

Mandy the Whale

Chantelle O. Smith, Principal

Whale Tales

Mandeville Elementary School PTA Newsletter



Eddie Strohmeyer, Vice Principal

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Room Parents Mtg—9:30	3
4	5 Labor Day NO SCHOOL	6	7 Adventure Fest KickOff Meeting 10:30	8 Black&Gold Day	9	10
11	12 Grandparents Week Begins!	13 Grandparents Day - 3rd Gr	14 Grandparents Day - 2nd Gr	15 Grandparents Day - 1st Gr	16 Grandparents Day - K & Pre-K	17
18	19	20	21	22	23  First Day of Fall!	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Parish Fair Day NO SCHOOL	

Mandeville Elementary School

519 Massena Street

Mandeville, Louisiana 70448 * 985-624-3950

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<p>Dance With Carol Performance Academy</p> <p>985.727.1030 www.dancewithcarol.com</p> <p>Hip Hop, Lyrical Ballet, Tap, Tumbling & Contemporary Dance Dance Birthday Parties Summer Camp</p>		<p>Fresh Cut Landscaping</p> <p>Design • Irrigation • Lighting Maintenance • Hardscape Sod • Fencing and more! www.freshcutlandscaping.com</p> <p>Randy C. Newfield newfield@charter.net 504-228-4445</p>
	<p>Support Your MES PTA!! SPONSOR THIS SQUARE!</p> <p>Your ad could appear HERE for \$25/month or all year long for just \$125</p>	

Principal's Page

We've gotten off to a great start going "To Infinity and Beyond with Learning". Our journey so far has been a smooth one, and we are looking forward to the students making huge gains this year. A special thanks to our parents, faculty and all staff who have helped make this a great beginning!

As you all know we practice the FISH philosophy at MES. We've reviewed all of the expectations with the students, and we are all now earning fish by being there, making someone's day, choosing our attitudes, and having fun. All of our students, especially our youngest children, are doing a great job. Our older students are working hard to be role models in our school. Everyone is dedicated to making sure they do what is expected. Great job to all! As you walk the halls at MES, you will notice all of us fishing by "Having Fun." Play is not just an activity, it is a state of mind that brings new energy to the tasks at hand and sparks creative solutions. Creativity is flowing! You will also notice our children making the world a better place as they work to "Make Someone's Day!" Through a small kindness or unforgettable interaction, they have helped turn routine encounters into special memories. They regularly act on the intention to help others. They are also "Being There" as they are being fully present for others, including their teachers. They keep their eyes on the speaker and are working

really hard to attentively listen. All of our students have been "Choosing Their Attitude" as they are coming to school happily and with smiles on their faces. They are learning that they have the power to choose their response to what life brings and are always looking for the best.



"The most important way you can be involved is by maintaining open and ongoing communication with your child's teacher and other important adults in his or her life."

Our staff is dedicated to serving each child and to meeting the needs of every child, every day. In order for us all to do that, we encourage and need your input. You are the first teachers of our children, and being actively involved in your child's education is an important contributor to your child's success. The most important way you can be involved is by maintaining open and ongoing communication with your child's teacher and other important adults in his or

her life. We value your input as we meet the needs of each child. Please know you can call the school and schedule a conference with your child's teacher. If you have any ideas to share, please contact your child's teacher, Mr. Strohmeier, or me at any time. When parents, teachers, and administrators work together, our kids thrive! Our goal is to help all children succeed and reach their potential.

Please refer to the student handbook for information on the attendance policy, as we have had a few changes in the past years. The maximum number of days a child can miss is ten. We all know that a child's attendance at school is directly tied to success in the classroom. Please make sure that your child arrives at school on time and stays for the entire school day each day of the school year. We encourage you to utilize the transportation system provided by the school district to get your child to school and home safely and on time. If your child is sick, please follow the procedures outlined in the handbook in order for the absence to be excused.

