

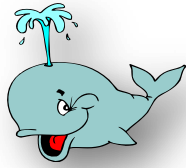
Whale Tales

Mandeville Elementary School PTA Newsletter

February 2011

Beth Laine, Principal

Eddie Strohmeyer, Asst. Principal



FEBRUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 PTA General Mtg 6 p.m. Destiny A/R Student Performances to follow	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18 Louisiana Day (3 rd Grade)	19
20	21 Presidents Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	March 1 <i>Coming this Month:</i> Sock Hop- 3/18 Cultural Arts Day - 3/25	2	3	4	5

Mandeville Elementary School

519 Massena Street

Mandeville, Louisiana 70448 * 985-626-3950

We're on the Web! www.mandevilleelementarypta.org

<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> <p>Call Erin Lorio (985-624-4024)</p>	<p><i>Pamela Graham Appe</i> Independent Beauty Consultant Mary Kay 320 Lake Shore Drive Mandeville, LA 70471 985-249-1364</p>	
	<p>Erin F. Lorio, Esq. Peragine & Lorio, LLC 527 E. Boston Street, Ste. 201 Covington, LA 70433 985-292-3500 erin@plalaw.com www.plalaw.com</p> <p>General Business Litigation Contract Dispute Resolution Insurance Coverage Analysis Wills & Successions</p>	<p>Louisiana Veterinary Referral Center</p> <p>24 Hour Specialty and Emergency Hospital</p> <p>2611 Florida Street Mandeville www.lavrc.com</p> <p>Find us on Facebook (985) 626-4862</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> <p>Call Erin Lorio (985-624-4024)</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> <p>Call Erin Lorio (985-624-4024)</p>		

A Community of Learners



Welcome to the second semester at MES! Everyone is returning relaxed and ready to meet the challenges ahead. Thanks for the great participation in our Family Learning Night. It is very evident that you are involved and interested in your child's learning and school work.

Marilyn Burns states, "[l]earning mathematics requires that children create and re-create mathematical relationships in their own minds. They need direct and concrete interaction with mathematical ideas." All children in elementary grades work on learning numbers and number sense. Students may demonstrate that numbers can be expressed in many different forms. For example, learners can show the number 4 as a written number, 4 dots, 4 beans, or 4 drawn objects. As they grasp deeper understanding, learners may show the number 4 as $3+1$ or $10-6$. Later you may notice your children using multiplication, division, fractions or decimals to express the number 4. As they grow as learners, we provide them with experiences to help increase their understanding of number and number sense. In order for young children to grasp concepts, they must first understand and have concrete experiences upon which to build. Our math curriculum supports this research and provides our children with experiences prior to expecting mastery of a concept. We encourage our children to think and take risks. The moment when we as learners question, or don't quite understand, is the moment we have the greatest potential to learn. Because we are a community of learners we welcome questions and wonders from everyone. Together we will be life-long learners and always seek to know more.

Our first through third grade children love the competition and work to become fluent with math facts. Our younger children enjoy practicing math addition and subtraction facts and seeing how quickly they can answer these. They have grown so much! As third graders, they build on this and demonstrate what they know in addition and subtraction and go on to multiplication and later division. They love to see how much they increase in speed and fluency with math facts. Thanks for encouraging and supporting our children in this endeavor.

Math thinkers? We have them! Our children can reason and solve problems using many different ways to do so. This is our goal as we work daily to use games to increase problem solving skills.

Keep them counting and thinking! Thanks again for your continued support as they grow and become proficient in all areas of learning!

Beth Laine

PBS News

"Be There", "Choose Your Attitude", "Make Their Day", "Have Fun"

Students at Mandeville Elementary School continue to "fish" everyday. Many students are recognized each day during morning meeting for "fishing." Students who earned the PBS Celebration in December were treated to cookies, milk, and stories read by Mrs. Laine. The next PBS celebration will take place on March 2nd and students will be awarded a special treat along with extra recess time. To earn PBS celebration, students should practice the "Fish Philosophy" and follow all expectations each day at MES. A student who has no office behavior referrals and no infraction referrals sent home will be eligible for the celebration.

Pre-K News

January has been a busy month in Pre-K! We learned all about winter and weather. The kids had so much fun making weather wheels and charting the weather each day. We experimented with ice and made “insta - snow”. We also celebrated the 100th day of school on January 26th. Pre-K students enjoyed making 100th day headbands and eating 100 snack items!! We ended the month with fun nursery rhymes. Ask your child which was his or her favorite!



Kindergarten News

This month has been a busy and exciting month for kindergarteners. We spent the beginning of the month learning about winter. We talked about the weather in winter. We read and compared various stories, like “The Mitten” and “The Hat” by Jan Brett. We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and talked about what friendship meant to us and how we show others that we care. We ended the month by learning about bears.

