



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Garden Springs Elementary

Karen Borders, Principal

September 30, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

Ms. Borders' Principal Newsletter

Borders' Message

What about those CATS Scores? **105.4!** We are very proud of our students, teachers, and school for making progress! We will continue to move forward with the engaging, authentic teaching and learning going on in our classes. We will be preparing to set our goal for next year on Friday! How high can we go?

Singapore Math: Math in Focus – I would like to thank all the parents who were able to come to our Open House Informational Night. It was the first time that we offered this special night to our parents and wanted to spend time discussing some of the wonderful things happening at GSE! I hope that the website and the School to Home information sheets will provide a comfort in the concerns that some parents may have felt about the program. We need to challenge our kids to be prepared for jobs that have not been created yet! The kids are really enjoying the calendar math and you would not believe how some of the kids are understanding concepts of numbers! They are so proud of themselves too!

Accelerated Clusters: We did not get a chance to talk about the initiative for Garden Springs to meet the needs of all kids through our Accelerated Clusters. Did you know that research indicates that teachers teach to the ability level of the 23rd percentile of their class (Arlin & Westbury, 1976; see also Harlen & Malcom, 1997)? This means that the more heterogeneous the classroom the greater the disparity between the abilities of the top performing students and the level and pace of classroom instruction. It also suggests that 77% of students are being exposed to material at a pace or in a manner below what they can handle. Therefore, council made the decision to implement the accelerated cluster readiness program to support the expectation of all students who we feel can learn at high levels.

Questions about Placement--Initial placement into clusters was based on SRI test scores, MST test scores and Metropolitans (nationally standardized achievement tests). Additionally, teacher recommendations based on learning style and demonstrated ability throughout the previous school year will be considered. It must be stressed that the goal is to place each child in the cluster that will best address their readiness to handle the material. Placement will occur in the summer following each school year. We are attempting to upload additional information about the Accelerated Cluster on the PTA website. If additional information is needed, let me know by emailing Karen.Borders@fayette.kyschools.us or phone 381-3388. What a great thing happening at GSE!

Music Teacher: As some of you may know, our music/piano teacher was in a motor scooter accident last weekend. She is at the UK Hospital trying to heal 10 broken bones in her body! She will be in rehab for several weeks (6-8 weeks) and we want to wish her the best recovery ever! She thanks everyone for their thoughts and misses the children here at GSE. We have hired a long term sub to implement all the wonderful lessons Ms. Wagoner shared with her students. Her name is Brittany Horn and she comes to us with background not only in music but piano. She started Tuesday and had a wonderful time meeting

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and engaging your child in the music/piano lab. We are planning to visit Mrs. Wagoner on Thursday to go over Chorus, Piano Recitals, and schedule. You should hear more on the Chorus schedule and recitals soon!

On Their Own!

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to provide a safe learning environment for your child. We encourage and welcome you to our school; however it is important that we monitor all visitors in our building. We must keep the safety of our kids protected. Visitors to the classroom in the mornings can be hectic for a teacher trying to supervise up to 28 students. If you wish to speak to the teacher, please call the school for their planning time schedule and they will be glad to meet to discuss any concerns. Visits during instructional times are discouraged to provide the class with uninterrupted learning and focus on children. Thank you for wanting what is best for our children!

Gentle Reminders:

- We enjoy having parents eat lunch with their children however; outside restaurant foods should not be brought in for lunch.
- Thanks for making sure that when you visit our school you sign in at the office!
- Homework is an extension of learning - please encourage your child to do their best and turn their work in on time! Kids should be excited about sharing what they are learning at school!
- After-School Programs - we are asking that parents who pick their children up for an after-school program to please bring the car rider tag. All students were issued tags this year and it helps make sure our kids are safe. Thanks for understanding!
- Due to the security and safety of all students and staff - entering the building and teacher classrooms after school hours without consent of the classroom teacher will have to be denied. We encourage our students to be responsible and not to leave behind items that they may need at home before the next day.

Kids Day was a success! The kids certainly enjoyed the surprise waiting for them on Kids Day! Clifford the Big Red Dog (the kids thought it was me!) and the Bull Dog mascot greeting them as they arrived. Parents lined up as the students walked the red carpet! Decorative lunch tables and a bag of treats to show our kids - they are "Special". I would like to thank all the parents that were involved - (I mean involved - Who volunteered to wear those character outfits? Now that is commitment!) Thanks for making this day a special day for our kids!

