

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #231
444 N. 8TH STREET
ROCHELLE, IL 61068
December 11, 2009

Todd Prusator, Superintendent
tprusator@d231.rochelle.net

562-6363

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 21 – January 1

No School

Christmas Break

TILTON SCHOOL

Tony Doyle, Principal

562-6665

TALL TALES

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Ramsey and Mrs. Klindera's classes are reading about some different tall tales. Each group is responsible for reading a story about his/her tall tale and finding exaggerations and similes in the text. The group then will create a huge poster of their character, filling in many details and characteristics they had learned. Some tall tale characters we will be working on this year are Stormalong, Johnny Appleseed, Paul Bunyan, Mike Fink, Pecos Bill, Thunder Rose, and Swamp Angel.

FAIRY TALES

Mrs. Klindera and Mrs. Ramsey's 4th grade classes have spent the last three weeks comparing and contrasting Cinderella stories from around the world. The students read many different stories from countries such as Korea, China, the Middle East, Ireland, Africa, South America, Southern United States, and many more. The students had to read at least two Cinderella books within their group. Each group then discussed the character traits, setting, and plot of both stories. They created pictures, collages, crossword puzzles, pumpkin glyphs, story pyramids, or comic strips to tell about their favorite Cinderella story.

ART NEWS

Art classes are busy designing decorations for the Christmas program this year which is celebrating Christmas from many different cultures. We are designing magic windows that are a traditional Mexican decoration used for celebrations. They are called papel picado and are cut from tissue paper and displayed in a long banner. We are weaving Kwanzaa mats called mkeka that are used during the eight day African American celebration. We are also cutting the six pointed Jewish Star of David used during Hanukkah. Look for all this beautiful art work in the gym during the Christmas program. The program covers were designed by an art student. What creative and talented students! Mrs Elson thanks you for all your hard work.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Tilton students are currently collecting canned goods and non-perishable items to be donated to the Needy Family Food & Toy Drive. Students may bring their items to school anytime to put under the Christmas tree. Tilton School, along with Tilton PTO, has set a goal to collect at least 2,000 items by December 14.

TILTON HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Tilton Holiday program will be on Monday, December 14th in the Tilton School gym. Kindergarten, first and second graders will be performing at 1:15. Third, fourth and fifth graders will be at 2:15. Miss DeJaeger has been practicing holiday songs for the program in music class. Our students are very excited about the program and their performance.

THIRD GRADE VOCABULARY FUN

Mrs. Morrissey's 3rd grade class at Tilton was increasing their vocabulary knowledge through weekly vocabulary activities. Just to name a few of these activities, the kids are creating cartoons and creative stories using these words. So far we have learned the following words: strive, immense, abode, ponder, wallop, culprit, blunder, eerie, heed, utter, attire, superb, and sliver. So, if you see any of these students ask them about one of these words and they will be sure to educate you!

SHAPES, SHAPES AND MORE SHAPES

The kindergarten children in Miss Gates' class have been studying shapes. Carol Gingerich recently visited the class to share her beautiful quilts and highlight some of the many different shapes found in them. Mrs. Gingerich also explained the steps she follows to make a quilt as well. Later in the month of November, Kelly Helfrich from R.T.H.S., took each student on a shape walk in our school where each was assigned the task of finding a specific shape. As evidence that each student found their respective shape, Kelly took a picture of them with it. The photos are displayed in Miss Gates' classroom. Thank you Carol and Kelly for helping us learn more about shapes!

ROCHELLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Joe Schwartz, Principal
Rick Dornink, Ass't Principal

562-7997

PTO NEWS

The PTO Fund Raiser has come to an end. Thanks to Angela Eraas for organizing the program. Students raised over \$6,000 to help the PTO fund assemblies, educational enhancements and other items for the school. The following students were top sellers. Chance Bolin was the school top seller and received \$100. **Sixth grade top sellers:** 1st place – Taylor

Burger received \$50, 2nd place – Alissa Polz received \$25. **Seventh grade top sellers:** 1st place – Brittany House received \$50, 2nd place – Marina Eraas received \$25. **Eighth grade had a tie for top sellers:** Calvin Parker and Lisa Noggle were tied and each received \$37.50. Mrs. Thompson's homeroom was the top selling home room and will receive a pizza party. Thanks to all those students who sold products for the PTO fund raiser. Special thanks to all supporters of the RMS PTO who purchased items.