It is our privilege to work with each of you and your children. Your children are priceless, and we treasure each of them. Thank you for your continued support and willingness to work together to ensure your child is safe, happy, and learning at high levels with our Mandeville Elementary family. Remember, if you need anything, call 626-3950.

Yours in education,
Chantelle O. Smith

News of Note From the St. Tammany Parish District PTA

The National Alliance of Black School Educators' Parent Commission (NABSE) and the U.S. Department of Education would like to invite you to attend the 2011 Parents Summit in New Orleans, LA. The summit will start on Wednesday, November 16th. Parents are welcome to attend and learn about a variety of topics, including resources available to parents, Louisiana Academic Content Standards, and special education. Please visit www.nabse.org for more information and to register online.

Pre-K News

The Pre-K students have been in school for approximately two weeks and have done a TOTALLY AWESOME job at their new school. Learning how to carry their tray in the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch, sitting and listening in Morning Meeting, and how to follow bus and car line expectations are just some of the new routines the students have learned. We are also learning the rules of the classroom and the school.

We will complete our first unit of

School soon and move onto All About Me in the next week to come. The All about Me unit teaches the students how they are all alike and different in the many ways. We will discuss our favorite items, the five senses, and how to be a friend.

The Pre-K teachers have many exciting adventures that will take us to infinity and beyond with learning. We hope that you will enjoy the journey with them!



Kindergarten News

August was a very busy month for Kindergarteners. We started out the year with reading [The Gingerbread Man](#), followed by a tour of the school so we could become familiar with all the important places in our school. The tour ended with finding our Gingerbread cookies that the Gingerbread Man sent us on a hunt for all around the school!

We are learning many new routines and procedures that will help us to have a successful kindergarten year. Students are realizing how school

rules fit into the FISH philosophy. We're discovering that rules are made to keep us safe and happy.



We also enjoy sharing in morning meeting how we earned our fish!

The students love doing all sorts of new activities that include; using the iTouches and prometean

boards, playing on the "Big" playground and going to specials like library, music, P.E. and art.

Our Kindergarteners have had to learn lots of new things all at once in a new "big school" environment. The kindergarten teachers would like to give a special "THANK YOU" to all of the parents for their involvement and support during this process. We are looking forward to a wonderful, fun filled year with many exciting and valuable learning experiences for our children.

First Grade News

Welcome to a new school year! We are so excited about all of our new classmates. You will notice a couple of familiar faces around MES, but new to first grade. We would like to welcome Ms. Devon Thompson and Ms. Paula Tregre to our team of first grade teachers.

The first graders have been busy visiting with old friends and making new ones. The "Fish Philosophy" is in full

swing as they learn about different ways to be a good friend. We enjoyed learning all about our classmates and learning what makes each of us special.

Our first graders have been working hard to learn the rules and procedures of the school and classroom. We can already tell that together, we will bring learning "to infinity and beyond!"



Second Grade News

Wow! What a blast off as 2nd grade launched into *infinity and beyond!* We began with plenty of "getting to know you" activities. Children enjoyed guessing games and "find someone who" games in order to learn about each other. Students also began the journey into learning. We started with basic addition facts and number sense in math. Sentence structure using nouns and verbs, as well as different kinds of sentences were part of our daily journey in language. Children also loved preparing



for Open House. Students were excited to show off their work and their classrooms.

There was also plenty of "fishing" going on! Second grade was recog-

nized at morning meeting for great lunchroom behavior, and there were many individuals who made sure they were being there, choosing their attitudes, and making someone's day. Of course, having fun is something we always remember to do!

Now that we are off into infinity where the possibilities are endless, we are looking forward to lots of fun, fishing, and adventure along the way!

Third Grade News

Our final year at MES is off to "Infinity and Beyond...with Learning". We will be venturing to the far reaches of the known, and unknown this school year, as our academic journey will take us to many places we have never been before.