Pencil These In... Also, thanks to our wonderful PTA - available online is an up-to-date calendar of events as well. ☺

Oct. 1 - Bull Dog Chow Night at Beef O'Grady's in Palomar 5:00-8:00 pm
Oct. 1 - 4th Grade LEGO
Oct. 1 - STLP
Oct. 2 - InnisBrook Fundraiser Ends
Oct. 5 - Performing Arts Club
Oct. 5 - 3:00 SBDM
Oct. 5 - 6:45 PTA
Oct. 6 - 3rd Grade LEGO Club
Oct. 7 - WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!
Oct. 7 - Comic Creators
Oct. 7 - Gov. Cup Acad. Team
Oct. 9 - Chess Club
Oct. 12 - Performing Arts Club
Oct. 12 - Tentative (McClellan/Newkirk Piano Recital)*
Oct. 14 - Gov. Cup Acad. Team
Oct. 14 - PTA Newsletter Distribution
Oct. 15-16 - NO SCHOOL
Oct. 19- Performing Arts Club
Oct. 19-23 - Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 19- Food Drive Begins
Oct. 20 - 3rd Grade Lego Club
Oct. 20 - Science Fair Parents' Information Night 6:00 PM Cafeteria
Oct. 21 - Comic Creators
Oct. 21 - Gov. Cup Acad. Team
Oct. 22 - 4th Grade Lego Club
Oct. 23 - Chess Club
Oct. 26 - Individual Picture Make-Up Day
Oct. 26 - Performing Arts Club
Oct. 27 - FRC Pumpkin Painting/Literacy Night 5:30-6:45 PM
Oct. 28 - Gov. Cup Acad. Team
Oct. 28 - Report Cards Go Home

Art News – Mrs. Long

We are continuing to work on the art vocabulary and incorporating the language into our projects. We are working on our "Reflection" pieces now. Students should be able to design an effective piece using a variety of media. AH-H-1-2- AH-H-4.1

We discussed and were fortunate to have the "Folk Art" traveling museum from Morehead State University on display for 2 weeks. The students learned about the purpose of folk art. Folk art is more expressive than functional, but that isn't all ways the case. The differences between rural and suburban, and the people.

Thank you,
Ms. Long

SBDM COUNCIL

The 2009-2010 members of the Garden Springs School Based Decision Making Council are: Karen Borders, principal/chair; Michelle Shreffler, primary teacher; Megan Giles, Intermediate teacher; Jennifer Clifford, Curriculum Coach; Rene VandenBerg, parent representative; Tonya Elliott, parent representative, and Bindu Sontenam, parent representative. The Council meets the first Monday of the month at 3:00 PM. If school is closed on the first Monday, the Council will meet on the following Monday. We will attempt to keep you informed of important Council issues in this Newsletter.

The Counselor's Corner

A Message from the Counselor
By, Dana Moses, MSW

Bullying Tips for Children

I will be working with your students on how to deal with bullies and harassment the month of September and part of October. In Kindergarten we will talk about teasing, while in the older grades we will be addressing bullying and harassment. I will be teaching your students techniques to deal with situations that they can use to deal with a bully. Please talk to your children about these strategies and about personal experiences that they may have already had and how they handled it, or how they could have handled it differently.

- ✓ Tell an adult (first option if someone is threatening to hurt you, others, or themselves; or if you have tried other solutions and they aren't working)
- ✓ Use your words, stick up for yourself
- ✓ Stick up for others
- ✓ Ignore them
- ✓ Walk away
- ✓ Avoid them if possible
- ✓ Tell a joke, use humor
- ✓ Give them a compliment
- ✓ Ask them why they are treating you that way (good for friendship bullying)
- ✓ Stay calm (don't give the bully the satisfaction of you being upset)
- ✓ Don't confront the bully in an isolated place
- ✓ Stand up as a group to a bully
- ✓ Change the subject

Have your children practice standing up for themselves. I have discovered that this is difficult for many children even in a controlled and pretend setting of role playing in the classroom. Share your personal experiences about bullies and harassment when you were a kid; tell your kids how you handled it and what you could have done differently. Please let us know if there is situation that we are unaware of at Garden Springs. We will not stand for bullying or harassment at our school. If are not aware of it we cannot prevent or address it!

