

BULLARD ELEMENTARY NEWS AND NOTES OCTOBER 2009

It's hard to believe that we've just completed our first nine week grading period! Third grade students will be bringing home a new standards based report card this year. It is similar to the ones received in kindergarten through second grades. A CRCT letter for all 3rd and 5th grade parents will come home this week as well. Please read it carefully as changes in the retesting of students have been made. This year, remediation will take place during the month of May and retesting will take place on May 24th and 25th. More details will be sure to follow.

CRCT Online Practice: Be on the lookout for a flyer that outlines how to go online for extra practice at home. These flyers will be in next week's Thursday Folders.

Transportation News: Thank you to all of you who make the car line so smooth. Please remember to stay in the line to drop off your children unless you plan to come inside the building. Bus riders are at an all time high! Thank you for understanding that children cannot ride home on different buses with their friends.

Kindergarten News: What a great start we are off to in Kindergarten! As fall approaches we are continuing to dig into the meat of kindergarten with engaging learning every day. At the end of October we will have High Touch High Tech Dig It field trip come to the school. This is a wonderful, hands-on program that the children love. In November we will have a student holiday on the 3rd and Thanksgiving break November 23-27. Look for exciting and new information from your child's teacher in weekly or monthly newsletters.

1st Grade News: First grade is excited about the standards we will be covering during the 2nd nine weeks of school! We will be learning how to add, make fair trades, and compare different amounts of money. We will also be learning about the importance of understanding the measurement of time, and how tables and graphs can help us to understand information. We will continue learning how to write a personal narrative, what we need to do in order to become a great reader, and how to make sense of text. Topics we will be covering in science and social studies include magnets, sound, Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, and Sacagawea.

2nd Grade News: Second grade has been hard at work! We have focused on writing personal narratives, reading to comprehend different kinds of text, and applying many new math skills, including

number sense and regrouping. This month we will discover more about nutrition from Wellstar and enjoy a performing arts field trip to see The Georgia Ballet's version of *A Sleepy Hollow*. We are excited to be involved with so many learning opportunities!

3rd Grade News: Third graders have been working to understand math concepts, some of which include place value, estimation, elapsed time, and addition and subtraction. They have been getting to know themselves as readers by identifying genres, making predictions and making connections. Good readers ask questions, stop and reread, and include main ideas in their retelling or summaries. Third grade authors have included interesting words to enhance descriptive writing and have used story elements and first person voice in narrative writing. Ancient Greece, democratic principles, and productive resources have been the focus of study in Social Studies. Finally, third graders have been discovering differences between rocks and minerals and have been investigating fossils. Areas of study to come include: in depth work in multiplication, gaining further reading comprehension strategies, responding to literature pieces, discovering important historical figures, and researching the varied regions of Georgia.

4th Grade News: Our students are staying focused on a daily basis as we continue to cover the standards for 4th grade in each subject area. During the first nine weeks, we have been learning about different reading strategies and writing skills in Language Arts. We have also reviewed various math concepts including number sense and multiplication. In addition, we are building the kids knowledge of problem solving strategies that will be useful in the real world. We are finishing up our unit on weather in Science. Students will be working on their "Map In A Month" projects to help reinforce map skills and landforms in Social Studies. Please continue to help your child review some of the concepts we have covered in class at home, as well as practice multiplication facts. Thank you again for all of your support so far this year

5th Grade News: Fifth grade has been traveling back in time to the 1860's. Civil War Day was a fun learning experience where the students rotated through different stations. They made hardtack, calling cards, class quilts, and canteens. They designed a map, wrote a letter using berry ink, went to the infirmary, and had camp recreation. This was a great learning experience for everyone.

News from the Media Center: Bullard Media Center is so excited to teach classes this year to every grade. Kindergarten through 2nd grade are getting an introduction to a variety of books, while 3rd through 5th graders are learning how to do research using books and technology. Please put our username and password for Cobb Virtual Library near your computer so your child can continue 'researching.' This great education site is paid for by our tax dollars and opens a plethora of information from encyclopedias to magazines to music. Younger students will enjoy using **Pebble Go** for books that read to them.

Our library doors are always open to you for any reason. We can answer questions about CVL, take your suggestions on books to buy for our students, and volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Susan Lamothe

Cobb Virtual Library: <http://cvl.cobbk12.org/>

user name: cobb

password: bird

Attendance Reminders: The 411 from your School Social Worker

One of the most basic components of academic success is regular school attendance. Frequent absences and tardies interfere with a student's academic and social development. Missing 15 minutes a day from school as result of tardies can total up to 6 ½ school days a year! According to Georgia Law, children between the ages of 6 and 16 must enroll in a private, public, or home school program. School Social Workers are responsible for enforcing the Compulsory Attendance Law by working with students and parents/guardians to alleviate the barriers, which lead to excessive absences. The policy states the following:

- **Five Excused Absences:** The teacher will contact the parent or guardian. If contact is unsuccessful, then a letter or postcard will be sent.
- **Five Unexcused Absences:** After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of five unexcused absence without response, the school shall send a notice to such parent, guardian, or other person by certified mail, return receipt requested.
- **Ten Excused or Unexcused Absences:** A letter will be sent from a school administrator to the parent or guardian regarding attendance. In addition, an administrator shall confer with a School Social Worker to determine whether a referral is warranted, at this time.

- **Fifteen Excused or Unexcused Absences:** A referral shall be made to the School Social Worker.

Please note the county policy outlines that at 10 or more absences the school administrator and/or school social worker may require a doctor's statement verifying illness. You can review this policy at the county's website.

Important Dates:

Oct 20- Reflections Reception

Oct 21- Early Release Day: Dismissal at 12:20

Oct 22- Boosterthon Fun Run

Nov 3- Teacher Workday/ Student Holiday

Nov 12- Science Day

Nov 16- Turkey Bingo

Nov 20- Jump Rope for Heart

Nov 23-27- Thanksgiving Holidays