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The Pegasus Post

From the Principal– Dr. McBroom

Pope Parents,

The end of the first semester is quickly approaching, as the staff and students of Pope Elementary School continue to strive for excellence. I am so proud of the Pope community for their partnership as an integral part of the academic growth and success of our students. I ask that you continue to volunteer in our school as often as possible. We provide a multiplicity of support opportunities designed to meet the needs of our students and staff.

The second nine week period ends Thursday, January 24th. Report cards will go home on February 5th and an award ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, February 7th. There is not a scheduled Parent -Teacher Conference Day on the calendar for the second nine week grading period, but do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have concerns.

Attendance is very important for the success of your child's education. According to the *New DoDEA Attendance Policy*, students will be counted absent if they miss ¼ or ½ of a school day. If students check in after 9:30 a.m., they will be counted absent for that portion of the day. If students check out before 2:00 p.m., they will be counted absent for that portion of the day. Starting the third nine week period, any students absent for any portion of the day will not receive a perfect attendance award during the Nine Week Period.

Please share your thoughts or ideas relating to Pope Elementary School's Continuous School Improvement. We welcome any school-wide improvement suggestions which will assist us as we progress towards continuous student achievement.

Vision: **"Teaching for the Future, Learning for a Lifetime"**

Feedback towards Continuous School Improvement

January Issue
January 17, 2013

Pope's Vision:
Teaching for the Future...Learning for a Lifetime!

DoDEA Mission:
Educate, Engage and Empower Each student to succeed in a dynamic world.

Smart Goal #1: By the end of the school year, all students will increase reading comprehension skills. At Pope Elementary School reading comprehension will be evidenced by improved phonological awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency and vocabulary skills. Data will be gathered and monitored using system-wide and selected local assessments.

Smart Goal #2: By the end of the school year, all students will increase math problem solving skills. At Pope Elementary School math problem solving will be evidenced through mathematical communication using strategies such as, but not limited to the four step (Understand, Plan, Solve, Look back) process. Data will be gathered and monitored using system-wide and selected local assessments.



November Dates:

- *Jan. 17: PTO Meeting
- *Jan. 18: CSI Day, Non-student day
- *Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Holiday
- *Jan. 24: End of 2nd reporting period
- *Feb. 1: Teacher workday (non-student day)
- *Feb. 5: Report cards
- *Feb. 7: Awards Ceremony
- *Feb. 18: Presidents' Day Holiday

Nurse's Notes

A sniffle. A cough. A sore throat. Children come down with illnesses big and small. Some are contagious, some are not. How do you know when to keep your child home from school?



Fever is the body's way of destroying the germs making it sick, and it's a common symptom of infections such as flu. Keep your children home if their temperature is 100° F or higher. Wait until children are fever-free for 24 hours, without medication, before letting them return to school.

Diarrhea is often the result of infection, food poisoning, or a side effect to medications like antibiotics. Keep children home until stools are formed and your doctor gives the okay. Make sure your sick child stays well-hydrated.

Vomiting is another way for the body to rid itself of the germs making it sick, and is usually caused by a stomach virus or stomach infection. Keep children home if they've vomited in the last 24 hours. They can return to school after symptoms clear up or your doctor says they're no longer contagious.

Severe cough and cold symptoms should keep kids home from school. A serious cough could be a sign of contagious conditions like whooping cough, viral bronchitis, or croup. It can also be a sign of asthma or allergies.

Sore throats can be a symptom of strep or a common cold. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat, keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotics. If your child has a mild cold, it's okay to go to school.

Headaches can be a symptom of contagious conditions like viral gastroenteritis, flu, meningitis, and strep throat. Opinions differ on whether a child should be kept home. If your child doesn't have any other signs of illness, and feels okay, your child can go to school.

Mild cold or respiratory symptoms are no reason to keep children at home so long as their nasal drainage is clear and their cough is mild.

