



MS. ZECCA'S NEWSLETTER

Week 19: January 12-16

Important Dates



January 19-Holiday-No School
January 22-Choice Sheets for Covington
January 22-Basketball Family Night
5:15-6:15
January 28-PTA Bingo Night 6:30-7:30
February 2-6-Counselor Appreciation
Week
February 3-MOY II Reading Benchmark
February 4-MOY II Math Benchmark
February 5-Progress Reports go Home
February 16-Parent Conference Day-NO
School
February 24-MOY II Science Benchmark
February 26-Class & Spring Pictures

For Your Information...

From the Principal...



Welcome back to 2015! Everyone seems rested and ready to go. Some classes are setting New Year resolutions and planning steps to ensure they are successful in their quest. Our family decided our resolution was to have 2 or more meals at the dinner table. With our hectic schedules, that will be an accomplishment for the Noack family. Has your family set some resolutions? Reading every night? No screen time after 7:30? Family meals? Specific homework time?

Important Change: Parent surveys and input from other parent groups have indicated you all would like to return to the paper version of the bi-monthly newsletter from the school. We had moved to an electronic version of newsletters to save paper. However, in order to provide information in a manner that works for you all, we are returning to the paper version every other week on blue paper that will go home in Thursday folders. This newsletter will provide information from me, the assistant principal, counselor, PTA and a calendar. Our special area teachers will send home one newsletter a month about their programs and curriculum. We will continue to send out brief email news blasts with quick reminders.

Middle of the Year: Now that we have entered the second semester, the teachers will begin middle of the year assessments. Primary grades will be administering DRA/TPRI/Tango tests in January. Our intermediate teachers will be administering benchmark tests in early February. The results of the tests and the impact the information will have on your child will be communicated with you. As always, please contact your teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding academics or any other issues that come up. Don't wait, call. They are happy to help.

Spring GT Nominations: On Monday, January 12, 2015, Parents and teachers may begin nominating students for screening for the Gifted and Talented program. The nomination window remains open until Friday, January 30, 2015. Parents should consult with the student's classroom teacher concerning the student's academic performance, before making the nomination. Parents may pick up nomination forms from the office or request one from the classroom teacher. Nomination forms can also be requested from Nicole Lozo via e-mail at nicole.lozo@austinisd.org. If you have any questions contact Nicole Lozo at 512-841-5376 or Karen Littlefeather, campus advocate at 512-841-5342.

January Birthdays



1/11-Mauricio
1/17-Delilah
1/25-Beverly
1/25-Ryan



Reminders: Library books are due every other Tuesday. Even if your child is not done with a book, they must bring it to renew it on checkout days. **THIS IS NOT A CHECKOUT WEEK.**

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Lunch Menu

Monday: Hamburger / Garden Burger

Tuesday: Pizza / Chicken Fajita

Wednesday: Chicken Tenders / Meatloaf

Thursday: Soft or Crispy Taco / Tuna Salad in Pita Bread

Friday: Fish Burger / Steak Sticks



Specials

Monday: Art

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: P.E.

Thursday: Art

Friday: Music

***Please make sure your child wears tennis shoes on P.E. days.**

Library

Bring ALL your library books NEXT Tuesday!



What We're Learning

READING: Students will be drawing conclusions and making inferences about how an author's use of sensory language creates imagery in poems.

WRITING: Students will be writing an expository poem using poetic techniques, figurative language and graphic elements.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Students will be learning about Westward Expansion, focusing on the War of 1812.



Literacy Tips

Poetry Reading Strategies

- ♦ **Preview** the poem by reading the title and paying attention to the poem's form: shape on the page, stanzas, number of lines and ending punctuation.
- ♦ **Read poem aloud several times** to hear rhyme, rhythm, and the overall sound of the poem. This makes it easier to understand the poem.
- ♦ **Visualize the images** by paying close attention to strong verbs, and comparisons in poem. Do the images remind you of anything? Let the comparisons paint a picture in your head.
- ♦ **Clarify words and phrases** by allowing yourself to find the meaning of words or phrases that stand out, are repeated, or you do not understand the meaning. Use dictionary, context clues, teacher or peer.
- ♦ **Evaluate the poem's theme** by asking what message is the poet trying to send or help you understand? Does it relate to your life in any way?