



Marion Earl Elementary School News

February 2015

A Message from Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy February Eagle Families! As the year moves forward, it is important to reflect and prepare...

Reflecting on School Goals– As we enter the second semester we should take time to reflect upon our school goals. For now, let's reflect upon our first school-wide goal: to increase the amount of students reading at or above grade level. Here are a handful of things we have done as a team to accomplish this goal.

- Collectively as a school, we implemented a word wall to teach our students enriching vocabulary.
- At the beginning of the year, teachers provided reading materials to students and families to stress the importance of reading (Readers Make Leaders).
- Students needing additional assistance are being provided with after school tutoring.
- Our teachers have been working hard to assist students in creating reading goals and to provide students with lessons that challenge their needs.
- Parents have been visiting the public library for reading materials.
- Parents have also utilized Infinite Campus to check their child's progress.
- Students are practicing reading at home for at least 20 minutes.
- Parents and students are also discussing the books they read at home.

I have faith that together, working as a team, our children will meet this goal. How else are you helping your child meet this goal? We would love to hear from you! Send a quick note to Mr. C detailing how you help your child meet this school goal.

Preparing for Testing– Testing Season has started. Our identified English Language Learners in grades K-5 will take the WIDA assessment this month. This assessment measures English proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Second grade students are currently being testing for the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. If selected, students will receive pull out services with a G.A.T.E. specialist, starting in third grade. Students in grades 3-5 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment in March and April. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is an online assessment that replaces the former CRT. Results are used to determine students' academic growth over time and are used in determining our school's rating. Students in grade 5 will take the Science CRT in April/May.

- How can you help prepare your child? The easiest way to help your child succeed is to ensure your child gets a good nights sleep and eats breakfast. Rather than being sleepy and hungry, your child will be awake and focused. If your child is in grades 3-5 you can have him/her practice online at the Smarter Balanced website (<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>). I urge you to take this assessment online yourself. This will help you see what is expected of your child.

Thank you for your continued support!

Belinda Schauer, Principal

Constantine Christopoulos, 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!

Marion B. Earl Elementary

6650 West Reno Ave.

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

Phone: 702-799-8181

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News From Our Specialists

The Art Room- Mrs. Devine's class

In January, students investigated the history and the technique of painting. They discussed the tools, materials, and the theory of color. Observing the color values: tints and shades, and also the color intensity: hues and tones, they started to evaluate the art elements present in their abstract paintings. They critiqued the shapes and colors and shared impressions, interpretations, and the mood of their artwork. Through dialog and art analysis they recorded ideas and came up with inspired and original titles for their work. The young artists continued their painting adventure with jazz inspired paintings using various brushstrokes. More exhibitions are in preparation to celebrate the coming African American Recognition Month in February.



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

In January, we started a Speed Stacks unit. If you are not familiar with Speed Stacks or cup-stacking, it is a great activity that helps students improve hand-eye coordination, critical thinking skills, ambidexterity, and is a fun activity that can be played indoors at any time of the year.

We will **not** be selling Speed Stacks this year, however, they are always available for purchase from Speed Stacks website: www.speedstacks.com. If your student has an interest in cup-stacking, there are tournaments in the area where they can compete with others that are the same age. Just ask Mr. Pfeil for more information.

Music- Dr. Stein

Members of the Orff Festival are: *Tatiana Calicich, Dodge Dalke, Ethan Fountain, Nejat Mohamed, Destini Morris, Andrew Riechmann, Charlynn Sims, Jesella Soza, Jasmine Sugimoto, Marissa York*

Mark your calendars for the following date and time of the annual Orff Festival:

Performance at Ham Hall at UNLV

Saturday, March 14, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. (Price is TBD)



Library- Mrs. Esposito and Mrs. Selleck, Aide

Happy New Year! I hope everyone's year is off to a great start! And....speaking of "start," did everyone make their New Year's Resolutions? While most people make a list of resolutions concerning their own personal health or well-being, I am here to encourage you to add to your list of resolutions concerning your child's reading. What might some of these resolutions look like?

Well, here is a list of examples to get you started!

- I resolve to help develop my child's love of reading by taking an interest in what they are reading.
- I resolve to ask specific questions about what my child is reading, so that they are required to reflect and recall the content of the book.
- I resolve to set an example of a life-long reader/learner by reading more materials when my children are around and can see me doing it.
- I resolve to read with/to my child for ____ minutes per night.
- I resolve to visit the public library with my child ____ times per month.