This year our students will have new discoveries in math, as they explore multiplication and division, as well as new concepts in problem solving and geometry. In science, we inves-

tigate force and motion, the power of energy, the human body, and our solar system.



Our home state, Louisiana, is the focus of social studies as we learn about Louisiana's history, geogra-

phy, and culture. We will take a trip through the Honey Island Swamp to learn what makes our wetlands so special. Our journey through Louisiana concludes as we board tour buses for a trip to Baton Rouge, where we will see our state government in action.

So prepare yourself for the third grade trip of a lifetime. Your final year at MES will be out of this world!



Third Grade Rite of Passage - Thursday, May 17, 2012

Rite of Passage has been a tradition in the local elementary schools for many years. It marks the "passage" of the 3rd grade student from the elementary level to the next level of learning and is also a moment for students to reflect on how far they've come since entering Kindergarten at MES. This year's Rite of Passage ceremony for third graders and their families is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 17. Third grade students have the opportunity to order a special Rite of Passage shirt and are encouraged to wear it the day of the ceremony. Additionally, once the 3rd grade Rite of Passage shirts are distributed, they become part of the school uniform and may be worn any day of the week to school! Order forms should go home sometime in September; some students may like to order more than one shirt. The shirt will feature artwork from the winner of the Rite of Passage T-shirt Art Contest and third grade student names will be listed on the back. Look for shirt updates in 3rd grade Monday Memos and the school and PTA website.

Book Report

By Ms. Cynthia LeBas



Welcome back to the library. I am so excited to be back at school with my MES friends.

We have begun the year reviewing library procedures with the students. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students may check out 2 books. When Kindergarten students begin checking out books, they may check out one book each week. Permission slips for Kindergarten students to check out books will be sent home soon.

If a book is lost or damaged, the replacement cost must be paid. This fee needs to be paid before the child will be allowed to check out additional books. According to our handbook, once paid, the cost of lost books later found will not be reimbursed. The student may keep the book or donate it back to the library.

Our book fair was a huge success. With the money earned, a Promethean Board will be purchased for the library. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who volunteered. A special thanks to our library coordinator, Ms. Susan Bidleman. As always, we couldn't have been successful without you.



Music Notes

By Ms. Heidi Wight



The music classes will be very busy this year learning the language of music. The students will be able to know and understand music theory as it applies in the classroom and in everyday life. We are also working on beat activities and playing various wonderful instruments. It is so great to be back at school. We surely will be taking our learning to infinity and beyond.



The Art Studio

With Ms. Cleveland

We have been having fun getting to know each other as we go *...To Infinity and Beyond with Art!* During the first nine weeks students will be focusing on our community of St. Tammany. We will be talking about all the plants, animals, places, and people that make where we live special. We also will be looking and talking about famous works of art which portray the environment or community of the artists who created the works.

Students have already been introduced to a unique way of drawing using color and shape instead of lines as they create Louisiana animals like the frog, heron, and armadillo. We are discovering that there is, "Plenty to See from A to Z in St. Tammany", which also happens to be the theme for the St. Tammany Parish Fair this year!

Sport Report



By Ms. Gina Giambrone

Hello! My name is Ms. Gina Giambrone and I am the new P.E. teacher. I am very excited to be working at Mandeville Elementary this year and look forward to a great school year. The first half of the school year we will be working on rules and procedures as well as basic skills (throwing, tossing, kicking, etc.).

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at gina.giambrone@stpsb.org.

Technology Enhancing Morning Meeting at MES

Technology at MES has become a part of everyday life at MES, in and out of the classroom. In the gym, we have a complete multimedia station which includes a very large rear projection screen, projector, document camera laptop, and sound system. On the first day, we went over Morning Meeting expectations with the students by sharing a power point that highlighted the fish philosophy at work. The power point included pictures of past morning meetings as examples. Throughout the year we will continue sharing power point presentations with the children highlighting things such as car line, cafeteria, bus, and recess expectations.

