

2012



LEOPARD LETTER

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello All,

As we approach the end of 2012, I am frankly dumbfounded. Where did the time GO? This has been a whirlwind fall season with so many changes it is hard to take it all in sometimes. There is so much going on this time of year it is difficult to keep kids focused both at home and at school. We can help each other by keeping the communication lines open. As holiday events and/or travel plans occur, please communicate with the teacher so that we can make sure the learning continues through this season of childhood joy and family reunions.

I want to take a moment to say **Thank You** to each and every parent, teacher, staff member and child that has worked in partnership for the success of our students. I especially want to thank those that are **military spouses as well as teachers and staff** here at ALES. They bear twice the emotional load, and I want them to realize that we know and appreciate that fact.

This year, for me personally, I have become more aware of the importance of those around you. Please have the happiest of holiday seasons and resolve to have a wonderful new year.

Happy holidays!

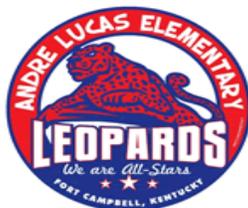
“Don’t be a stranger.”

Ted Turnipseed



December

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Notes from the Nurse

School Nurse Notes – December 2012



Holiday Greetings!

I hope you all have the happiest holidays ever!

Please take time to rest and enjoy your family. For those who are missing a loved one at this time of the year, I know how hard that can be, try and seek out others who are in the same situation to make the best of a difficult time. My thanks to you all.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Best wishes,

Nurse Melly Duprey, RN





MUSICAL NOTES

Holiday Programs

K, 1st, 2nd – December 13th @ 2:00/14:00
3rd, 4th, 5th – December 14th @ 2:00/14:00

If you have a child in 4th or 5th grade, please make sure they bring their recorders to school on the 14th, as they will be playing their recorders in the concert.

Honor Chorus will be caroling at the PX on Saturday, December 15th at 10:00!

What we are learning in class:

K-1: Animal Rhythms with Eric Carle's "*Slowly, Slowly, Slowly,*" *said the Sloth*
K-3: Nutcracker Suite
4-5: Recorders

All classes are learning the following music theory: dynamics, note values, note names

Have a fantastic Holiday Season!

Mrs. Chambers



Ways For Parents to Help Teachers By Mimi Doe

1. Create a smooth takeoff each day. Give your child a hug before he/she ventures out the door and you head to work. Look him/her in the eye, and tell him/her how proud you are of him/her. Your child's self-confidence and security will help him/her do well both in school and in life.
2. Prepare for a happy landing at the end of the day when you reconvene. Create a predictable ritual such as 10-20 minutes listening to your child talk about his/her day- before you check phone messages, read the mail, or begin dinner. That way you are fully present to listen, and your child has a touchstone he/she can count on between school and home.
3. Fill your child's lunchbox with healthy snacks and lunches. Have dinner at a reasonable hour. A well-balanced diet maximizes your child's learning potential.



Why Read 20 Minutes a Day?

An article by Joelle Brummitt-Yale from www.k12reader.com



Let's face it...parents (and kids) are busy! It is difficult to "fit in" all that needs to be done in a day. We are often faced with having to make choices about what stays and what goes in our schedules. So, why is it so critical to include 20 minutes of reading in your child's daily schedule? There is a wealth of research supporting daily reading with your child especially prior to and during the period when s/he is learning to read. Here are a few of the ways reading with your child for 20 (or more) minutes a day benefits him or her.

Reading is "brain food"

Our brains develop as we "feed" them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you're the reader or the one being read to) activates and "exercises" many of the areas of the brain. The visual cortex works as your eyes track the words on the page and look at the illustrations. Your memory makes connections between what you already know about the topic of the story and its content. You integrate new information learned through reading further strengthening and growing your network of knowledge. Reading provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

Reading improves listening skills

What parent doesn't want their child to be a good listener? The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language. Through reading they learn to recognize phonemes (the sound building blocks of language), learn new words to add to their oral vocabularies and connect written words to their real world applications.

Reading builds early literacy skills

Before a child can read independently she must have phonemic awareness and a basic understanding of phonics. Phonemic awareness or the understanding that words are made up of distinct sounds that affect their meaning is the precursor to reading. Reading aloud to your child is one of the main ways to help him develop phonemic awareness. Beyond this, in order to read, a person must understand that there is a connection between letters and sounds. Without this knowledge letters are just squiggles on a page! When you read with your child she learns that print is a representation of the words you say aloud. Repeated experiences with reading allow this understanding to grow. The single greatest factor in a child's ability to read is early experiences being read aloud to.

Reading prepares children for kindergarten

In this day and age children are expected to come into kindergarten with a strong knowledge base. Today's kindergarteners are expected to enter the classroom on day one with a knowledge of upper and lower case letters of the alphabet, the ability to recognize basic shapes and colors and the ability to count to ten. Reading books tailored towards youngsters with your child helps them develop these important and necessary skills.

Practice makes perfect

Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you'll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading. Research shows that children who have repeatedly been exposed to books from birth generally exhibit strong reading abilities.

Reading improves academic performance

There is a strong correlation between a child's ability to read and her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading just makes "cents"

For every year that a person spends reading (either independently or being read aloud to), his/her lifetime earning potential goes up considerably. For a time investment of approximately 87 hours a year (20 minutes a day for 5 days a week), you can increase your child's ability to support him or herself in the future considerably.