Reminders from the Office

Parents:

Please remember to send in excuse notes to the front office. You can turn in sick notes for your children up to 3 days after the absence(s). You can also have your doctors fax notes to our main office fax at: (859) 381-3400.

If you know that your child will be sick, please call the main office at (859) 381-3388 after 7:15am. This call is just a courtesy call, and we will still need a note.

When coming to volunteer, or even to run lunch money down to the cafeteria, please sign in in the office and take a visitor's sticker/badge. This is for the safety of our children!

When turning in checks to the school, please **DO NOT send starter/counter checks**. We cannot accept these. These checks are blank in the top left hand corner and that is so you can write your name and address there while your new checking account checks are on their way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Glenda.evans@fayette.kyschools.us or Nicole.kiser@fayette.kyschools.us anytime.

The front office ☺

Mrs. Mullins' Mentionable Moments

What an exciting set of rotations it has been in the Explorium! If your child is in Kindergarten, First, or Second Grade, we know how to ask and answer simple questions in Spanish such as ¿Como te llamas? (What is your name?) ¿Como estas? (How are you?) and ¿Cuantos anos tienes ? (How are you?) We also learned the names of the Spanish fruits, how to count to 10 in Spanish, and how to tell time to the hour and half hour in Spanish.

If your child is in 3rd – 5th grade we know how to ask and answer simple questions in Spanish such as ¿Como te llamas? (What is your name?) ¿Como estas? (How are you?) and ¿Cuantos anos tienes ? (How are you?) We also learned how to count to 20 in Spanish, and tell time to the hour, half-hour, quarter hour, and minute in Spanish.

Below you will find a wish list of some items that you can send in to help with some of these projects. Also, if you would be interested in helping with some of the projects where an extra set of hands in the classroom would be helpful, you can e-mail me at Julie.mullins2@fayette.kyschools.us

dry erase markers
tempura paint
Glue
Pencils
Markers
Crayons
Colored pencils

baking powder
ribbon scraps
brad fasteners
yarn
flour
sugar
cinnamon

If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to call me 381-3388.

Until next month,
Julie Mullins
Explorium Specialist

Media Center - Ms. Castle

It's been a busy month in the Media Center! First, let me thank everyone who participated in our September Book Fair. Many thanks to the parent volunteers for their time, the teachers for their patience, and the students and families for their patronage! We set a September sales record and raised over \$2800 for the Media Center! As always, proceeds from the Book Fair will go to purchase non-fiction and reference books as well as online resources. Speaking of which, if you haven't checked out our *Britannica Online Student Edition* at <http://www.school.eb.com/> --USERNAME *gardensprings*; PASSWORD *bulldogs*—(or enter without login through our library web page at <http://www.gardensprings.fcps.net/library/default.htm>) then please give it a try. If your student is looking for information for class work, a project or a report, this database will help them easily find what they are looking for in organized, child-friendly text.

The library is also sponsoring two new reading programs beyond Accelerated Reader. This year we are participating in the *Kentucky Bluegrass Awards* and competing with James Lane Allen Elementary to see who can read the most quality children's books. We will also be competing against about 20 other district elementary schools in the *Battle of the Books*, a voluntary reading program for grades 3-5 that promotes the reading and discussion of outstanding children's literature.

Also, the AR store will be opening soon and with all this reading going on we are going to need to stock up! If you have cleaned out your children's closets, drawers, toy boxes etc. and have found lots of outgrown toys, knick knacks, beads, purses, balls, games, etc... we would love to have any new or gently used items for our store. The children love to shop with their AR points and we love it that they are reading!

During our time in the library, students have been introduced to the quality literature in the above programs and for the next month K-1 students will be focusing on the parts of the book and print motivation (EL-P-FF-S-1a).

Grades 2-5 students will continue to learn/review library organization, using the OPAC (Library online catalog) and online research and resources (EL-P-DIU-S-8, T-P-RIPSI-S-R2, PL-P-PW-S-PPH1).