Another way technology has enhanced Morning Meeting is allowing our Fishing Videos to be shared with everyone. Each week, a different teacher's class is filmed using a flip camera talking about ways in which their teacher uses the fish philosophy in and out of the classroom. The students love watching themselves on the big screen and the teachers feel so appreciated!

Finally, our document camera is a perfect way for us to share any student's or class's work. The camera image is projected on the large screen making even the smallest writing easy to see for everyone. We look forward to seeing many wonderful projects by our MES students.

Letter from the MES PTA President

Welcome Back! We have had such a great start to the school year. It has been so nice to see some old faces and meet some new. MES is such a great place to volunteer, and we welcome everyone to be a part of your MES PTA.

We had such a great turn out for our volunteer orientation. I'd like to thank everyone for expressing interest in getting involved. It is always so inspiring to have some new parents who are so eager to help. If you are interested in being a part of the PTA and sharing your talents, please feel free to email me at dml91@bellsouth.net. We are a

fun group to be a part of, and your children benefit from it.

We are currently accepting PTA memberships. Your MES PTA has been the recipient of many district level awards because of your support. If you haven't joined the PTA, I encourage your support. With your membership, you are supporting the many activities and programs that the PTA offers, as well as being a voice in the advocacy of your children.

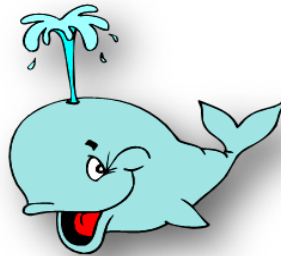
Our main fall event is our highly anticipated Adventure Fest. This year it will be held on Saturday, Novem-

ber 12th. We are thankful to have such wonderful co-chairs, Christine Desposito and Susan Bidleman. With their guidance, our Adventure Fest is a fun filled event for the entire family. This event cannot be successful without the assistance of countless volunteers. We will be having a kick off meeting on Wednesday, September 7th at 10:30. Please join us to see how you can be a part of such a fun family event that your child will enjoy.

We are looking forward to a great year with endless possibilities!

Monica Hernandez
2011-12 MES PTA President

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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all the new *and* old MES PTA volunteers for coming out to our **New Volunteer Meeting**. We had a great turn out and were so excited to see so many new, eager smiling faces. The MES PTA

accomplishes so many amazing things each year because we have so many amazing volunteers! We truly have a great team but we are always looking for new teammates! If you weren't able to make the meeting but would like to speak to someone about volunteer opportunities at MES please contact Christine Desposito at 626-9199 or cddespo@bellsouth.net

No matter how much time you have, every little bit counts!

STAY IN TOUCH!

If you signed up to receive emails from the MES PTA but have not yet received any, please contact Robyn Biggers at winbig@mindspring.com.



Congratulations to MES Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Monica Campo

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Monica Campo, the **2011-12 MES Teacher of the Year**. Mrs. Campo serves as a Preschool Early Intervention teacher at MES. She fell in love with teaching early intervention after an early introduction, and it quickly became her passion. She has a Master's degree in Preschool Early Intervention and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood. Mrs. Campo has been teaching at Mandeville Elementary since August 2002 and before that, she taught at several schools in St. Tammany and Orleans Parishes. She is married and has three children.

With a classroom mission for all students to be happy, independent, and successful, lifelong learners, MES is lucky to have Mrs. Campo on its team! Congratulations again.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

2011-2012 MES Yearbook on Sale NOW!

To Infinity & Beyond with Learning! It's sure to hit the best seller list and certainly a book you won't want to miss – the MES 2011-12 Yearbook! Filled with 64 pages of color photos, memories, and original student art work on the cover and throughout – reserve your copy NOW! Only preorders are guaranteed delivery.

And just for parents – there are two easy ways to order this priceless treasure, both starting at just \$20. Online ordering through the Jostens website will also give you the option to personalize your yearbook for an additional fee. Orders can be made online by visiting either the MES or the MES PTA website and clicking on the link to order your yearbook.

