



Marion Earl Elementary School News



March 2015



A Message from Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy March, Eagles! The Smarter Balanced Assessment is approaching! Students in grades 3-5 will take this assessment. Look out for a schedule to be sent home in the next two weeks. It is very important that your child be in attendance on those dates. Included with the schedule will be ways to help prepare your child to succeed on this assessment. Although this assessment is taken in grades 3-5, all of our teachers contribute to our students' success. We work together as a team to ensure students receive top quality instruction. Remember, this assessment measures what students have learned since kindergarten.

As we prepare our students for the Smarter Balanced Assessment we must remember the purpose of this high stakes assessment. This assessment measures what students have learned and reports this data to the Nevada Department of Education. This data is then used to determine our school's rating and to make other important decisions about education in Clark County. Teachers also use this data to help our students create educational goals.

When discussing this assessment with your children, please reinforce that we want them to try their best. We want our students to be comfortable (not anxious or nervous), but we want them to approach this test with a serious mind set. Most importantly we want them to be prepared to succeed. As always, confidence is key!

Our teachers have prepared students by providing them with engaging whole group lessons, worthwhile tasks at an appropriate amount of challenge, small group instruction, one-on-one instruction, and by building positive relationships with students. Many students participated in after school tutoring in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. We are also excited to offer two free weekend "Boot Camp" sessions where students will practice skills needed to succeed.

Teachers have also ensured that students have practiced the assessment. In order to succeed students must understand the format of the assessment. Online testing is new to students, so we must expose them to the practice tests. You can find these practice tests at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/> Just click on the green box towards the bottom of the screen titled "Student interface." With help from both home and at school, our children will be best prepared.

Parents who have students in kindergarten through second grade can also prepare their students. Typing is an essential lifelong skill. Since the assessment is online, students will need to know how to type efficiently. There are a variety of learning to type websites online. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr> is a fun and engaging website that you may want to check out.

Thank you for your continued support! We cannot wait to see how our students perform! You make Marion Earl SHINE!

Thank you for your continued support!

Belinda Schauer, Principal

Constantine Christopulos, Assistant Principal

Important Reminders

Attendance– Attendance matters! While we understand students who are ill should stay home, we want to stress the importance of daily attendance. When a child is not in attendance, he/she is not learning. Coming to school late also interrupts learning not only for your child but for the other children in the classroom. Please assist your child in making it to school on time!

Infinite Campus Online Registration- In order to register your child for the 2015-2016 school year, you MUST have an Infinite Campus account. All registration will be done by parents via Infinite Campus.

Marion B. Earl Elementary

6650 West Reno Ave.

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

Phone: 702-799-8181

Fax: 702-799-8188

News From Our Specialists

The Art Room- Mrs. Devine's class

February was African American History Month and we celebrated in art in various ways. Students learned about the history of jazz and the inspiration it gave to many visual artists like Miro, Kandinsky, and Matisse. They created jazzy abstract paintings experimenting with different brushstrokes and the movement of lines and shapes, also adding knowledge about color intensity and values. The younger artists in grades K through 2nd also created their own jazz series of collages a la Henri Matisse, their whimsical compositions being full of rhythm and spontaneity. Anticipating the NV Reading Week, students listened to stories inspired by the accomplishments of the African American community and illustrated them in intricate realistic pop-up artworks. We cannot wait to show them off in March, right in time for celebrating reading.



Physical Education- Mr. Pfeil & Mr. Lopez, Aide

In P.E. we not only teach skills and activities, we also try to help establish healthy habits for our students. One of these habits is prevention of spreading germs. Each week, we see over 700 students, and they all come twice in a week. That is over 1,400 we see every 5 days! Keeping this in mind, we always remind students to keep their fingers out of their mouths and noses. Every piece of equipment that a student uses is probably used by hundreds of other students in that week. If every student (especially our Kindergarten and 1st grade students) did a better job with hygiene then we may all be a little healthier. Parents, please talk to your children about keeping hands clean and out of mouths and noses!

Music- Dr. Stein

The third grade class of Marion Earl Elementary School IS the Choir for the upcoming production of... "Alice In Wonderland"! It will be presented May 20 and May 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in our Multi-Purpose room. Tickets will go on sale May 4th.

