



Patriot Press

Mrs. Anne Howard, Principal

September, 2009

Attendance

Thank you for calling the attendance line at 328-7212 if your student is going to be absent or tardy. There are magnets available in the front office to remind you of the important school numbers. Please stop by to pick one up if you haven't already done so. This year the attendance contest will be between the classes in each grade level and morning and afternoon preschool again. The classes with the least amount of daily absences and tardies for the month will earn a party. Please check the attendance board in the front hallway for data.

School Supplies

When you are buying school supplies, perhaps you could consider buying extra to help support the families here at Henry. The items that are especially needed are markers, paint sets, pencil boxes and colored pencils. Thank you for your generosity.

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From the Principal's Desk

September

Our students have come to school excited, rested and eager to learn. The Patrick Henry staff joins the students in the excitement. We had a strong turnout for the Ice Cream Social on August 17. Please check the wide variety of volunteer opportunities provided by PTO and the school. Our next PTO meeting is September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Patrick Henry needs you and I need you.

We have teacher and staff changes to announce. We welcome Ms. Mary Jo Davis and Ms. Amanda Madrid in First grade, Ms. Kathy Keel is now in Second grade, Mr. Craig Baker is now in Fifth, Ms. Lisa Davis is our Music teacher, Ms. Gale Rutherdorf is our P.E. teacher and Ms. Carol Chapman is our Library Technology Educator. We are so excited to have such a quality staff at Patrick Henry.

Our 2009 CSAP results included fantastic gains in Third and Fourth grade in reading, writing and math. Our comprehensive School Improvement Plan included school-wide research-based instructional strategies in the areas of reading, writing and math, aimed at improving student achievement. Your students' educational program is aligned with District Eleven's on-line curriculum guides and focused on

the essential skills and state-wide standards for each grade level. We will be drafting a new School Improvement Plan in the coming weeks. We are committed to providing a quality education for all of our students.

I want to take the opportunity to stress safety in our parking lot. I have been impressed with the cooperation from the community. Thank you so much. When dropping students off or picking them up in the parking lot, please use the drop off lane and pull forward to keep traffic moving. Vehicles are not to be left unattended in the drive through lane. Please use crosswalks to cross the parking lots. Dropping students off and picking up along Lehmborg or Waddell is always a good plan. Please remember not to pick up or drop off in the staff parking lot. The safety of our children is our number one concern. Remember to buckle up also.

I look forward to a successful and productive 2009-2010 school year. Do not hesitate to call me or stop by the office if there is anything we can do to help. I will see you at our BUG (Bringing Up Grades) Assemblies this year.

Anne Howard, Principal

Classroom News

Preschool

Mrs. Breeden, Ms. Stewart and Mrs. Vigil

We are off to a great start in preschool!! We appreciate all of our parents who have brought healthy snacks and items off of our wish list. We are beginning the first unit of our curriculum about families. We have five core stories that we read in the family unit through a rotation process. Reading each story three to four times is a great way for children to learn new vocabulary, learn the characters and remember the main events. We will be sending home supplies for a fun family project, so be looking for more information to come home with your child. We have an open door policy; parent are always welcome to come spend time in our classroom. Please remember that if you are picking up or dropping off your child you may not leave your car in the drive through lanes to sign your child in or out. You must park your car in a parking space and then come to the preschool room.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Maddox, Ms. Riggs and Mrs. Romero

What a great start to the 2009-2010 school year. We are so excited to have such wonderful kindergarten students. Thank you to all the parents and students who attended Back to School Night; we really enjoyed meeting and talking to all of you.

We have been working very hard on writing our names correctly, so please reinforce this at home by having your child write their name using correct letter formation and only the beginning letter of their name uppercase. This quarter in reading we will be working on letter recognition, letter-sound correspondence, and correct letter formation. Daily in Writer's Workshop, we will be learning to tell and write stories about personal experiences. You can help your child by talking about things you have done and creating new memories that they can write about. In math, we will be working on counting, recognizing and writing numbers 1 to 10. Please make sure to read nightly with your child.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held October 28th and 29th. If you have not signed up for a conference yet, please stop by your child's classroom and sign up for a 20-minute conference.

First Grade

Mrs. Applin, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Madrid

The First Grade Team would like to thank our par-

ents for supporting us as we establish our First Grade routines. Please help us by making sure that your child always comes on time with a jacket in their backpack daily. Our weather can change quickly. Please empty your child's backpack each day, and review what they have accomplished. Help your child to remember to bring their library books back so they may check out a new one each week. This is a good opportunity for you and your child to have quality reading time together. Mrs. Davis' library day is Wednesday, and Mrs. Madrid's library day is Thursday, and Mrs. Applin's day is on Friday. If you have any questions about homework procedures, please contact your child's teacher. Homework folders need to be returned each day along with their planners. Homework will be written in your child's planner each day. The planners are a good source to communicate with your child's teacher. You may send a healthy snack with your child each day, please do not send juices, only water due to spilling on the carpet. Thank you for your continued support! We so appreciate it!

