

Mark Twain Elementary School Newsletter

September 29, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 2

MTES School Pledge

"We at MTE promise to do our best, to do our duty and to obey the rules of the school"



Ms. Carmen D. Alvarez-Crooks
Principal

Ms. Crooks Message



Dear Parents,

We are entering our sixth week of school and I am glad to report that everyone has settled in nicely and students are working hard in their classes where they are being academically challenged. The goals in our School Improvement Plan this year are to strengthen the reading and writing skills of our students. With this in mind our school will have a Teacher In-Service Day on Friday, October 10th, dedicated to working on these strategic goals. Students will not attend school on that day.

Other important information that you need to made aware of follows:

1. **"Golden Book"**: The first Friday of each month two students from each classroom, and those selected by the Specials teacher, will have an opportunity to sign the Mark Twain Elementary School "Golden Book." The selection of students will be based on a variety of criteria: academic effort, following school rules, being polite, good sportsmanship, demonstrating respect for others, and being trustworthy. This Friday, October 3rd, will be the first presentation and Colonel Ulses will congratulate honorees in the main office at 08:00 o'clock and present each one of them with a "Golden Book" certificate. Their names will be printed in next week's school newsletter.
2. **Visual & Eye Screening**: Students will have visual and eye screening this Wednesday and Thursday, October 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
3. **PTA Board Meeting**: The monthly PTA Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 6th at 09:00 in the school lounge.
4. **Box Tops**: Our students are doing an excellent job of bringing in "Box Tops." We thank Angela Torres for spearheading this PTA moneymaking activity, and we thank all of you for continuing to send in those little box tops.
5. **Fire Prevention Week**: During the week of October 6-10 we will be emphasizing the importance of observing fire safety rules. On Tuesday, October 7th, a Fire Truck will visit our school and all classes will have the opportunity to listen to Herr Bueschel, the Fire Captain, explain the various parts of the fire truck and how they would operate during a real fire. It is an event that our students always enjoy.
6. **Teacher In-Service**: Friday, October 10th, teachers in all Heidelberg Schools will be involved in an all day School Improvement Plan Teacher In-Service. Students will not attend school.
7. **Red Ribbon Week**: During the week of October 20-24 our school will be celebrating "Red Ribbon" week. We will be emphasizing the importance of making good choices that can lead to a healthy lifestyle.
8. **Story-Teller**: On Tuesday, October 28th, our students will have the opportunity to listen to the fascinating story teller, Ann Louis Starry, in our Information Center. We thank the PTA for sponsoring this event.
9. **"Book Character Day Parade"**: On Thursday, October 29th, at 13:00 hours Mark Twain Elementary School will hold their annual "Book Character Day Parade. Students are being asked to dress as one of their favorite characters in a book that appeals to them and to carry the book with them in the parade. The purpose of the parade ties right in with our Strategic Plan/School Improvement Plan of getting students involved in reading and strengthening reading skills.
10. **Winter Holiday Program**: Our students, under the direction of our music teacher, on Monday, December 8th, at 17:00 hours, in the high school auditorium, will present the holiday program, "The Nutcracker." Try-outs for the six roles are on Wednesday, October 8th, right after school, in the Music Room (#3). Auditions are open to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Judges will be Ms E. G. (high school counselor, R. R. (high school Assistant Principal), C. H. (high school drama teacher). It should be a spectacular program with all of our students taking part.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Sock Hop
- ◆ Mock Election
- ◆ Book Parade

As you can see, there is a lot going on in our little school. We have good teachers, super parent support, and your children are learning and seem to be happy coming to school every day. Thank you for sending us such nice children.