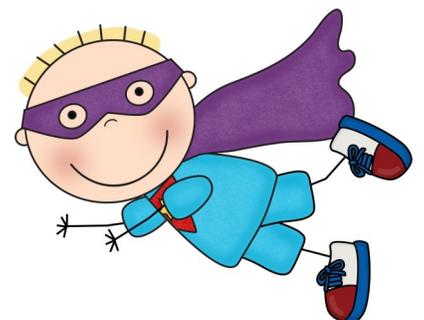
The Choir will be the Card Soldiers. The Cast is made up of one or more representatives from each of my Music Classes.

The Orff Festival is March 14th. The concert will be presented at Ham Hall at UNLV. Ten of our fifth grade students are participating, along with 250 other students from around our district. Everyone is invited to attend. Tickets are on sale at the UNLV Box office. They are 2 dollars per/person. The concert begins at 7 pm.

See you there...

Library- Mrs. Esposito and Mrs. Selleck, Aide

It's the start of March--do you know what that means? The start of Nevada Reading Week! For the past thirty years, the schools in Nevada have set aside one week of the school year to participate in a variety of reading-themed activities to promote Literacy. The purpose of this week is to encourage a love of reading by giving children opportunities to read and be read to, activities and competitions to engage both avid and reluctant readers, and theme-related experiences involving both the school and the community. We encourage you and your child to enjoy all of the fun-filled activities that Nevada Reading Week has to offer! Be a Superhero....Read! ~Mrs Esposito



National Elementary Honor Society: February News

Lisa Ajemian, Rochelle Graves, & Hadassa Lefkowitz, Co-Advisors

Spring is in the air...or at least it will be soon, and we are anxiously awaiting all of the applications for our new NEHS candidates to be returned. There were so many 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students whose academic performance and citizenship merited their receiving an application to join the Marion Earl National Elementary Honor Society. We are so proud of you! Once your applications are completed and returned, they will be reviewed. Shortly thereafter you will receive an official letter of acceptance and an invitation to participate in the official NEHS Induction Ceremony, which will take place next month. This is so exciting!

For all our current members, get ready to **rock out** to **SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK** on our field trip this month to the Smith Center! Like back in the good old days... let's get dressed up in our finest as we head to the theater for a spectacular musical event! The teachers grew up with School House Rock... so if you hear us singing along... join in!

Thank you to all our students who came out and worked to make our second Farmers Market a tremendous success! We sold out in record time and made over \$50.00! Way to go NEHS! Your efforts in helping our Garden of Earl grow are appreciated very much! Keep up the great community service and keep track of your hours!

Stay tuned next month and see what is blooming... in NEHS!

G.A.T.E. and T.A.G.S. Update!

Hadassa Lefkowitz, G.A.T.E. Specialist

Spring is almost upon us and we have accomplished so much thus far in 2015! Our students completed their President Trading Card Project, and through a lengthy and in depth tournament, determined who our most valuable presidents are, and generated their own personal budgets, based on the future career of their choice! Some of them have mastered the challenge of learning where all the states and capitals are located on the map of the United States! It's been a busy couple of months!

March is going to be packed full of our units on Arts Abound" Our students are going to research the pop artist of their choice, present their information in a PowerPoint presentation, and then as a final touch... create their own work of art in the style of their artist! Get ready to frame some amazing masterpieces!

From there we will move into music, drama, and literature! Stay tuned for some very creative activities over the next two months!

If you have any questions, please feel free to come and meet with me at school! I am here every day except Wednesday, and would love to meet with you either before or after school. You are always welcome to share in your student's G.A.T.E. / T.A.G.S. classroom experience. Please make arrangements in advance to do so! Remember... G8ISGR8!

Please send all Box Tops to Ms. Ajemian! All money earned helps support our Eagle Chip Store.