The RMS PTO welcomes all parents who would like to help out. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13th starting at 6:30 p.m.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2010

The RMS Music Department has a concert scheduled for Monday, January 11th, in the south gym. Participants in the concert include the beginner orchestra and 5th grade band with participants from May, Lincoln, Central, Tilton, and RMS. Also in the concert are the 6th grade chorus and 6th grade band. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

FAMILY FINE ARTS NIGHT

The art and music teachers will again be hosting the Family Fine Arts Night for all district students and their families at the middle school on Monday, January 18, 2010. The registration for art and music activities over three sessions begins at 6:15 p.m.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

H1N1 CLINIC

The Ogle County Health Department is still running H1N1 clinics to help those in the high risk groups get vaccinations. In October and November, the school district provided the health department with space to vaccinate the children of our district. If your child missed these clinics or is still in need of their second vaccine, you can take them to the Rochelle branch of the OCHD on December 17 from 2pm-5pm. This is a walk in clinic. No appointments are necessary. This clinic is ideal for children who received their first vaccine on November 18. Remember children 6m-9years of age will need two vaccines. Children ten and over only need one. Watch the local paper and listen to local radio for additional clinics that may be held.

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE....

While we have been spoiled by the warm November, December will be getting cold! Please remember that your children will be outside before school and at recess on a daily basis, unless temperatures are below 10°. Please dress them accordingly. Children will need to wear hats, gloves and winter coats. If you are having a problem providing these items for your child, please let your child's teacher, counselor or health office know. Students are not allowed to stay inside during these cold temperatures without a note from their physician.

COLD IS GOOD!

Getting your kids outside during the cold weather will not get them sick. Keeping them indoors in constant contact with others, may. When kids are in the classroom, buses, etc., they are sharing their germs readily. Why do more people get sick in the winter? Because they are more likely to stay inside sharing their germs. To keep your child healthy this winter, encourage them to bundle up and go outside and play! Encourage good hand washing. Washing hands frequently through out the day is the best way to stay healthy this winter. If your child has problems with asthma, please talk with the health office. The health office staff can assist you in getting the documentation needed to keep inhalers and other medications in the health office.

LICE

Please help the health office staffs keep lice out of your house by periodically checking your child for lice. Lice are little bugs that crawl and live on the scalp. You are most likely to see their eggs (nits), than you are to find live lice. Nits are the size of sesame seeds and are located at or near the scalp. Nits are difficult to see due to their small size. Nits will not move and cannot easily be flicked or moved from the scalp. Dandruff can be easily removed from the hair. Nits can only be removed by using a lice comb or by firmly grasping and removing with fingernails. For more information on lice please contact your child's health office or go to www.headliceinfo.com

HEARING AND VISION

The health office has been screening the students in the district for possible hearing and vision problems. All children in grades K-8 will be screened. Parents will only be notified of the screening results if the health office staff feels further testing is needed. When it comes to your child's hearing and vision results, no news is good news.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

The Rochelle school district employs two RN's that oversee the district. Each building has either a RN or a health aide assigned to the building. Each health aide is licensed by the State of Illinois as a first responder. They have been specially trained to deal with the day by day health concerns of your child. The health office staff is here to assist you and your children. But, we cannot help if we do not know that there is a problem. Please let us know if there is anyway that we can help you meet the health care needs for your child.

MAY SCHOOL MUSTANGS

Barbara Cantlin, Principal

562-6331

SECOND GRADE MYSTERY READERS

Mrs. Wilkinson's second grade has had the privilege of having a "Mystery Reader" come visit their classroom. We have enjoyed having a banker, Mr. Eckhardt, Police Chief Higby, and most recently President of Kishwaukee College Dr. Choice visit our classroom. These people have read one of their favorite stories to our class. They have also talked with students about their jobs and shared the importance of learning to read. The parent of student Madison Jozefowicz has been instrumental in putting all of this together for us. We look forward to the weeks ahead and future "Mystery Readers" in our classroom.

