October 3, 2012

Wildcat World News

OUR MISSION:
To provide an exemplary education for all students to become productive participants in our community.

OUR VISION:
West Newton Elementary School will continue to be a high performing school where all are motivated to make a difference in the school community.

Principal’s Reflections

Dear Parent(s),

We are in our third month of school and everything is going well. Our students will take the benchmark assessment this month in the areas of reading, math, science, and social studies. Please encourage your child to do his/her best each day.

Parents if you have made a $10 donation to the school this year, I would like to personally thank you. We have collected $1144.00 as of October 1st. Our goal is to collect $5000. It is not too late to give.

Our fall festival will take place October 12, from 5pm to 7pm. We are preparing for a fun filled event. We will have activities for every age group. Parents, please purchase armbands and meal tickets in advance. Armbands are $10 per child and $5 for each additional child. Meal tickets are $3 for a hotdog and $3 for pizza.

Parent conferences will be held during the week of October 15. It is important that you sign up for a time to conference with your child’s teacher. In order to fully support your child you need to know what strengths and weaknesses they have in all academic areas.

It is Hispanic Heritage Month and we will celebrate during the week of October 15. We will have a student performance on October 18.

As always, parents we appreciate your continued support.

Dr. Takila Curry
Principal

Counselor’s Corner

During the month of October our focus will be on alcohol and drug abuse prevention. We will celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 22nd - October 26th. The Elks Lodge will present a drug awareness puppet show for grades K-2 on Monday, October 22nd. On Thursday, October 25th, we will have a school wide assembly. The NED Show is an all-school assembly program, designed to promote positive attitudes, better behavior and improve academic achievement through character education. The primary focus of the show will be drug and alcohol prevention and bullying. The acronym NED stands for Never give up, Encourage others, Do your best. Students will have the opportunity to purchase yo-yos and other products after the show and before school in the front lobby for one week following the show. We will present a character parade on Friday, October 26th. This will emphasize our Red Ribbon Week theme “Parade Good Character”. Students are encouraged to dress like their favorite fairy tale character. Please, no Halloween costumes.

Maria Moore
School Counselor

Pre-K

It is pumpkin season, so a lot of the skills that we will be working on will be centered on this big orange vegetable. We’ll use our five senses when we open the pumpkin and see what is inside of it. Then, of course, we’ll have to feel the pulp. Smelling and tasting come next as we make pumpkin pudding.

We’ll continue working on identifying the letters of the alphabet and learning their sounds. Please work on this at home, too. Also, please help your child learn his/her birth date (month, day, and year). Thank you for all you do.

The Pre-K Team

K

We’re “falling” into learning in Kindergarten!

In Phonics, we will continue to identify our letters and sounds, as well as blend letter sounds to read and write words. We will focus on the letters N, S, P, G, and O. Please continue to review the letters and sounds we have learned previously. In Reading, we will focus on predicting, inferring, sequencing (beginning, middle and end), summarizing stories, and recognizing similarities and differences. We are learning about the roles the characters and settings play in the stories we read too. In Language Arts, the students will continue learning to write meaningful sentences. You can help by reminding your child that all sentences begin with a capital letter, make sense, and end with the correct punctuation mark.

In Math, we will continue to identify our numbers to 30, count to 100 by 1’s and 10’s, compare sets to determine greater/more, fewer/less, and equal/same. At home, continue to work on forming letters & numbers correctly, mastery of letters/sounds, number recognition, and high frequency words (Lists 1-4). Students should be practicing writing their first and last names at home as well as stating their names, phone numbers and addresses. Please don’t forget to sign and return the agenda, homework and reading log each day. Thanks!

The Kindergarten Team

First Grade Team

Parents, thank you for all that you do to help our First grade students! Here are a few quick reminders to help your students continue to do well in the First Grade:

• Check homework folder daily. The home work folder is sent home every Monday.
• Practice spelling words at home nightly.
• Model correct handwriting and sentence writing skills at home daily.
• Practice sight words nightly to help improve reading fluency.
• Allow your child to read to you nightly. After he or she reads to you, ask them questions about the story elements (setting, character, and sequence of events) of the book they read.
• Practice helping your child identify numbers 1-150 in random order.

1st Grade Team

SECOND GRADE Prowl!!

Things are moving quickly in second grade. On October 23, 2012 we will be taking a field trip to the Fox Theater to see Junie B. Jones. Please make plans for your child to attend. Since this is a learning field trip, we want each child to attend.