February

Students of the

Month

Reece Galgana- Ms. Keltz

Dillon Wills- Ms. Johnson

Zachery Dublin- Ms. Yacobovich

Aubree Gilmore- Ms. Barrow

Joseph Martens- Ms. Rom

Gino Goode- Ms. Sullivan

Amar Zahirovic- Ms. Reed

Nick Georgiev- Ms. King

Elliott Murch- Ms. Williams

Nico Mongiello- Ms. Brock

Kobe Delos Reyes- Dr. Fuller

Jeffrey Pantoja-Dr. Singson

Gino Goode- Ms. Sullivan

Eja Scott- Ms. Daniel

Madalyn Gill- Mr. Nguyen

Victoria Kolea Mahiai- Ms. Boyadzhyan

Anthony Nguyen- Ms. Johns

Anthony Pehrson- Mr. Marhenke

Ananda Donahue- Ms. Strano

Fanny Liu- Ms. Barrios

Tiffany Taylor- Ms. Hardesty

Tessie Mahiai- Ms. DeBenedittis

Dodge Dalke- Ms. Flores

Lana Vladic- Ms. Lynn

Rhamiya Joseph- Ms. Szczubiala

Anahy Lizaola- Ms. Varrato

Tiyonna Phung- Ms. Sorensen

Jackson Rieckman- Ms. Borreggine

Andrea Piedra- Ms. Pfeil

Isreal Solomon- Ms. Ringer

News From the Health Office



Tips to Get Your Child to Wear Their Glasses

For some children having glasses is a significant psychological adjustment. Providing assistance may make this process a positive one. Trying some of the following ideas may help.

- Have your child participate in the selection of the frames.
- Select frames that look good on your child. If your child thinks they enhance their appearance they will be more likely to wear them.
- Point out role models in their life that wear glasses. (Our own principal wears glasses!)
- Emphasize the benefits of wearing glasses and encourage your child to ignore negative statements.
- Discuss the use of glasses with the classroom teacher. Discuss when they should be worn and when they may be removed.



MARCH 2015



Literacy tutoring is held on Monday and Tuesday from 3:21-4:30 p.m. Math tutoring is held on Wednesday and Thursday from 3:21-4:30 p.m. The last day of tutoring is March 26, 2015. Smarter Balanced Boot Camp is on March 7 and March 14, from 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Students who signed up in advance will attend.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 NEVADA READING WEEK! FREE DRESS DAYS!	3 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m. Room 82	4 PTA Meeting at 3:30 in the Art Room	5 NEHS Meeting at 8:20 am	6 Pre-K Family Engagement Day 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
9	10 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m.	11 F-Troop Meeting at Lawrence MS 9:30 am	12	13
16	17 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m.	18	19	20
23	24 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m.	25	26	27 Reminder...Check your child's grades on Infinite Campus

March 2015



Kindergarten News

Ms. DeBenedittis, Dr. Fuller, Ms. King, Ms. Reed,
Ms. Ringer, and Ms. Yacubovich

**“Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.”
-Maya Angelou**

A Message from Kindergarten Teachers:

We have been busy in Kindergarten celebrating Ground Hog's Day, 100 days in school, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, Chinese New Year, and we even had a visit from the Tooth Fairy! The kindergarten students are beginning to demonstrate all of the knowledge and skills they have learned this year by participating in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies projects. We are very proud of them.

Students are mastering their knowledge of letter names and sounds through reading on-level texts, writing spelling words, and writing complete sentences. Students should be able to write four complete sentences by the end of the year including beginning each sentence with a capital letter and ending with correct punctuation.

Reading with your child is the very best way for your child to become a good reader! Thank you so much for taking the time to read with them. Ask them how they felt about the story, what did it remind them of, how did the characters feel in the story and why do they think the characters felt that way. Having children connect to the story is a great way for them to comprehend the story.

In math we are working on comparing numbers and having a confident understanding of the relationship of numbers. Students should be able to begin counting from any number and should at least know what number comes before and after each number from 1-20. We will continue to work on addition and subtraction.

Remember to access the Marion Earl website at www.schools.ccsd.net/marionearl. There are many resources to help your child succeed in learning at school and at home! Thank you for working with your child at home. If we partner together in their learning, they are ensured a successful transition to first grade!

Are you teaching your child to make good choices?

Schools teach students about respect, but it's parents who have the most influence on how respectful kids become.

To instill respect, tell your child to:

- **Practice the Golden Rule.** How does your child want to be treated? That's how she should treat others.
- **Speak politely.** Your child should say kind things and use good manners. Avoid inappropriate language and mean comments.
- **Appreciate diversity.** All people deserve fair treatment, no matter what makes them an individual —age, race, beliefs and more.
- **Resolve conflicts peacefully.** Encourage your child to express feelings with “I statements,” not blame. “I was angry when you borrowed my pencil without asking.”
- **Distinguish right from wrong.** Talk to your child about values such as honesty, courage, generosity and learning from mistakes. Talk about how to respond when others are being disrespectful.
- **Respect herself.** Self-respect is the foundation for respecting others. Help your child take pride in her skills, accomplishments and good decisions.