PBIS REWARDS

The following students had their names drawn to attend an NIU basketball game on December 2nd: Jared Scarborough, Fernanda Macias, Tina Guo, Adolfo Flores, Anna Patel, William Baez, Jordan Reiss, Serenity Kelly, Noah Haring, Nancy Lopez, Blake Helser, Naomi Ortiz, Devin Reingardt, Makaela Hurst, Jaziel Zamora, Noah Laws, Isaac Bell, Mauricio Fulgencio, Cody Johnson, Alex Melara, Orville Varney, Jacob Rose, Lucas Austin and Cody Bakker. Students received horseshoe tickets for exemplifying positive behavior. These tickets are put in their classroom drawing, and then names are drawn from the classroom and brought to the school office for the quarterly drawing of prizes.

LIMO LUNCH

The following students were treated to a "Limo Lunch" for being the top seller in each class for our recent fundraiser and went to Culver's for lunch in style: Adriana Figueroa, Garrett Glosser, Jacob Bemis, Clayton Coleman, Emily Dailey, Madison Jozefowicz,, Austin Zuercher, Kayleen Schacht, Ariel Zuercher, Jonathan Garcia, Jaela Ludwick and Santiago Cordoba-Certuche.

THIRD GRADE

Third graders spent the days before Thanksgiving practicing a poem to work on their fluency. They were able to work on their expression while spreading thankful wishes for Thanksgiving. They had wonderful time sharing their thanks with other classes and did a fantastic job. Every year the third graders receive dictionaries from the Rotary Club, thank you from this year's classes!!!

P.E. PAGE AT MAY

Hello and welcome to our physical education page for the month of December.

Classroom Activities:

This past month, the kindergarten through 2nd grade have been busy participating in a striking unit. Students were using eye hand coordination and control while hitting a ball in a variety of ways. Many manipulatives, such as hockey sticks, tennis racquets and our own body, were used to strike with. We will be participating in a scooter unit coming up in the next few weeks.

The 3rd through 5th grades have been working on a basketball unit as well. Students have worked on different types of skills related to the game of basketball, which are passing, dribbling, and shooting. They have applied these skills during their team games. We will be working on a volleyball unit this next month.

Home Activity:

Our ultimate goal for your child is to encourage physical activity not only at school but in their after school lives every day. This month, we would like to encourage students to stretch as much as possible. Flexibility is very important and can prevent injuries from occurring. Try stretching at least once a day.

Thanks for your time and we will talk to you next month. -Mr. Lodico

LINCOLN SCHOOL

Tina Horner, Principal

562-4520

First Graders Baking Up Some Holiday Fun

Students in Mrs. Yochum's and Miss Zilm's first grade classes will be busy the entire month of December. We have already started introducing our gingerbread literacy centers. We have made our own gingerbread people and will create many gingerbread projects that will help us read. Our first grade family will also give back to our community as we take some time to decorate Christmas cookies and share them as we go caroling at the Rochelle Senior Center. We are also looking forward to writing to Santa using all the words we have learned this year. First grade wishes all of you a wonderful winter break! ~Ms. Zilm and Mrs. Yochum

Second Graders Winning Awards

Second graders had a fantastic field trip to Waterman Park. We rode a miniature train, picked a pumpkin, and toured a haunted house. We also have enjoyed corresponding with American soldiers serving our great country. We have sent cards and well wishes and plan to continue this special relationship throughout the year. We are very pleased to have received some very prestigious library awards! 2S has a strong winning streak receiving the "Golden Library Award" several weeks in a row and 2K won the "Bookworm Award" two out of the three weeks it was offered. Please continue to read with your child at every opportunity. Reading is the key to academic success! ~Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Kida

Third Graders Help Support Our Soldiers

The third grade students at Lincoln School have participated in a school wide support program for soldiers stationed in Afghanistan. The students have made Halloween and Thanksgiving cards and sent care packages to the soldiers. Our new friends have sent pictures of themselves opening the packages along with special thanks. We plan to continue supporting the soldiers throughout the school year. ~Mrs. Smith, Ms. Scott, and Mr. McKinney

Fifth Graders Busy Reading and Writing

5-Hayes has been busy this month reading and writing. Our class worked hard to figure out a strategy to win the bookworm reading race and were super close. No matter what, the students in 5-Hayes are winners and chose to read for the race because they just simply love to read. Also a big congratulations to the class in completing two great essays that all students worked extra hard from “sloppy copy” to “final copy.” ~Mrs. Hayes

P. E. Page at Lincoln

Hello and welcome to our physical education page for the month of December.