If you prefer the traditional method of paying by check then please make it payable to "Mandeville Elementary School" and write your child's name, teacher name, and yearbook in the memo section of the check. Order forms will be sent home in September. Either return the school order form or include a note with your child's name, teacher name, parent name, email address and/or phone number. Order your copy by Tuesday, January 24th to be guaranteed a copy at only \$20 each. **The price will increase after January 24th.** Don't be disappointed when the yearbooks are delivered in May!



Pencil These Dates In!

- **September 5 - Labor Day, NO SCHOOL**
- **September 7 - Adventure Fest Kickoff Meeting**
- **September 8 - Black & Gold Day**
- **September 12-17 - Grandparents Week**
- **September 30—Parish Fair Day - NO SCHOOL**
- **Last Friday of Every Month - Newspaper Recycling -**

Scissors Are All You Need for These MES PTA Fundraisers!



MES participates in fundraising programs such as **General Mills' Box Tops for Education**, **Campbell's Labels for Education**, **Community Coffee Cash for Schools** and **Tyson Project A+**. These programs are such an easy way for families to support MES by collecting labels and UPCs from products you already have at home! The more you collect, the more money MES earns to help improve technology in our school! Ask your family, friends, businesses, and churches for their help in clipping before the packaging is tossed. Visit the "Fundraising" page at the MES PTA website, www.mandevilleelementarypta.com, where you can print out collection sheets for submitting labels and also find links to each program's website.



Recycling is a Win-Win for MES

Used **printer cartridges**, **old cell phones** and **newspapers** are worth something at MES because the MES PTA earns money from recycling them. Bringing these items to school means less waste in our landfills and more success for MES PTA programs and activities. Please keep these recycling initiatives in mind at home and at work!

And remember, the newspaper recycling bin is located just past car line (behind the gym) and is always open! Feel free to drop your newspapers off any time or during **Newspaper Recycling Day**, which is the last Friday of every month.

Adventure Fest is Coming

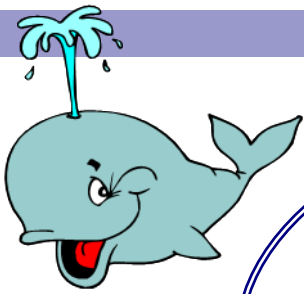
Mark your calendar! Adventure Fest is right around the corner ~ **Saturday, November 12** from **9am to 3pm**. Join us on **September 7th** at **10:30** for our kick-off planning meeting! If you are new to our school, this is one event you will not want to miss!



Attention Car Liners!

In order to keep afternoon car line moving safely and smoothly, please be sure to write your child's name in **LARGE** print on the sign **provided by MES**, and display it clearly in your front passenger window. The designated car line signs, which feature our very own Mandy the Whale, are available at the front office.

Thank you!



Thanks for Being There, Susan!
The MES PTA would like to extend a special thank you to Susan Bidleman, for "being there" for all of us at MES and for making the MES Book Fair such a wonderfully successful event. We truly appreciate everything you do!

Join Us for MES Grandparents Week

We invite MES grandparents or "special" adults to attend our Mandeville Elementary School Grandparents' Week celebration. MES Grandparents' Week begins on Monday, September 12 – Friday, September 16. We are requesting volunteers to provide baked goods and volunteers to help escort grandparents to the classrooms. If you would like to help with either of these, please contact:

Susan Bidleman at 789-4019 or susiefb@yahoo.com
Christine Desposito at 626-9199 or cddespo@bellsouth.net

We are looking forward to a great week!

Thank You,
Susan Bidleman and Christine Desposito
Grandparents Week Co-Chairs

BLACK & GOLD DAY!

September 8, 2011



Students who make a \$1.00 donation will get to wear their black & gold to school.

All proceeds benefit the St. Tammany Children's Museum!

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