We have been reading several fiction and nonfiction texts that relate to our weekly topics and as read, we are listening for action words in each story. We are also listening for different attributes that the authors use to describe events and characters in the stories. This is helping us be more descriptive when we write in our journals.

In math, we started to learn about money and we are learning how to add. In fact, we have been skip counting our way to the 100th day of school!



Kindergarteners pose with Mandeville Mayor Donald Villere during a visit to Mandeville City Hall

First Grade News

Always a favorite tradition, our First Graders rode The Polar Express into the holiday season with bells and pajamas. We had a spectacular time and were quite the cozy sight, reading and celebrating the Caldecott award winning and ever-popular book by Chris Van Allsburg. We also applied our knowledge of verbs and adjectives while we wrote about our favorite family holiday traditions. While learning about different holiday and winter season traditions in various cultures, we identified their locations and countries of origin on both maps and globes.

Is it snowing outside? Well...maybe not. But it is down our First Grade hallway! January was an exciting time for us! By immersing ourselves in winter-themed literature, we were busy learning and using descriptive words in our writing to create a snowy winter

wonderland in our imagination and down our hallway. Come feel and see winter at its blustery best! We also learned to identify temperature outside by reading a thermometer. Living in Louisiana is perfect for comparing different days' temperatures because lately, our weather has been varied and diverse!

During January, we also celebrated our 100th Day of First Grade. You would be amazed at all the reading, writing, and math activities we accomplished on this day. Speaking of accomplishments, can you believe we are 100 days smarter now? My, how far we have come since we began our first grade journey. We also studied magnets in January. We learned what materials are attracted by magnets. We also determined through experimentation

which poles of magnets are attracted to each other and which poles repel each other. We also learned to identify and experiment with horseshoe magnets, bar magnets, and doughnut magnets.

Finally, we had a great time at our Family Breakfast. Sharing these special moments with our families and teachers make wonderful memories. We are also almost ready to begin our next unit of study on Louisiana. We begin with Louisiana wildlife. We plan to research animals indigenous to Louisiana and write reports using this knowledge we've gained. Brown pelicans, Catahoula leopard dogs, blue crabs, opossum, and alligators get ready. Here we come!!!

Second Grade News

Whewww!!!! December was as full as Santa's sack! We made our list and checked it twice before heading off to the Holiday Gift Shop. I'm sure your hearts were filled with joy as you unwrapped the wonderful treasures that you received from your thoughtful little shoppers. And apparently, not all of Santa's helpers work at the North Pole. Thanks to all the wonderful "MES elves" who made our shopping day so much fun!

Amidst all the excitement, our students remembered to "fish" during the holiday season. It was touching to see the smiles on their faces as they proudly handed over their generous donations for the "Toys for Kids" project. Their contributions to this worthy program brought holiday cheer to those less fortunate. Through this experience, our students learned that it truly is better to give than receive!

Fa-La-La-La-La, La-La-La-La! MES students were invited to participate in Mandeville's annual "Winter on the Water" celebration. They represented our school beautifully as they rang bells and sang carols. They were the highlight of this year's festivities. Thanks to Mrs. Wight, our wonderful music teacher who encourages our students to share the gift of music within our community.

'Twas the day of the play... when all through the gym... all the students were stirring...it was the big day! The second grade classes entertained MES students and families with their performance of the "Cajun Night Before Christmas." As you can imagine, the students worked so hard in preparation for the play. They were adorable as they told this Louisiana version of a beloved Christmas tale. The play was a huge success, but would not have been

possible without the many volunteers who worked tirelessly on costumes, props, and backdrops. Thank you!

The play was an integral part of our study of local holiday traditions and customs, as well as those from around the world. We also compared and contrasted versions of holiday literature including "The Night Before Christmas."

And now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back into SHAPE! No, not that kind of shape; the study of geometric shapes! We have investigated solid figures, symmetry, and congruence. We will also continue with our study of fractions. It's hard to believe that the year is $\frac{1}{2}$ over.

But as we say in second grade: time flies when you're having fun!

Third Grade News

Happy New Year! 2011 is here and the third grade students have been hard at work. The students have studied many new and interesting topics. In math, they have been working on geometry including two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, congruency, and symmetry. Students have created geocities based on all of these geometry ideas. Another exciting unit has been Force & Motion in science class. Students created mini-cars made of household items to investigate the effects of friction and the height of ramps on the distance the cars would travel. Students made hypotheses about the investigations,

participated in activities, charted their results, and then discussed their ideas with classmates. Of course, students continue to work on reading both fiction and non-fiction stories and writing about personal experiences, too!

Another interesting experience is our Mini-Society. The societies have continued to meet, and the treasurers have been working hard to pay society members their weekly paychecks. Some groups have even elected presidents and vice presidents. Students discussed the types of

governments and the responsibilities of leaders. Then students gave speeches and made posters to be elected as leaders of their societies. It is an interesting time in Mini-Society, so be sure to ask a third grade student about the experience.