In reading, we are incorporating science as we read The Magic School Bus: Lost in Space. Please help us by encouraging your child to observe the moon and its different phases. Students should be able to identify and model the new moon, full moon, and first and last month. Continue to have your child practice sight words and read for 20 minutes each night. Our school is participating in Accelerated Reader and each student needs to take 2 AR tests each week.

In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction. Students should know facts fluently which means they should be able to answer within 3 seconds without counting on fingers. Please practice facts nightly so we can all reach our goal.

Second Grade Teachers

Third Grade Parents

Dear 3rd Grade Parents,

We will begin to work on Multiplication soon. Please study multiplication facts with your student regularly. In science, we have recently started our unit on magnets and will be conducting lots of experiments. Students will also start our American Heroes unit for Social Studies. Be sure to check homework folders daily for assignments and communication from teachers. Remember to have your student read daily for at least 20 minutes and review the reading skill for the week with them.

Thanks,

Third Grade Team

THE FOURTH GRADE TIMES

Fourth graders have completed the book Who is Neil Armstrong and are looking forward to our next novel. Studying the Solar System and Native Americans has been our focus for science and social studies. In math we have
been working diligently to master place value and rounding. Our next topics will be fractions, early explorers and weather. Please talk with your child daily about what they are reading and studying in school. One of the best ways to ensure they understand is by talking about what they are reading and studying. Students should read at least 20 minutes each night and practice math facts on a daily basis. Together we can help our students be successful fourth graders!

**Fourth Grade Team**

**Fabulous Fifth Grade News**
The Fifth Grade is well underway as we closeout the first quarter. In English Language Arts we continue to familiarize the students with vocabulary enhancement, comprehension in various genres, daily writing prompts, and spelling. We will conclude our *Stolen Away Home* novel study and continue to incorporate various informational articles that teach across the curriculum. As always, please be note that it is our expectation that students are reading for at least 20 minutes each night at home.

Our Math lessons are centered on practicing all basic operations with whole numbers and decimals. We take the students to the next level by using problems solving skills and tasks. The students are journaling their thought processes as we learn new skills, which allows them to express their own personal understanding. We would greatly appreciate your help in seeing that your student is fluent in their multiplication facts through 12.

We are presently focusing on the Earth’s changing landforms in Science. We have been learning the terminology, using the Active Boards, and creating various tasks to check for student understanding. We will start a unit on physical and chemical changes this month.

In Social Studies we have just completed units on the Civil War and Reconstruction. Our next unit is titled *A Changing Nation*. In this unit we will focus on immigration, industrialization, cattle trails, The Spanish American War, and the various inventions that took place in the early 20th century. We look forward to continuing on this journey of learning with this exceptional group of kids.

**Fifth Grade Team**

**Music**
Our music program has started strong at West Newton this year. Our fourth grade students composed a school song. You can view the students performing the song on our school website or go to Youtube and type in West Newton school song.

**T. White-Music Teacher**

**Special Education Team**

Did you know that technological innovations can help level the playing field for students with special needs and enable your child to succeed in the general education classroom? There are a multitude of programs that can assist students with special needs to succeed and achieve academic success. One such program is a word processing program. When using a word processing program, students are more willing to edit their work and to make necessary corrections than on handwritten drafts. This also alleviates frustration of accurate spelling. Most word processing programs are equipped with a built-in spell checker which allows the students to concentrate on content. There are many other programs available to assist your child with special needs to excel in school. Ask your child’s teacher for more details.

**Special Education Team**

PE
We are having an exciting year! Please continue to encourage your children to exercise and spend time getting daily physical activity. It is so important that they exercise or play for at least one hour a day. “Those who think they have no time for exercise will eventually have to make time for illness.” –Edward Stanley

Mr. Matthews

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**T. White-Music Teacher**

**Important Dates**

October 1- 19 - Benchmark 1  
October 12 - Fall Festival 5pm-7pm  
October 15 - Early Voting Begins in Georgia  
October 15-19 - Hispanic Heritage Month celebration  
October 15-18 - Parent Conferences  
October 18 - Report Cards issued!!!  
October 18 - Hispanic Heritage Program- 6:30pm  
October 19 - Early Release/Parent Conferences  
Oct 22-26 - Red Ribbon Week  
October 22 - PK-2 Puppet Show  
October 26 - Character Parade  
October 31 - Halloween (No costume allowed at school)  

**Congratulations to our Staff Members of the Month**

*Nikkeshia Mills*  
*Rhonda Jackson*  

**Boone**

**Norris**

**Johnson**

**Boone**

**Boone**

**Foster**

**Boone**

**Foster**

**Norris**

**Boone**

**Boone**

**Boone**

**Boone**