Source: “My Child's Academic Success: What Does ‘Strong Character’ Mean?” U.S. Department of Education, niswc.com/character_mean



The Nevada Department Education's website contains information about our standards.

<http://www.doe.nv.gov/>



Below is the CCSD's parent information website address. This page contains information and answers to questions you may have. It also contains information about the Nevada Academic Content Standards.

www.ccsd.net/parents

March 2015



First Grade News

Ms. Barrow, Ms. Brock, Ms. Rom, Ms. Sullivan,
Ms. Varrato, and Ms. Williams

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-Maya Angelou**

A Message from First Grade Teachers:

We are writing paragraphs! First grade writers will be practicing writing five sentence paragraphs. We have been learning how to introduce our topic with a main idea sentence, use three detail sentences about our topic, and close our paragraph with a conclusion sentence.

We have learned so much our first semester. During our second semester we are getting ready for second grade. New standards will be introduced in language arts and math.

The beginning of the second semester brings new math concepts to first grade. We will be learning about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes in Geometry. Telling time to the hour and half-hour will be presented. We will be learning about measurement using standard and non-standard units. Furthermore, we will be using tables and graphs to interpret data.

Spring break will be March 28th – April 5th. This is a great time for your first grader to be practicing skills at home that are taught in school. Go to our school web-site at <http://schools.ccsd.net/marionearl/>.

Math standards can be practiced on IXL and Math Facts in a Flash (located in Renaissance Place). Your child can read at home on their own level at Raz-Kids.com. Lexia is a great program that can be downloaded at home for your child to work on phonics skills. First grade teachers have seen a lot of growth in children that are supplementing their education at home with these programs!

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Second Grade News

Ms. Borreggine, Ms. Crooks, Ms. Hein,
Ms. Garner-Barrios, and Ms. Pfeil

**“Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.”
-Maya Angelou**

A Message from Second Grade Teachers:

Spring is fast approaching, and there's still so much to learn in 2nd grade!

In Language Arts students have been reading fairy tales. We have learned how this particular subcategory of folktales got its name and the elements of a fairy tale. We have been reading different versions of the classic tale The Three Little Pigs and comparing them.

In science we are continuing to explore the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. Our next unit will be on Weather and Air.

In Social Studies we have studied culture and immigration to the U.S. We discussed the impact on the U.S. and the people that moved here. We culminated the unit by doing interviews. You can see their reports on the wall in the hallway.

In math we are working on place value, counting groups of ten, modeling three digit numbers, and time. Time is still difficult for many of the students, so give them lots of practice at home reading a clock face.

Math facts study, reading good books, and writing in a journal will strengthen all 2nd grade skills.

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March 2015



Third Grade News

Ms. Boyadzhyan, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Johns,
Ms. Sorensen, and Ms. Strano

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-Maya Angelou**

A Message from Third Teachers:

Third grade is early getting ready for the Smarter Balanced Assessment! We will begin our testing block in mid-March. At school, we will have "SBAC Academy" to reteach and enrich students' understanding of common core skills to help them be more successful during testing.

Your child is hard at work researching a person of importance in History. They will create a power point presentation to aid in computer and technology skills. They are very excited about learning these new skills! Encourage your child to show you their final research project.

Please assist/allow your child to use a variety of resources such as the internet and sites like IXL and RazKids to enhance their understanding. Also give them opportunities to use reading and multiplication skills to make connections to the world.

We want to "thank you" for all your support in your child's education.

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Fourth Grade News

Ms. Keltz, Ms. Lynn, Mr. Nguyen, and Dr. Singson

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-Maya Angelou

A Message from Fourth Grade Teachers:

This month 4th grade will be doing a variety of exciting and fun activities. In reading, we will be focusing on determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, including those that allude to significant characters in mythology. In math, we will be working hard on a Measurement Unit. We will also be creating narrative compositions in writing. In social studies, our primary focus will be Nevada’s settlers and the gold rush. In science, we will be exploring various types of cycles in nature. These are some of the riveting highlights of this month. Please remember to read and review multiplication facts with your child daily.