Respectfully,
Dolly Crooks
Principal



Some Topics & Categories for Counseling Lessons

- Study Skills/Work Habits
- Self Awareness (Abilities, Strengths, Interests, and Education Needs)
- Recognizing Individual Differences
- Cooperating with Others
- Time Management
- Following Directions and Completing Assignments
- Listening Skills
- Test-Taking Skills
- Self control (Appropriate Behavior)
- Goal Setting
- Positive Attitude Towards School
- Friendship Skills
- Social Skills
- Peer Pressure
- Feelings
- Coping Skills
- Handling Stress
- Decision Making/Problem Solving
- Conflict Resolution
- Anger Management
- Responsibilities

Counselor Corner - Ms. B.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are designed to provide supplementary support to the regular educational program. The counselor has the opportunity to work closely with students in the domains of academic development, career development, and personal/social development that support the school objects. Each of these domains encompasses a variety of desired student learning competencies, which in turn are comprised of specific knowledge, attitudes and skills, which are the foundation for the Competency-Based Counseling Program. (CBCP).

In elementary school, the CBCP promotes learning by assisting students in mastering skills and developing the attitudes necessary to be successful students. It emphasizes decision-making skill development and exploration of future educational and occupational possibilities. The program also stresses self-concept development and the acquisition of skills in developing interpersonal relationships as necessary foundations for student learning to occur.

How Parents and Families Can Help Their Children Do Better in School

- Read together

Children who read at home with their parents

perform better in school. Let your children see you read.

- Use TV wisely

Academic achievement drops sharply for children who watch more than 10 hours of television a week, or an average of more than two hours a day.

- Establish a daily family routine with scheduled homework time

Studies show that successful students have parents who create and maintain family routines.

Establish a regular time for homework each afternoon or evening, set aside a quiet, well lit place, and encourage children to study.



Nurse's Station-Ms. C.

Parents, I have three important

Reminders for you:

1. According to **DoD Directive 1342.6** all students enrolled in DoD Dependent Schools shall meet specific immunization requirements.

If you received a letter from me since school began you have until September 30, 2008 to have your child's immunizations updated.

I need the printout of your child's record from the immunization clinic or the yellow card stating he/she has met the requirements, which will complete the students' registration for this school year.

2. Vision/Hearing/Scoliosis screening is set for October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Only the 5th graders are screened for scoliosis.

If you can volunteer and help with these screenings, I would greatly appreciate your help.

3. If you have not returned the orange Emergency contact information sheet for use in the nurse's office, please do so ASAP.

If you have any questions regarding the above reminders please contact me at the following numbers: CIV 06221576912 or DSN 3706912.

Thank you,
Nurse C

Mark Twain Elementary School
DSN 370-6912 CIV 06221576912

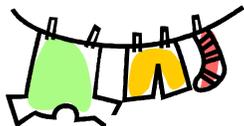
I will be screening on all three mornings from 08:30-11:00 on Wednesday and Thursday and from 08:30 to 11:45 on Friday.



Nursing Station

REMINDERS!

- **UPDATE CONTACT INFO**
- **SCREENINGS**
- **IMMUNIZATIONS**



PE Shorts! – Ms. S.

P.E. SHORTS: Message from Physical Education Teacher, L. S.

Another great year at Mark Twain ES is already under way! This year ALL students have two 50-minute PE classes in a week, plus recess every day. With this schedule our students know when they have PE and they are already doing a great job of coming to class in appropriate clothes and shoes. Keep up the good work!!

I can't believe I have to say this already but we will stay outside as long as possible as it gets cooler so have your student dress in layers and bring jackets, hats and gloves as needed.

We have been working on movement control, spatial awareness, safety, balance, and soccer/ball handling, running and health-related fitness skills.

We have been discussing cardiovascular health and heart rate. Health-related fitness tests have already begun.

Be looking for After-School Sports Club to begin towards the end of October, as the weather gets colder. The club info sheet and sign up roster will be coming home in the next few weeks. Club will meet once a week for First and Second graders, and once a week for Third, Fourth and Fifth graders. The specific days will be determined after coordination with other after school clubs so that your student may join as many extra things as they can fit in their schedule. Sports Club will run from 2:10 until 3:45pm.

And, as always, have them go outside and play. EVERY DAY!!!



School Improvement Quick-Bits – Ms. C.

What is SIP?