Second Grade

Mrs. Day, Miss Keel and Mrs. Lancaster

We got off to a great start in second grade. Students are doing a good job bringing back homework and planners daily. Homework is given Monday-Thursday and is expected to be returned each day. Please be sure to sign planners each day and use it as a form of communication between home and school. We are currently working on solving addition and subtraction story problems in math. In science, we are studying air and weather. Beginning September 1st, we will be sending the first reading log home. Our expectation for the year is that students will respect themselves and each other. Please remember to have your child read frequently and mark the reading calendar.

Third Grade

Mr. Devlin, Mrs. BuBois and Mr. Miller

Welcome back to school! The beginning of the year will be focused on assessing students in order to meet individual needs. We have also started homework in all classes. Please check your child's planner daily to go over homework. It is also important to continue to listen to your child read daily to keep reading skills sharp. We are planning on taking our first fieldtrip to Rock Ledge Ranch sometime this month. A letter with the details on this fieldtrip will be coming home soon. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a great third grade year!

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Bissey and Mrs. Milito

We are hard at work in fourth grade! Our major theme for the year will be SYSTEMS – in science, history, and geography. We plan to schedule some field trips a little later during the year. Right now we are practicing correct school behaviors before we are ready to go out into the world.

In math we have been working on place value with numbers up to the hundred thousands. We are working on mastery of 4-digit addition and subtraction. We appreciate your help at home with our weekly plans for skill improvement. All students will benefit from practice with basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts. Flash cards are a great way to practice.

The most important skills we are working on in reading are fluency and comprehension. If you would have your child practice reading one paragraph from their nightly reading selection until they can read it perfectly and smoothly to you, using an interesting voice (not like robot-speaking) you would be supporting the work we are doing in class. Your child also needs to give you a simple retelling of what they read each night. Listen to see if they are giving you the events in the correct order. Can they tell you all the important happenings?

In science we will be studying chemical tests. Students will learn to identify a mystery powder by certain characteristics and chemical or physical reactions it has when mixed with another substance.

The school, parents, and students are all part of the team necessary for each child's academic success. We will be communicating with you often about things you can be doing at home to enhance the lessons we are covering in class. Thank you for your support! We're excited about this school year!

Fifth Grade

Mr. Baker and Mrs. O'Connor

Fifth grade is off to roaring start! We are flying into math, reading and social studies. We will also be digging into the Landforms science kit.

We are a new fifth grade team. Mrs. O'Connor and Mr. Baker are very excited about teaching your students this school year.

Your student should be doing their homework six days a week. You will really help your fifth grader by encouraging and helping her/him to:

1. Read for at least 40 minutes everyday (45 minutes to an hour is even better).
2. Memorize the multiplication tables through 10.
3. Check over their planners for other homework and sign them only if all the work is done.

Parent/teacher conferences are the last week of October. Remember you need to sign up for a conference. Come by after school to schedule a convenient conference time.

Thanks for your support through out the year.

Music Notes

Ms. Davis

Music class has started off with a great start, and what a pleasure to take over for such a wonderful teacher. I'd like to introduce myself with a little background; I taught at Pikes Peak Elementary for eight years in Harrison District 2. In the summer of 2008 I received a phone call from the principal at Longfellow Elementary asking me to interview, as their teacher had found a new position. I gladly accepted as Longfellow was our neighborhood school where I had hoped my daughter would attend when she starts school (she'll be three in October). When the decision was made for Longfellow to be closed this year, all of the staff, music faculty and at Longfellow e-mailed me, called me, saying you have to go to Henry! When I found out that Mrs. Beebe had been the teacher here I knew this would be a great fit for me, and I could come in and find a great program in place, which is definitely what I have found.

This year we will have an after school Performing Arts Group, which goes beyond the normal school choir. The Performing Arts Group adds drama and movement/dance and will perform a musical in the winter and spring. We are still working out what afternoon of the week we will have the group meet. We will also do grade level performances that support social studies units that students are learning about in their specific grade, or a topic that the grade levels and I choose together. These concert dates will be set as soon as possible, and will be sent out in the next news letter.



Gifted and Talented News

Mrs. Alexander

Student Qualifications

- High motivation and task commitment
- Standardized test scores 95% or above or outstanding school performance
- High interest in the area of class offering
- High standards of classroom behavior

Applications can also be accessed from the following web site. Registration closes September 18, 2009, enrollment is on a first come, first served basis by postmark.

