarter, there are a variety of skills that your student will be learning. Please look over these items and keep this newsletter as a reference so that you can keep your student working and practicing at home.

For reading we will be working on breaking words into their syllables (ex. Butterfly: butt-er-fly), blending individual sounds to make words (ex. d/o/g – dog), reading *at least* 30 District 11 sight words, and practicing the summarization of print that we have read and/or listened to.

In writing we will continue many things from first quarter. We are working towards writing 1-5 complete and correct sentences. Please encourage your student to write at home and practice things like a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, putting a finger space in between each word, and putting a period at the end of each sentence. It seems as though many students are struggling to sound out words because they are afraid or uncomfortable with misspellings. We certainly don't expect them to spell all words correctly but strongly encourage them to sound them out and do the best they can. Please continue this encouragement at home.

For 2nd Quarter math we will be writing, reading and ordering numbers 0-20 as well as counting to *at least* 30. We will learn about a nickel and its worth and begin to explore estimation. Kindergarten will continue to work on patterns and begin to explore addition and subtraction.

This quarter we will also begin to explore some social studies concepts. We will be talking about how we are alike, how we are different, unique, and special. Each week, the kindergarten classrooms will be picking a student of the week. This student will bring home an All About Me poster on the Friday before their week, fill it out and return it on Monday. Students are invited to include pictures and other items of importance to their life and background.

We are looking forward to second quarter and seeing all that your children learn and do!

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Diaz

Kindergarten Teachers

First Grade

Hey there first grade parents:

Thank you for attending your child's parent teacher conference. It was great to meet with you and discuss your child's progress. Our students in first grade are doing a wonderful job. As the holiday season approaches our students will become more focused on the joys of the season and the time off they get than their academics so please remind them why they are at school regularly.

In math we will be touching on and introducing the abstract concepts as in time, money, measurement. These are difficult skills for first graders and they may struggle a little. Please remember that we are only introducing these skills to give them a little background, they are not required to master these skills. You can help at home by working on coin identification, parts of an analog clock and playing with a ruler.

In reading and writing we will be continuing to move kids along teaching them at their individual levels. In reading students should be at a 1.2/1.3 at this time of the year and in writing they should be working on at least 3 good sentences with proper punctuation and capitalization. All of our students are doing a wonderful job working towards this goal.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at watsore@d11.org or 3282648.

Rob Watson

Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following students who had Perfect Attendance (not even 1 tardy) for first quarter!

Kindergarten – Jerry Arauza, Josiah Grimaldo **1st** – Isaiah Grimaldo, Clayton Myers, Andrea Pena Duarte, Juan Edgar Pena Duarte, Trevor Peterson, Leenda Silvera **2nd** – Presley Greier, Hailey Lett, Hannah Lovelace, James Myers **3rd** – Obed Mendoza, Irene Webb **4th** – Alex Burns, Olivia DeRubis, Paulina Gonzalez, Brennan McCarty, Jada Peacock, Isaac Valdez, Jesus Valdez **5th** – Garrett Handcastle, Davey Kanzler, Anjelica Valdez.

Speaking of **TARDIES**, did you know that we had **106** tardy students in the month of September and **149** in the month of October? Our tardy bell rings at 8:05. Students with excessive tardies will have discipline consequences at school, and parents will get a warning letter. Parents, please help your children get to school on time—it's your responsibility. Thanks!

Second Grade

November salutations to all second grade parents from your second grade team! Now that the candles no longer flicker in the Jack-O-Lanterns and the goblins of All Hallows Eve vanish until next year, we look forward to the great American holiday season. This is a fun time to read, write, and learn new math concepts. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet with all of you during parent/teacher conferences. Thank you.

This new month promises more opportunities for learning and achievement. Your children love this season of the year. They enjoy reading and writing about fall with the changing colors and blowing leaves. Many great books await your autumn loving children. Our school library and public library highlight them. Check them out! Take them home and enjoy a cozy “read” together. Once again we thank you for helping students use their planners. Our reading homework goal is still 15 minutes each day. We continue to read a variety of reading materials in small group reading instruction in school.

Our writing focus changes from narrative to expository this quarter. With this new genre your students will write about many topics. We expect great work. Look for the new fall writing on the walls in the halls! Leaves do hang from the bricks. Look! Math is everywhere! Help your student look for math in the world around them. When you drive down the street you can review the shapes of traffic signs. Grocery shopping offers many chances to practice facts and estimation. In the kitchen, the best of measurement lessons could result in sweet confections to tempt the palate and challenge the waistline. Math is fun. Look for it where ever you go.

Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Sincerely,
Your Second Grade Team
Miss Hancock and Mr. Lapioli

Third Grade

Thank you for the wonderful treats you sent in for the Harvest Party! The children enjoyed all of the goodies. Another big thank you for the great turnout at conference time. I enjoyed talking with you in person about your wonderful children. We start out this second quarter working in comprehension, main idea, and summarizing in reading. Math we concentrate on adding and subtracting greater numbers, graphs, and measurement. Money, time, geometry, word problems, and timed computation are reviewed on a daily basis with Math 4 Today. Writing will be fun for the students this quarter learning letter writing and narratives. The plant unit in science will finish within the next few weeks, then we move to space or chemicals. It just depends on the new science kit we get! We resume social studies with more history of the Pikes Peak area, and communities. The children will continue with homework in reading, math, and spelling. Please continue to sign the planners so the students earn their Pizza Hut certificates in Book It. Thank you for your support, and have a bountiful Thanksgiving! Mrs. Ruby

Classroom Parent Meetings

Don't forget! Once a month you have the opportunity to meet with Nancy Smith, principal of Audubon, and other parents to discuss events, concerns, and school data. We would love to have you participate! We usually meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm, but for November we will meet on the 10th! Hope to see you there.