Anything that you can do to help with your child's reading will inevitably make an impact on their academics. ~Mrs Esposito

National Elementary Honor Society: February News

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

OOOH LALA! Don't our safety patrols look spiffy in their neon yellow baseball caps! They really stand out! We would like to thank all of them for doing such a great job each morning welcoming our parents and students to school and keeping our driveways safe!

Our food drive is almost at an end, and it looks like our students did a magnificent job collecting non-perishable food items to restock the food pantry located at Christ the King. What a great community service project to kick off 2015 and to show our gratitude for all the blessings we have in our lives!

Now is the time we are looking for new NEHS candidates for the 2015-2016 school year! Third and fourth grade students who have demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, citizenship, and leadership performance will receive a membership application in the next few weeks. There are so many stellar students here at Marion Earl! We look forward to expanding NEHS membership in the coming year!

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

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

February Fun is going to see us move from the study of our presidents and debating who our MVP (Most Valuable President) is, to finances and budgets! I was very impressed by the set of trading cards our students created! Keep them safe... they will come in handy throughout middle and high school!

Be prepared for your child to ask you questions about career choices, monthly expenses, bank accounts, income versus spending, and our economy! Our students will be selecting the career of their choice, research the starting salary and then developing a monthly budget based upon their expenses. The goal is not to be in the negative! No credit will be allowed! This could get really interesting!

In the midst of our unit on finances, we are also going to continue working on various strategies for critical thinking, such as: deduction, inference, syllogisms, sequencing, and analogies. These skills will serve our students well as they apply them to real world situations.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me here at 702-799-8181 ext. 4140! Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day and an Awesome President's Day! Remember... G8ISGR8!

January

Students of the Month

Emoni Crockett- Ms. Sullivan

Thiana Dao- Ms. Reed

L.J. Riel- Mr. Marhenke

Javier Rodriguez- Ms. Hardesty

Soliana Berhe- Ms. Johnson

Derek Ruvalcaba- Najera- Ms. Barrow

Layth Sayegh- Ms. Ringer

Destini Morris- Ms. Szczubiala

Vera Wright- Ms. Yacubovich

Amaya Bonilla- Ms. Brock

Selihom Asmelash- Ms. King

Lea McKinney- Ms. Lynn

Nicholas DeBenedittis- Mr. Nguyen

Ali Al Hasnawy- Ms. Rom

Jade Fernandez- Dr. Singson

Austin Martens- Ms. Flores

Rioly Ryales- Ms. Williams

Edith Hernandez- Ms. Strano

Sanai Sykes- Ms. Johns

Luke Greenwood- Ms. Keltz

Chaneil Pruitt- Ms. Logan

Blake Deaver- Ms. Logan

Chancey Wright- Ms. Barrios

Edmont Luong- Ms. Boyadzhyan

Anthony Revote- Ms. DeBenedittis

Skyler Costantino- Ms. Crooks

Rage-Joshua Wilcox- Ms. Pfeil

Chayle Chang- Ms. Borreggine

Leonardo Villagomez- Ms. Daniel

Jackson Sumpter- Dr. Fuller

Brandon Uruga- Ms. Varrato

Gianna Kapanov- Ms. Hein

Taylor Zacovic- Ms. Sorensen

We are looking for donations of small new items for our Eagle Chip chest. Any items such as school supplies, stickers, toys, mechanical pencils etc. Please feel free to drop off to Mrs. Ajemian. Thank you!

News From the Health Office

As the school year progresses, we will soon be having more special celebrations here at M. Earl Elementary School. I would like to bring your attention to a health issue that affects many students. Many students have allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, wheat and various foods. Some of these are severe and can be life threatening to the student. Strict avoidance of these foods is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction. For this reason, we must be very cautious with classroom snacks and party foods. It is a common practice to bring snacks or special treats for approved celebrations. Parents are welcome to continue this practice, but communication with the classroom teacher prior to any such food items being brought into the classroom is a priority. Due to the risk of cross contamination from kitchen counter, utensils and the fact that many food allergy items show up in the most unlikely places, only store bought and packaged food is allowed. We want all to enjoy the special celebrations and would like for these students to participate fully in all of the activities throughout the school year. With your help, we can make the classroom safe for everyone.



FEBRUARY 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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	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 Reminder...Check you child's grades on Infinite Campus	10 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m.	11	12 Garden of Earl Farmers Market 8 a.m.	13 Staff Development Day
16 Presidents' Day No School for	17 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m.	18 Spring Pictures—Free Dress Day!	19	20
23	24 Good News Club 3:21- 4:30 p.m.	25	26	27



Kindergarten News

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

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."