<http://www.uccs.edu/coegen>

Here are the particulars:

- Super Saturday at the University of Colorado Springs is a program of classes for gifted and highly able students in grades first through sixth.
- The program is run under the auspices of the College of Education and classes meet on the university campus.
- Classes include offerings in science, art, foreign language, creative drama, chess, math and more.
- Class size ranges from 12 to 16 students.
- There is an \$85 fee to attend, a few scholarships are available.
- Classes run six consecutive Saturdays.
- Time: 10:00 – 12:00 noon unless designated differently.

The goal of Super Saturday is to challenge the students' intellectual and creative abilities.

Thanks,
Becky Alexander
GT/Enrichment Resource Teacher

Physical Education News/Sports Challenge

We have started the year by learning expectations in gym, squad spots and playground games of tetherball, wallball and 4-square. Our next unit will be soccer followed by cup stacking and volleyball. Please write a note if you wish your student to be excused from gym. A doctor's note will be greatly appreciated if your student needs to be excused more than one day. For the safety of your child, please have them wear tennis shoes on gym days.

Sports Challenge money and permission slips need to be turned in to Ms. Dunson in the office. Cross country permission slips need to be turned in to Mrs. Rutherford in the gym. There isn't a fee for cross country but parents must provide transportation to and from the cross country events which are held at other District #11 schools. Thank you for your support. Mrs. Rutherford



From the Librarians' Corner



We would like to welcome Ms. Chapman who is new to the library at Patrick Henry Elementary school. There are some very exciting changes this year in the library. All students will have Library Tech as part of the Specials' rotation. The purpose of the Library Tech rotation will be to teach basic library and research skills. Library Tech classes will be on Mondays, Tuesdays, and half days on Wednesdays.

Please stop by and visit us in the library!

Ms. Chapman
Mrs. Smith

Challenger Learning Center

The Challenger Learning Center of Colorado will open its doors to the public on Saturday, September 19th to fly a simulated space mission. The crew members will fly the mission *Voyage to Mars* from 9:00 – 12:00. Thirty crew members are needed for a successful launch. The cost to fly this mission is \$20 for students and \$25 for adults. If you are interested in flying this mission, please call Robbie Smarr at (719) 598-9755 x 1001.

Celebrating the Henry Community

Welcome Back! We hope that you all enjoyed your summer vacation and that you're ready for the 2009-2010 school year. We are excited to be working with familiar and new student faces. Mrs. Amerine and Mrs. Ramírez had the privilege of attending further training in the past months and are looking forward to using some of the new ideas and strategies with Henry's ELL students!

Our Henry ELL program provides our ELL students with extra language support through effective teaching strategies in a small group or one on one setting. The amount of support that each ELL student receives varies depending on each student's individual language and literacy needs. Our ELL students do not miss out on their art, music, computer or gym specials when they receive ELL support. This year we are especially focusing on our students' writing skills. We're looking forward to a great year!

Our ELL families will also be receiving an invitation in the upcoming weeks to our Henry Family ELL Dinner Night! The dinner will be on Thursday, September 24th from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Henry gym. It's a fun evening of eating, getting to know each other, playing games and winning prizes. We hope to see each of you there!

Also, please remember that If you would like to leave a message for the school in Spanish, please call 328-7257.

Sally Amerine, Sarah Ramírez, Susan Amerman and Gloria Snyder

¡Bienvenido de nuevo! Ojalá que todos Uds hayan disfrutado las vacaciones y que estén listos para el año escolar de 2009-2010. Estamos emocionados de trabajar con alumnos conocidos y nuevos.] En los últimos meses, Sra. Amerine y Sra. Ramírez tuvieron el privilegio de recibir aún más entrenamiento y esperan con interés la utilización de algunas de las nuevas ideas y estrategias con los alumnos de ELL de Henry. (Los alumnos que están en el proceso de aprender inglés)

El programa de ELL proviene nuestros alumnos con apoyo extra de lenguaje en grupos pequeños o uno a uno. La cantidad de apoyo que recibe cada uno de los alumnos de ELL depende en sus necesidades individuales. Los alumnos de ELL no faltan sus clases especiales de arte, música, computadora o gimnasio cuando reciben su apoyo de lenguaje. Este año, nuestro enfoque particular será desarrollar las destrezas de escribir. ¡Esperamos un año excelente!

¡En las próximas semanas, las familias de nuestros alumnos de ELL recibirán una invitación para Nuestro Convivio de las Familias de ELL de Henry! El convivio se llevará a cabo el día jueves, el 24 de septiembre de 6:00 a 7:30 pm en el gimnasio de Henry. Es un tiempo bonito de conocernos, comer, jugar juegos y ganar premios. ¡Ojalá que nos veamos en esta noche especial!

También recuerden que si quieren dejar un mensaje para la escuela en español, por favor que marquen 328-7257.

Sally Amerine, Sarah Ramírez, Susan Amerman y Gloria Snyder