Fourth Grade

Happy fall to everyone!!! Doesn't it feel like the school year is just flying by? This quarter your fourth grader will be working on computation, multiplication skills, and reviewing both perimeter and area. You can support your fourth grader's mathematics learning in quarter 2 by orally reviewing basic facts through 12. Help your child practice adding and subtracting with larger numbers. Talk about the difference between perimeter (the distance around: sides added together) and area (surface: length times width). Additionally, create a real world problem in multiplication by asking your child to find the perimeter and the area of a sandbox or other shape. Do it together and have your child explain his/her thinking to you. These activities cost nothing but gain much in the practical use of

mathematics in daily life. Some things to be on the lookout for this quarter are our wonderful Winter Poetry. We will use the beautiful language and sensory words in the book Owl Moon as our inspiration. I encourage you to share this book with your child. In addition, we will study idioms this quarter to help "spice up" our writing. Some examples: my friend's shirt was as orange as a tangerine, my tea cup was as red as a burning ember, and the car glistened like flames from a fire. The fourth graders in Mrs. Randall's room will also focus on expository writing this quarter. This style of writing is meant to inform the reader. Expository writing is sequential and it is used to inform, explain, clarify, define or instruct. Expository writing prompts usually

begin with the following words.
Tell what happened when . . .
Write a report on . . .
Explain how to . . .
Describe how to . . .

I am looking forward to the next quarter with your student. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email or call anytime.

Mrs. Jackie Randall
328-2653
randajc@d11.org



Fourth/Fifth Grade

We have begun new novels. The students are really enjoying their reading group feeling like a book club. I have actually heard them anxiously ask when is it their turn to come to group? A chapter or two is to be read each night and the students respond in their reading journals. They include any unfamiliar vocabulary to an ongoing list. We have finished our unit on plant growth and development. Not all of us had a green thumb, however much was learned about the life cycle of plants and the importance of bees. Our next unit will be on the human body for fourth and landforms for fifth. Heavy emphasis will be on computation in math as well as problem solving. There are still many students who need additional practice with their math facts. Review should take place nightly.

A big thank you to Kristin Diaz and Audrey DeRubis for helping out on the fourth grade trip to the Manitou Cliff Dwellings. The children said they had an exciting time which included painting pots and grinding corn like the Native Americans. It was wonderful to hear them making connections to what we have been learning in class.

Taney Brown

Permit Time

Permit window for the 09-10 school year opened on November 1 and will continue through February 1. If your student currently attends Audubon on a permit, you will need to submit one for next year. Students on permit are not eligible for district transportation. Permit forms are available in our main office.



Community Tid-Bit

Highland Park Baptist Church, at the corner of Maizeland and Circle Drive, is hosting a FREE winter coat exchange on Saturday, November 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have coats in good condition that your children have outgrown, please bring them to donate as well. They will have coats in children's, youth, and adult sizes.

Library Book Fair Results

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made the Book Fair Safari a **roaring** success! We couldn't have done it without your help!

Thank you, Pat, Lisa, Sue, Cathy, Barri, Jennifer, Kristen, Jan, Heather, Zach and Kayla. An extra special thanks to our Audubon student volunteers: Leeanna, Thomas, Korrinne, Rachel, Anjelica and Jada.

All profits from the book fair go towards the purchase of new books for the library! Stop by to see what's new. **We made \$1,006** (total sales: \$3,337)!!!!



Book Fair Coloring Contest Winners: Alaze, Elijah, Savion, Daija, Ammie, Jesus, and Erika (very creative and neatly colored entries!)

Winner of the **Safari Animals** in a Jar (good use of estimation skills!): Thane

Lion Pumpkin Raffle Winner: Everardo M.

Animal Cracker Raffle Winner: Cora B.

Library News

“Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word; someone has to show them the way.”

-Orville Prescott

Here are some of the ways we here at Audubon *show our students the way* to the wonderful world of books.

- Offering a flexible library schedule
- Allowing students to choose books for pleasure reading from the library
- Taking part in Battle of the Books with our 5th grade students
- Providing quality children’s magazines for students to check out
- Sharing and discussing books with our kids during library and check out time
- Offering book check outs to parents of students (so they can read together at home)
- Collaborating with teachers on lessons that promote literacy
- Keeping our collection up to date with new books that kids really want to read
- Holding book fairs so more kids have the opportunity to have books of their own (proven by research to develop a love of books and reading)
- Participating in national literacy promotions, like Dr. Seuss’s birthday, Children’s Book Week, Library Lovers Month, Get Caught Reading, and Banned Book Week,
- Working closely with our very beginning readers (pre-K and K) to do read alouds and story sharing weekly



In the month of November it’s nice to remember all we have to be thankful for this year. Besides all the help we had for the book fair, there are other good things happening in the library to be thankful for. Did you know we have some students in the school whose uncle is an author? He donated several of his books to our library and he signed them, too! Another parent let us pick out new books from her own bookstore and then donated them to our library! We have parents who spend their spare time helping to reshelv all the books our kids are reading, too. We even have students who volunteer as library helpers. Thank you to all of you who make our library a better place for our kids!

Library Web Picks

Fall into some Internet Fun!

For some information on leaves, squirrels, geese, and butterflies try the *Environmental Education for Kids! Autumn Scavenger Hunt* at dnr.wi.gov/ce/caer/ce/eek/cool/fallhunt.htm

To find out more about why leaves change color try this link: ksnn.larc.nasa.gov/webtest.cfm?unit=leaves

For everything you ever wanted to know about bears go to: bear.org