Music Notes– Mrs. Evans

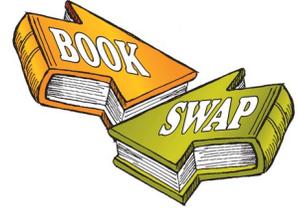


Earlier in the school year, I taught your children about “Peter and the Wolf” a musical story written by Sergei Prokofiev. I used several versions of the musical story; an Academy Award winning claymation released worldwide a few years ago, Disney, a Jim Gamble puppet show and a live action film. We used a compare and contrast graph to discuss the differences and similarities. The students also listed their favorite versions.

We are now learning how to read rhythms using quarter & eighth notes. Pope students are becoming musically smart!

Information Center Corner– Mrs. Ray

We are still collecting books for the book swap which will occur on January 22, 23, and 24. If you would like for your child to participate in the book swap, please select gently used books from your child's personal library and send the books to school with your child. It would be helpful if you can send the books in a Ziploc bag. I am asking that you send five books or less for the book swap.



Guideline Reminders:

1. The books should be in good condition.
2. The books should not have rips or markings of any kind on the pages.
3. The reading level of the books brought in should match the level of the student who brings in the book. *(Example: A student who reads on fifth grade level should not bring books which are intended for first grade readers. We are trying to ensure that there are enough books on each grade level.)*
4. Only students who bring in books will be allowed to participate in the book swap.
5. Either Dr. McBroom or Mrs. Ray has the final say on which books will be accepted.

****If you have questions please call Mrs. Ray at 910-907-0914****

Gifted News– Ms. Murray

The gifted students are working on various projects. The students will be doing a Book Report Project which will consist of a power point presentation and an illustration which requires the students to be very creative. The gifted students are also hard at work on building problem-solving skills through the use of Superstar Math, creative thinking skills problems and manipulatives.

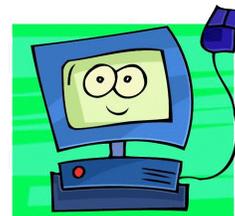


ESL Notes– Mrs. Robinson

The purpose of the DoDEA program for English language learners (ELL) is to increase students' English language skills so their academic performance is equivalent to native English-speaking students of the same age and grade level. The focus is to provide the educational opportunities that will enable the ELL to be an independent learner, successful in the classroom, and a productive member of society.

In the classroom, we focus on broadening each student's English vocabulary and strengthening their English writing skills. Many of these learning opportunities are presented in a game format, making them more fun and enjoyable. Many other games are available online that are directed specifically for ELL students. Below is a list of websites with games that should help your child improve his/her English vocabulary and language arts skills.

- <http://www.spellingcity.com/>
- http://www.internet4classrooms.com/kplus_alpha.htm
- <http://pbskids.org/games/letters.html>
- http://www.englishmedialab.com/games_puzzles.html
- <http://www.english-4kids.com/>
- <http://www.esl-galaxy.com/>
- <http://www.esltower.com/>



Counselor's Corner– Ms. Skinner-Coleman, NCC



What an honor!! Pope's 4th grade students have been selected to represent schools across our state and the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is given by the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what our nation's students know and can do in key subject areas. It is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment. Individual student scores are not reported; instead the results are published in a report called The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. Parents can access student and sample assessment questions at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents/>.



Safety Report— Mr. Surmann

Safety of your children while at Pope ES is a top priority. To provide this safety we conduct a 100% ID check of each individual who enters the school. Everyone is required to sign in and exchange their ID for a School Visitors Badge which is to be worn at all times while in the school.

We conduct various drills throughout the year to ensure the students well being in the event of a fire or tornado. Additionally as the year progresses we conduct drills for Shelter-in-Place and Lockdown. All of these drills are conducted to give students and staff actual experience of evacuating the building quickly, moving to a designated safe area in the school or securing themselves in their classroom.

Another way we look out for your children is the requirement for them to travel in pairs whenever they leave the presence of their teacher, such as going to the restroom, to see the school nurse or drop off items to the Main Office.

In the event they become separated from their class or do not know where the class has relocated to they are told to report to the Main Office where they will be reunited with the rest of their classmates and teacher.

Please talk to your children about what type of safety they experience in school. They may not even be aware that they are practicing safety every day.