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Fifth Grade News

Ms. Flores, Ms. Hardesty, Ms. Logan, and Ms. Szczubiala

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-Maya Angelou**

News from Ms. Szczubiala, Ms. Flores, and Ms. Hardesty:

This month in Mrs. Hardesty's math class the students are learning how to multiply fractions. Various strategies such as area models and the standard algorithm are being utilized so students are able to gain a deeper understanding. We will be moving into exploring the volume of objects and how it is calculated.

In Ms. Flores' class, students are reviewing figurative language. We are incorporating 5th grade science and writing standards, researching biomes, and writing a research paper. We are preparing for the SBAC test.

In Mrs. Szczubiala's class, we have been working on physical science and have been exploring mixtures, solutions, and chemical reactions.

Ms. Logan's class is currently learning about mixtures and solutions, and we are experimenting with how they are different, as well as with density of solutions. We are beginning a quick research assignment on our favorite animal. We are writing opinion essays and learning to edit using the CUPS strategy. In math we are adding and subtracting fractions, multiplying fractions with whole numbers, and learning how to model those fractions and numbers. We are learning map skills, and where places are in the United States. We are still using a computer program called 'Moby Max', which gives students lots of practice on skills at the level they need. We have recently added **ReadyTest A-Z** and **Frontrowed.com**, which can help students prepare for the new SBAC test for this year. All these program supports can be accessed through our Marion Earl Website. I especially encourage students to practice from home, as it gives students lots of opportunity to practice skills and standards.

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Garden of Earl ~ Blooming News!

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Hadassa Lefkowitz, Garden Committee, Chairperson

This winter has played some funny tricks on the vegetables in our Garden of Earl! Fortunately we had some pretty warm days which allowed our vegetables to remain in the soil a bit longer than intended so they could grow a bit more. This allowed us to have a really nice harvest and successful Farmer's Market last month!

Since our last harvest, our second grade classes have helped to remove all the old crops and prepare our soil for our new seeds. They really got down and dirty, digging out the roots and tilling the soil. Our first grade classes will prepare furrows in the soil and plant seed tapes filled with arugula, lettuce, and radishes for us to harvest in just a few short weeks! Stop by the Garden of Earl and watch the new crops begin to sprout up! We still have spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, and onions growing bigger each day!



The Garden of Earl is truly our Marion Earl Community Garden! We would love for you to participate in helping to expand our garden for everyone to enjoy and make it an extraordinary outdoor classroom! If you would like to be a part of this wonderful project, please let us know.

More news will be sprouting soon, so keep your eyes and ears planted open!

Good News Club



Good News Clubs emphasizes character development such as kindness, honesty, and respect for authority. We do this from a Biblical perspective because we know God can make a difference in the lives of the children and their families. During the club hour children will receive a snack, sing songs, learn a memory verse, hear a missionary story, play games, and hear a Bible lesson. It is a fun-packed interactive hour of learning that meets every Tuesday from 3:21-4:30 in portable #83. For more information, please contact Jaymie Cutting at jcutting@interact.ccsd.net. To attend this club, parent permission is required.



PTA Newsletter Info



March 2015

Hello to all of our Marion Earl Parents and Students!

Thank you to all who purchased Valentine Hearts during our February Fundraiser! We know that the students were all very excited to see hearts with their names displayed in the Multi-Purpose Room. They certainly added a festive feel to our school!! Remember, without support of our fundraisers, we would not be able to continue moving forward with our terrific and exciting events!! Thank you again!

Please be reminded that orders for the Spring Fundraiser (cookie, dough, tote bags, etc.) will need to be turned into the school by March 3, 2015. The fulfilled orders will be available after school at Marion Earl for pick up on March 26, 2015.

Yearbooks are still on sale and can now be purchased for \$25.00. Please be advised that we usually do not order extra copies of the yearbooks, so if you are planning on buying one, please send your order to the Front Office. **Please note that the final due date for ordering your Yearbooks is March 27, 2015!** You can use the attached order form for your convenience.

Please note that we will now be holding Monthly PTA meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. We hope that holding monthly meetings will make it easier for more parents to attend. We could really use more volunteers and ideas for fun activities so please plan to come and give your suggestions. We hope to see you there!

Yearbook Sales

It is time to purchase your Yearbook for 2014 - 2015
Cost: \$20.00

Student Name: _____ Date _____

Teacher Name: _____ Room Number _____

I would like to purchase _____ Yearbooks

I have included payment totaling \$ _____ (CASH ONLY)

(Please include exact change. PTA does not keep change on hand)