– Abraham Lincoln

A Message from Kindergarten Teachers:

Wow! We are officially into the second semester of school. By now all kindergarteners should know all letters and letter sounds and be able to write all upper and lower case letters. Continue to practice, practice, and practice at home as these skills are necessary for reading and writing. Your child will be continuing to work on blending sounds together to decode words and for learning more word families. Many words are not easily decoded. These are sight words and it is important to work with your child on their sight word list.

- In reading, details are important for comprehension. Your child is working on strategies such as story elements (character(s), setting, problem, and solution), character traits, and sequencing to help them recall important information. When you and your child are reading at home ask who, what, when, why, and how questions before, during, and after the story.
- In math, your child is continuing to learn to count to 100 by 1's and 10's. Please continue to practice this skill at home. Knowing numbers is important as they continue to work on addition and subtraction problems within 10. As students begin to work more with the numbers 11-20 they will be learning the foundation of place value, ones and tens.
- In writing, students continue to work on writing complete sentences involving proper capitalization, word spacing, correct ending marks, writing on the lines, and phonetic spelling. Your child should be able to write a complete sentence on their own utilizing sight words they know, using the classroom word wall, and using letter sounds to spell words they do not know. Writing daily at home will help with this skill.

Remember to go to the Marion Earl website for links to great programs they can work on at home, at www.schools.ccsd.net/marionearl.

A 'growth mindset' will help your child tackle challenges

School is filled with challenges--and your child's success depends on how he responds to those challenges. Encourage your child to develop what researchers call a growth mindset.

A growth mindset affects how kids think about problems. Suppose, for example, your child is having trouble finding the answer to a math problem.

Some kids would throw up their hands. "I'm not good at math," they'd say as they quit trying. But other kids would take another view. "This is a challenge and I love a challenge."

Children in the second group have a growth mindset. They believe that even if they can't do something now, they will be able to learn it in the future.

They're more likely to stick with the problem--and solve it.

You can encourage this mindset by praising your child's effort. "That project was challenging, but you stuck with it and finished it!"



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

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First Grade News

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

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A Message from First Grade Teachers:

Language Arts

The new year brings our second AIMSweb Benchmarking Assessment. By the end of January, your first grader should be reading a minimum of 36 words per minute on a first grade level passage to meet the standard.

It is important that your child is practicing his/her spelling words nightly at home. Try having your child write spelling words in sand or shaving cream on a cookie sheet to make learning fun! Always give your child a practice test. Go through any mistakes made in order to prepare him/her for their test in class on Friday.

Math

Place value will be a main focus in math. First graders will understand that the two digits of a two-digit number represent the amount of tens and ones. They will also be practicing adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. We will be comparing two digit numbers using the >, <, and = symbols. Don't forget to practice your addition and subtraction facts using "Math Facts in a Flash" and "IXL," which can be accessed on our school web-site.

Social Studies

First grade will be learning about the Polar Regions in January. They will become familiar with both the people and animals of the Arctic and Antarctic.

President's Day is on February 17th. We will be learning about the lives of important presidents that have impacted our country's history.

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Second Grade News

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

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– Abraham Lincoln

A Message from Second Grade Teachers:

2nd graders are hard at work taking the second reading and math Discovery tests. Results of these tests indicate your child's growth based on 2nd grade standards. After all tests are completed, results will be sent home.

In Language Arts we are reading informational text and writing simple research reports based on information gained from the text. In literature we have been working on cause and effect, comparing and contrasting different genres, and identifying character traits within the story.

In Social Studies we are discussing culture. Students have learned that American culture has unique elements, but is also a mixture of a great many cultures from around the world. We have discussed the backgrounds of our classmates and found that we represent many countries around the world. We have explored the various reasons people immigrate to the United States.

In Science the students are busy doing experiments with solids, liquids, and gases. Students are learning about the properties of matter. They are gaining first hand experiences with different types of matter, and developing science concepts and vocabulary.

In Math we are continuing to study place value, money, and addition and subtraction operations. We have been exploring geometry, and will soon be working on telling time. Please, do not buy your child a digital watch until you are certain that he / she can read an analog clock correctly. Continue having your child identify coins and count amounts of money.

***To get ready for 3rd grade your child should be reading at least 20 minutes each night.

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Third Grade News

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

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– Abraham Lincoln

A Message from Third Teachers:

We are half-way through the year! Can you believe it?