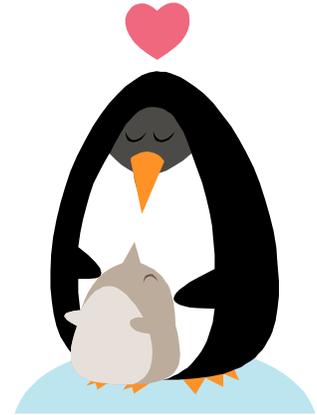
Reading improves relationships

Because we are busy it is difficult to have "quality" one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time. There is nothing more wonderful than snuggling a young child on your lap while reading a few storybooks aloud. Even if your child is beyond the "snuggling" stage, spending 20 minutes reading independently provides you with quiet, uninterrupted time together engaged in the same activity.

From your School Behavioral Health Team

Conversation starters to find ways to motivate children:

In my free time, I like to...
 If I had five dollars, I would buy...
 The thing I like most about school is...
 The thing I do not like about school is...
 When my teachers pay attention to me,...
 When I'm frustrated, I like when teachers (parents), ...
 My favorite subject is...
 My least favorite subject is...
 I wish my teachers knew that...
 After I finish my work, I like to...
 When my teachers call my parents...
 When I don't want to do something in class, I...
 You can tell when something is too hard for me because...
 (adapted from Dr. Rebecca Branstetter)



Creating a space that encourages safety and motivation

Children learn best when they are in an environment that feels safe and consistent. Safety is created by predictability. Here are tips to create a sense of predictability and safety in your classroom:

- Use your most powerful teaching tool, your personality.** Your smile, your voice, and your touch make a child feel safe. Face to face, on the floor time and eye contact are essential in this process.
- Be predictable in your interactions with the child.** This is more important than the number of minutes spent in each activity.
- Keep the first few weeks of school simple.** Repeat the schedule and the rules many times. Once a child feels comfortable with the school day, flexibility and change can more easily be introduced. The first weeks of school can be overwhelming for children. It takes time to settle in. It is the time when they will be least efficient at learning new material.
- Find time during the day for quiet.** Solitude allows the brain to "catch up" and process the new experiences of the day. This leads to better consolidation of new experiences and better learning.
- Emphasize the importance of good nutrition and proper bed rest.** Children cannot learn when they are hungry or bored. Also, let parents know that their children are likely to be more irritable at home, will need more sleep, and will need some "decompression" time after school.
- Keep the first challenges light and the praise heavy.** Confidence and pleasure come from success. Let everyone succeed at something.
- Remember that you make the difference.** These first experiences with school can help reinforce a child's curiosity and love of learning. You create the emotional and social climate of safety that makes your classroom a place for optimal learning.

Important Dates

December

3rd-7th - Holiday Shoppe

4th - Parent to Parent Seminar - Importance of Academic Portfolios 9:00am

11th-13th - Pizza Night

13th - Holiday Program K-2 2:00pm

14th - Holiday Program 3-5 2:00pm

17th-20th - Box Top Turn In

19th - Holiday Meal

21st - NO School - Report Card Completion

24th-Jan. 4th - Holiday Break

January

7th - School Resumes

9th - Cool Cats

10th - Cool Cats
Class Pictures

11th - Cool Cats
Popcorn Friday

15th - 17th - Pizza Night

18th - **NO** School

21st - Martin Luther King Jr Day - **NO** School

28th - School Board Meeting - 4:00

28th-Feb1st - Book Fair



For the safety of your children ALL visitors to the school must sign in at the front office and show a government issued photo ID.

The front office is open from 7:30am--4:00pm.

Please have your ID Card ready or in hand before you enter the office, this will allow for faster service.

**School hours are 8:30-3:15 (M,W,TH,F)
and 8:30-2:00 (T)**

Parents, please don't bring your student to school any earlier than 8:15 unless they are eating breakfast at 8:00.

Car Rider and Walker Information

When dropping off or picking up your children at the car rider door please do not exit your vehicle or leave your vehicle unattended while you walk your children to or from the school. Unattended vehicles cause confusion and can be a safety risk. If you would like to walk your children to or from the school please park your vehicle in the parking lot.

Thank you for your cooperation!



CHILD FIND

Child Find is an outreach program that actively seeks to locate and identify children and youth from birth through age twenty-one, who may have developmental delays or educational disabilities and may be in need of special education and/or related services.

For more information, please call 270-640-1208 or pick up a brochure in the school office.

One Call Now

One Call Now is an automated calling system that allows Fort Campbell Schools to create automated calls to distribute information more efficiently to all stakeholders in our schools.

These calls are initiated via a telephone or computer by using a toll-free number or the **One Call Now** website. When you receive a call from our school, there is a greeting message followed by a slight lapse of seconds. The actual message that is being sent will follow the lapse. Please take time to listen to the complete message from start to finish.

If you do not listen through to the end the program will continue to call you. We only use the program in situations where we need to reach the families of all 400+ students quickly. These include messages sent out by the superintendent, the school board, PTO, and our school as needed. Calls are usually made between 4pm and 9pm, unless there is a time factor involved. Please check your messages when you see a missed call from this number.

MFLC

Our Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) is available to provide support to military children and their families for a wide range of issues. The service is provided at no cost and is available throughout the day. If you are interested in this service or would like more information, please call the front office at 270-640-1208.