



Can you believe your little one has finished their first month of Pre-K? We understand how hard it has been to let go, but we hope we have made the transition a little easier. Pre-K is a

wonderful year in which your child will grow, mature, and gain a wealth of knowledge... and in doing so, have a great time. In fact, at times they truly won't even realize they are learning, and that's the wonderful part. This month our theme was "All About Me and My School." Next month we will begin the theme "The World Around Us." Please help your child write his or her name with

an initial capital letter followed by lowercase letters. If your child is having trouble using a pencil, have them use a salt tray and their fingers. The key is to make it fun, and they will learn!



Speech Spotlight

The children enrolled in speech therapy are currently participating in speech and language testing to determine their current levels of functioning. We are delighted to see some of our students from last year return, and we are ready to begin work with our new students.

Listed below are some suggestions for stimulating your child's speech and language skills at home:

*Talk to your child. Your child learns words by hearing you talk.

*Read books to your child. Talk about "who" is in the book and "what" they are doing.

*Be a good example. They need to hear you speak clearly and in complete sentences.

*Sing and listen to CDs. Children gain many new word meanings through singing songs.

*Give spoken directions. Start with one direction

When your child is able to understand one direction, add another. (Example: "Go to the table, and get a tissue.")

The speech therapists at NWES want parents to know that talking and listening times should be fun. -----

-----Christie Aguillard, and Leah Rettig

Counselor's Corner

The school counselors at Northwestern Elementary this year are Dana Vicellio and Debra Haynes. They will see your children twice a month for guidance lessons. This year the students will again be learning about the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. New technology and software purchased with a grant will be used with the students. Power Point presentations will be presented on the following topics: friendship, feelings, anger control, success in school, bullying, manners, forgiveness, test-taking

tips, and self-esteem. The counselors also do individual and small group counseling and will be using some new interactive software with the children. If you have a concern about your child or would like to sign them up for individual or small group counseling, please contact the counselors at 654-2786.

PE News

P.E. is off to a great start! We are looking forward to this year and are planning some wonderful activities to get all our bodies healthy and moving. We will be incorporating the "Smart Bodies" Program into our K and 1st grades curriculum. This program is partnered with the LSU Ag Center and Blue Shield of Louisiana. For more information, visit it's website at www.smartbodies.org. We are also planning a Wellness Night and will invite all the Zachary community to come out and "get smart, get healthy' and get moving". We hope to see all of you at this event. Any one who wishes to volunteer, please contact Coach Burrell or Coach Simoneaux. We wish all a healthy and successful year!

Extra, extra: read all about it!

In addition to regular class activities students are enjoying computer lab, physical education, Spanish, library and music classes. The students are learning new computer skills, games, and exercises in computer lab and PE. The students are learning how to say words and greetings in Spanish class. In library and music classes we are enjoying many stories and songs. Remember, reading everyday to your child

will help to increase attention span and language skills.

Parents can order birthday posters for \$10.00. Students can bring these posters home as a keepsake to remind them of their wonderful years at NWE. Forms are available at the office.

The Scholastic bookfair and first AR nights will be held in October this year. These events are scheduled for the week of October 5-9, 2009. If you would like to volunteer for book fair, your help would

be greatly appreciated!

Interested persons can contact the school librarian by sending an email to gay.bankston@zacharyschools.org or by calling 654-2786.

Please help support our school by recycling! We are collecting old cell phones and ink cartridges to be recycled for profit for our school. We also participate in the "Box Tops for Education" and "Community Coffee for Cash" programs. Please save these labels for us. Thank you for your support!



Our school days have been wonderful so far!! I know the beginning of school can be just as exciting for parents as it is for the children. You just can't wait for them to get off the bus and ask them that all important question, "What did you do today?" So

often you are let down by the response, "Nothing." Well, first grade teachers can tell you that these first few weeks of school your first grader's days have been filled with "nothing" but wonderful activities and chances to learn. You should be very proud of your child. We have read lots of stories, written in our journals, and learned how to write a sentence correctly. We have practiced sorting and making lots of different patterns and graphs. The children enjoyed exploring

the five senses. We also learned about the importance of respecting the learning of others and of ourselves. All of our first graders take responsibility for being the "best learner they can be". We are looking forward to many more days filled with fun and learning. We consider it a privilege to teach your children and we thank you for sharing them with us.



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September 2009

Important Dates

September 4 – Free Dress

September 7 – Labor Day Holiday

September 10 –Papers go home

September 24 –Papers go home



FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you to our parents, faculty/staff, community helpers, school board staff and students for a phenomenal opening

of the school year. We began something new this year with our Parent Orientation and Meet and Greet. We were very pleased with the response and cooperation of everyone involved in making each event very successful.

We have initiated some new programs this year that we are confident will result in improved academic and social skills. We have teamed with the LSU Agricultural Center to participate in the Smart Bodies Program which will help our students and parents learn more about promoting healthy lifestyle choices. Our Wellness Night is scheduled in October.

We have implemented a school-wide social skills shaping program. The program is designed to assist teachers in behavior and social skill instruction. Socially appropriate behavior must be taught in the same manner that we address academic areas (reading, math, etc.) Our ultimate goal is to not only strive for academic excellence, but also to assist students in being well-rounded and respectful. It is our intent to reinforce **positive behavior**. I am proud to say that we are noticing a substantial decrease in negative behavior and an increase in instructional time on task. As we implement this program, we will be making modifications as needed to best meet the needs of our students at Northwestern Elementary. Parental input is always important to us. Please feel free to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns about the program.

As always, thank you so much for your support.



We welcome you to Northwestern Elementary. Kindergarten is off to a great start. This year we have a total of

18 classes of kindergarten children. We have been busy learning school rules and our daily classroom procedures. We are making many new friends and having a wonderful time.

If you have not already done so, please be reminded to pay the \$45.00 kindergarten fee as

well as the \$10.00 field trip T-shirt fee. Thank you for your help and cooperation in this matter. We know this is going to be a fantastic year for your child. They will grow, learn, and mature so much during this wonderful time of their lives.