During the month of February, we will begin an exciting unit on how to write poetry! Our third graders will be creating original poems of their own that they can be proud of!

We have a lot to go over as we prepare for the SBAC Test. In math this month, we will be covering graphing, geometry, and measurement in math. Please help your student to be prepared by going over their homework with them and practicing multiplication and division facts with your child every night.

To go along with Presidents' Day, we will be starting a research project where each student will study the life and achievements of a different president. They will then share the information they found with the class.

In science, we are studying the structures of life. Students have been excited as we have been dissecting owl pellets to compare the differences and similarities between a human and rodent skeleton. We will also be studying how different parts of the human body work, and even learning about fingerprints and comparing them!

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Fourth Grade News

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

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– Abraham Lincoln

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 theme of stories, dramas, and poems. In math, we will be moving in to fractions. We will also be creating expository compositions in writing. In social studies, our primary focus will be Nevada's explorers and early pioneers. In science, we will be exploring the human body systems and inherited behavior vs learned behavior. 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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– Abraham Lincoln

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

In reading, students are completing performance tasks and preparing for the SBAC test. Students are reading novels, discussing point-of-view, and incorporating close reading strategies.

In math class, we will revisit fractions once again! Students will be applying their understanding of division and multiplication to divide and multiply fractions.

In science, the teaming classes have learned a great deal about physical science using the FOSS Mixtures & Solutions kit.

We will now be taking a break from science and traveling back in time with social studies. Our school received a grant this year for the Colonial Williamsburg Electronic Field Trips. We will be exploring colonial America using these engaging programs for the next two months.

Time is running out for passing steps on the Great American Award! Keep working on memorizing the states and capitals as well as the presidents!

News from Ms. Logan and Mr. Porter:

Ms. Logan’s class is currently exploring fractions, and how to apply logical thinking and what the student knows to various situations, as well as using modeling to show thinking. We are goal setting and making every effort to meet our goals and improve and grow. We have all agreed to read 10 minutes more per day. We are still experimenting with Mixtures and Solutions. Check our class website for some pictures and captions of some of our experiments. As always we are working on ‘growing’ our vocabulary. Please encourage your children to get on our web-based educational programs and practice standards to meet the goals they have set for themselves.

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Garden of Earl ~ Blooming News!

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Hadassa Lefkowitz, Garden Committee, Chairperson

Goodness gracious! Our Garden of Earl looks like The Emperor's New Clothes! While the garden looks a bit bare at the moment, rest assured there is much to look forward to in the next month! In the next two weeks, we will be planting more radishes, onions, and leafy lettuce! They grow rather quickly and will be ready to harvest in just a few short weeks!

A second Farmers Market will be held on February 12 at 8:00 a.m. We will hopefully be able to harvest more bok choy, cilantro, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, and leafy lettuce! So come early in the morning ready to purchase some delicious, organically grown veggies, through which you will support your community garden! Listen on Parent Link and watch for the signs hung on our walls, as time draws near. Because they did such a spectacular job in December, our National Elementary Honor Society students will once again serve as our sales-team!

Our Garden of Earl is truly an outdoor classroom! Our 2nd Grade students have been learning about insects and arachnids. They have been exploring the similarities and differences between insect bodies and the human body, and which insects are good, bad, and REALLY bad for growing healthy vegetables! Wow! How many insects can be found in our garden? Are they helping or harming our plants? Ask a 2nd Grade student if you want to know the answers to these questions!

We are currently in the process of deciding how to expand the Garden of Earl! We have many ideas and design ideas. If you would like to contribute to our expansion and be a part of making this a true Marion Earl COMMUNITY garden, please contact me at 702-799-8181 ext. 4140.

Thank you in advance for your support! Donations welcome!



Good News Club



Good News Clubs emphasize 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.



PTA Newsletter Info



February 2015

Hello to all of our Marion Earl Parents and Students!

First of all, we would love to thank all of you who joined us at Marion Earl Night at Panda Express. We had a great turn out and sincerely appreciate all of your support. Without families like you supporting our fundraisers, we would not be able to continue moving forward with our terrific and exciting events!! Thank you again!

Secondly, the PTA will be selling Valentine Hearts during the week of February 9-13th. The cost of each heart will be \$1.00 and can be purchased by parents for their children, or by our students for their friends. We will then display the hearts throughout the school for all to see. We plan to be out in front of the office selling after school and hope to have a time available to purchase them during school as well. A flyer with more details will be coming home with your students soon.

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. 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)