Simply stated SIP is an acronym for School Improvement Plan. Each school in DODEA has a Five-Year Plan to implement specific goals for improving student achievement in a focused area. Our school is in our third year of implementing the following goals:

- 1) All students will increase their reading ability across the curriculum.
- 2) All students will improve the quality and expand their use of written communication across the curriculum.

The following assessments are used for students (depending on grade level) to determine how the individual student is performing in these areas and what strategies need to be addressed and focused on for improvement:

- Terra Nova Scores
- SRI scores (Scholastic Reading Inventory)
- Literacy Place pre-tests
- DRA scores (Developmental Reading Assessment)
- Letter/Sound recognition and Sight Words Check

Our staff/teachers have various workshops, professional development opportunities and team time to share different ways to meet the needs of the students.

We have decided to focus on four strategies to improve reading and writing across the curriculum each quarter.

- First quarter – Main Idea/Details
- Second quarter – Summarizing
- Third quarter – Compare/Contrast
- Fourth quarter – Cause/Effect

We look forward to another year of helping our students improve their reading and writing across the curriculum.

The following staff members are on our School Improvement Leadership Team:

Dolly Crooks, J. C., C. F., C. B., M. C., and P. P.



Music Beat – Ms. W.

Mark Twain students will be producing "The Nutcracker - A Youth Musical" at 5:00 on Monday, Dec. 8. Auditions for speaking parts will be held Oct. 8 for students in grades 3-5. There are a very limited number of speaking parts, but each child in the school will participate in the program. Choir for children in grades 3-5 will begin Oct. 20 and will continue each Monday through Dec. 8. Children with speaking parts will practice on occasional Wednesdays after school. We could use donations of any size gray sweatshirts, any color flat sheets or large pieces of fabric, and any fabric that looks oriental. We especially could use genie/belly dancing/Middle Eastern costumes (to be worn over leotards - no tummies showing!) and dance tutus that would be return after the program. Thank you for your support!

Ms. W.
Music Teacher
MTES

Please don't forget to send in those box tops and labels. What a pain free way to help raise money for our school.



PTA UPCOMING EVENTS!

- T-Shirt Sales-On Going!
- Sock Hop
- Mock Election
- Book Character Parade

PTA News Prints

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers we had help with the Book Fair. I believe it was a great success and I know a lot of families were able to purchase some super books for super prices.

L. I. and I attended the PTA Fall Leadership Training on September 20th. We came back with some exciting new ideas and look forward to sharing them and trying to implement some in the near future. There was a presentation/training given from the Scholastic Rep about Book Fairs and how we could still make it work. All of our questions were not answered though, so we are still "investigating" the possibility of this actually being able to take place. If we *were* to have one it would be in the spring, so more info will be coming at a much later date.

Coming Soon:
School Wide Sock Hop—October 30th, 2:10-4:00 p.m.
Permission Slips will be coming home in the next few weeks. Students **must** have a signed permission slip to attend.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. This is your PTA; we are here for the students and families.

Thank you,
PTA President
msdwwarren@hotmail.com

Lunch Menu for September 29 – October 3

- Monday – Turkey & Veggie Egg Roll or Meat Loaf
- Tuesday – Cheese Pizza or Baked Chicken Tenders
- Wednesday – Chicken Alfredo w/Pasta or Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Thursday – Cheese Pizza Dippers or Yogurt & Grilled Cheese
- Friday – Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce or Chef Salad

Featured "Person of the Week"

MTES Host Nation Student Interns-

A Note about our Host Nation Student Interns:

This month we welcome three German student interns to MTES. **Frau B. G.** will be assisting Ms. P. and Ms. M. **Frau S. D.** will be in third grade with Mrs. S. and **Frau S. D.** will be in first grade with Ms. F. They are enrolled in the German University System and one of their goals is to become familiar with the American Education System. During their practicum they will be assisting students on an individual and group basis. Their presence will certainly contribute to the international flavor of our school.



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VISION

Communities investing in success for ALL students!

MISSION

The Mission: Through a partnership with parents and the community, we will provide a safe school environment as we inspire a life-long desire for learning and knowledge by promoting mutual respect, instilling responsibility, and preparing students for a culturally diverse society.