Classroom Activities:

This past month, the kindergarten through 2nd grades have been busy participating in a scooter unit. Students were using balance and control while moving on the scooter in a variety of ways. We will be participating in a cup stacking unit coming up in the next few weeks.

The 3rd through 5th grades have been working on volleyball. Students worked on three different types of hitting which were; forearm passing, set passing and serving. They applied these skills during their team volleyball games. We will be participating in a cup stacking unit this month also.

Home Activity:

Our ultimate goal for your child is to encourage physical activity not only at school but in their after school lives every day. This month, we would like to encourage students to stretch as much as possible. Flexibility is very important and can prevent injuries from occurring. Try stretching at least once a day.

Thanks for your time and we will talk to you next month. ~Mr. Lodico

Art News

Luis Castro's artwork was chosen for the Lincoln School 2009-2010 spirit wear T-shirt! It is a wonderful design with a leopard breaking through the words Lincoln School. Please watch for his leopard on our Lincoln spirit wear. Luis was awarded a T-shirt for his design. Congratulations Luis!

Art classes are designing magic windows to be displayed during the Christmas program. These are a traditional Mexican decoration used for celebrations. They are called papel picado and are cut from tissue paper and displayed in a long banner. They are colorful and beautiful!
~Mrs. Elson

Exciting News from Lincoln School Library

Our Annual Bookworm was a huge success this year. Total minutes read by the Leopards for all three weeks were: 53,880, which is 898 hours!!! WOW!! Outstanding job Leopards!!

Another fun evening was Family Reading Night, which was held at the middle school, on November 19th. All who attended was treated to an evening full of crafts, and special readers including Abraham Lincoln, who at the end of the night recited “The Gettysburg Address.” It was a fun time. The students who either attended the evening or read at home with their families, had their names put into a drawing for a \$5.00 certificate to our annual Book Fair, compliments of our wonderful PTO! One winner per class and they are:

Mrs. Casey's kindergarten – Bryton DiSimoni
Mrs. Davidson's kindergarten – Danny Reyes
Mrs. Yochum's 1st grade –Jamal Davidson
Miss Zilm's 1st grade –Sterling Devers
Mrs. Kida's 2nd grade – Gracie Mingus
Mrs. Smith's 2nd grade – Morelia Escutia
Mr. McKinney's 3rd grade – Ashlynn Leininger
Miss Scott's 3rd grade – David Menez
Mrs. Smith's 3rd grade – Lisette Milan
Mrs. Mahoney's 4th grade – Sally Infante
Mrs. Ponto's 4th grade – Jocelyn Lopez
Mrs. Hayes' 5th grade – Justin Sandoval
Mr. McKinney's 5th grade –Fabian Hueramo

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!

In October, Mrs. Tobler entered a contest of her favorite children's author, Jan Brett and won her newest book, “Jan Brett's Snowy Treasury” for the library. It has a collection of four stories including: The Hat, The Mitten, Three Snow Bears and Gingerbread Baby. The students are really enjoying the new addition to the library. ~Mrs. Tobler

CENTRAL SCHOOL

Jean Kisner, Principal

562-8251

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The students of Central continue to learn about Character Counts. They are asked to practice the six Pillars of Character, (Trustworthy, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship), while at school. Based on the pillars, the teachers nominate a good citizen from each classroom. From those students, the teachers choose one student to be the **good citizen** from the grade level. Those students chosen for the month of November were: Julia Berry, kindergarten, Vanessa Avolio, first grade, Yahelin Munoz, second grade, Grace Orlikowski, third grade, Mario Rocha, fourth grade and Brianna Baker, fifth grade.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Holiday program will be held in the gym on Thursday, December 17. Kindergarten, first and second grades will perform at 1:15 p.m. Third, fourth and fifth grades will perform at 2:15 p.m. Parents, grandparents, etc. are invited to attend. Please **do not come to the school any earlier than 12:30 p.m.** as the children will not be finished with their lunchtime until then.

SOUP LABELS

Please remember to keep saving those Campbell's Soup Labels for Education. Give them to your child's teacher to help purchase items the school needs. You may also send in your box tops and the children are able to redeem them at the Treasure Chest store.

ART NEWS

Art classes are busy designing decorations for the Christmas program this year that is celebrating Christmas from many different cultures. They are designing magic windows that are a traditional Mexican decoration used for celebrations. They are called papel picado and are cut from tissue paper and displayed in a long banner. They are weaving Kwanzaa mats called mkeka that are used during the eight-day African American celebration. They are also cutting the six pointed Jewish Star of David used during Hanukkah. Look for all this beautiful work in they gym during the Christmas program. The program covers were designed by an art student. What creative and talented students! Mrs. Elson thanks you for all your hard work!

NIU RALLY AND GAME

The 5th grade students in Mrs. Frankfother, Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Kurz's classes, attended a student rally at Northern Illinois University, followed by a women's basketball game, on December 2nd. They started the event listening to several of the NIU basketball star athletes. The athletes talked about how reading made them successful in life and in sports. The students cheered on the Huskie players against Iowa State. During half time, one of our very own students, Reed Dalen, was called to the center court to play musical chairs. As an extra gift, NIU gave each student a pom-pon and a free ticket to attend a men's basketball game later that same night. Wow! What a great experience for all our 5th grade cougars!

FIRST GRADE NEWS

Dr. Seuss's Horton Hears a Who, was brought to life for the first graders at Central School when they visited the Coronado Theatre to watch Seussical. The musical taught us many life lessons. Horton taught them that "a persons a person not matter how small." The littlest Who, Jo Jo, helped them realize that "the things they can think, make anything possible." Finally, they learned it's best to be themselves from Horton's friend, Gertrude McFuzz.

KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten classes celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday this year by creating a mural depicting the Mayflower landing. Students created individual Pilgrims and Native Americans to decorate the mural. A special thank you to Mr. Stevens for his help in constructing the background. To see photos of the mural, please visit our website at www.d231.rochelle.net.

CENTRAL SCHOOL HONORS VETERANS

Central School honored Veterans Day on November 11th with three special Veterans. Rochelle residents former Army Captain Michael Koolidge, National Guard member Dirk Bryant, and Naval Petty Officer Brad Wilson, answered the students questions about a variety of topics, including their experiences in the armed forces, life in the military, what it means to be a Veteran, how we should honor Veterans, etc. Each of them shared their lives and experiences in the military, including where they lived, traveled to, what jobs they had, and much more. The assembly also included the Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic songs.

Central School was proud to welcome these Veterans! The kids learned a lot about the military and how special Veterans are. Thank you Michael, Brad, and Dirk!

PTO HOSTS FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Central School PTO hosted Family Movie Night on November 13th. Families came to the gym armed with their pillows and blankets ready to watch *Monsters vs. Aliens* and enjoy some quality time. The gym was packed with excited families who enjoyed a theater-style movie on the big screen! PTO also offered a concession stand full of goodies for the students and families to munch on while they watched the movie. The night was a great success! A big thank you to the Central School PTO for providing such a fun night for Central families! Join us again when we do it in the spring!

MILLION MINUTE CHALLENGE CONTINUES

Central School students set a lofty goal of reading 1,000,000 minutes by the end of the school year! Each student has a personal goal of 400 minutes per month of reading outside of school. At the end of each month, the kids return their reading calendars. If the kids reach their goal, there will be a school-wide carnival at the end of the year. For the month of November, the students read **167,074** minutes.

In addition, each classroom teacher names a “star reader” for the month, which is someone who has worked really hard on their reading during the month. The star readers from each class get \$5 in Cougar Cash to spend at the school store. Those readers include...

Kindergarten - Mrs. Kessen's class – Cecilia Vargas
Mrs. Kennay's class – Tristan Simms
Mrs. Alfano's class – Robert Escobar

1st Grade – Mrs. Nicol's class – Aiden Seldal
Mrs. Hunley's class – Ryan Paxton
Mrs. Guzman's class – Michelle Samano

2nd Grade – Mrs. Lieving's class – Amy Price
Mrs. Ebert's class – lizette Caballero
Mrs. DaCosta's class – Zack Capes

3rd Grade – Mrs. Andrew's class – Benjamin DaCosta
Mrs. Meurer's class – Marc Anthony Marin
Mrs. Dummer's class – Haley Vogt

4th Grade – Miss Gardell's class – Scott Broussard
Miss Fletcher's class – Jessica Hernandez

5th Grade – Mrs. Frankfother's class – Jake Wyatt
Mrs. Kurz's class – Ambur Hawkins
Ms. Jackson's class – John Patterson

Awesome job Central Cougars! Keep reading!