January also brought us our Family Learning Night. It was a great night filled with lots of faculty, family, friends, and fun. There were literacy, math, and science activities that many parents and children enjoyed together! Thanks to everyone who came out to be a part of the MES Family Night!



Third graders show off mini-cars they made using household items.

Technology Corner

Thanks to our MES families for supporting our fundraising activities this year! Your generosity is tremendous and has afforded MES the opportunity to make many technology improvements around the school.

The Tech Classroom has been completely upgraded. The students now have 24 brand new computers which all have the Windows 7 and Office 2010 programs installed. In addition to the Tech Classroom computers, all K-3 classrooms will receive a new computer as well.

Hopefully, many of you had the opportunity to experience some of our technology during the family learning night. Various classrooms featured activities that utilized the Promethean Boards, ActiVotes and Activwands.

Promethean Boards. The math concept of “probability” was incorporated with the use of the digital flip charts on the Promethean Board. Children were asked to roll the computer dice ten times to see how many times each number appeared.

ActiVotes. Children voted with handheld devices called ActiVotes on the Promethean Board for their favorite school lunches. (Tacos won favorite school lunch!) In the classrooms, ActiVotes are multimedia tools which maximize student engagement of lesson content.

ActivExpressions. These are similar to ActiVotes but a bit more advanced. They are small handheld devices that allowed students to text in their answers to questions posed. As you can guess, students love these and are quite adept at the texting part!

Webcams. Children used Newsmaker, a writing/publishing/presentation software, combined with webcams to create their own newscasts.

Be sure to ask your child how technology is being used in the classroom!

Book Report

By Cindy Lebas, MES Librarian



This is an exciting month for our kindergarten and first grade students. Kindergarten children are learning about fiction and nonfiction books. First grade children are now using a library “paddle” to find their books. When they find a book they want to view, a paddle is used to mark that book’s place on the shelf. If they decide they don’t want to check out that particular book they know exactly where to replace the book. This is a great way to help keep our books correctly shelved.

Second and third grade students learned about Chinese New Year. They were very excited to find out their Chinese Zodiac Symbol. Feb. 3, 2011 is the first day of Chinese New Year and we will be in the year of the Rabbit. The following is a good site to learn about Chinese New Year and find out your symbol, www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/chinese_new_year.html.

Happy Reading!!

The Art Studio

with Ms. Cleveland



Students in the Art Studio have been having fun in current times as we learn about ancient times through our studies of Greek Vases. We have discovered that many words, designs, and traditions in our modern times have their origins in ancient times. Using examples of ancient Greek vessels as models we have found many connections between the past and the present. Students have also enjoyed applying mathematical skills as we locate lines of symmetry to create our own symmetrically shaped vases. Students practiced various geometric Greek designs and invented their own as they created beautifully rendered vases in a variety of rich patterns. We will take a short intermission from our Greek studies as we focus on a couple of community projects for Habitat for Humanity and for Keep Mandeville Beautiful organizations.

Looking further to the future, please start saving the plastic microwave bowls for me for a paper mache’ project. I will need about 750 bowls!

The Sport Report
By P.E. Instructor, Angela Bounds



MES is stepping to a new beat! We are very excited about our program called “**Step It Up**”. As part of our effort to promote good health and more physical fitness, the **Step It Up** program is to be done at home with parents for at least 30 minutes per session. You can ride a bike, walk, run or jog. The goal is for students to exercise for 30 minutes each day for at least five days per week. Students who meet this goal will receive special ‘foot’ charms to collect. Let’s work hard to make this new program a great success. Most of all, I hope everyone has fun! Remember to be safe!!

Last month we participated in **Jump Rope for Heart**. Students learned about the importance of taking care of their hearts. Also, students learned how to be heart heroes by collecting donations for the American Heart Association. The funds we raised will go toward surgeries and research for kids with heart disease. Our students have learned how to help save lives and how to keep their hearts healthy for a long time!! Let’s keep working hard!! Go MES!!

P. E. is fun,
 Ms. Bounds

ATTENTION:
Parents of Third Graders Attending
Lake Harbor Middle School Next Year

The LHMS Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for next year’s PTA Executive Board. The positions of Co-President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President need to be filled. If interested, please contact Christine Desposito at cddespo@bellsouth.net.

Thank you!

ATTENTION:
Parents of Third Graders Attending
Tchefuncte Middle School Next Year

The TMS PTA is accepting nominations for Executive Board positions for the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested in submitting your name for one of the Executive Board positions, please contact Dottie Davis at 727-0421.

Thank you!

Letter from our PTA Co-Presidents

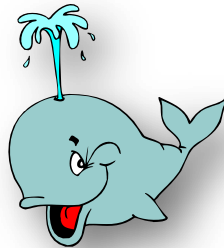
Dear MES Families -

We're full speed ahead on our road trip of learning! But before we continue with our journey, we want to take this opportunity to look back and thank all of the parents and volunteers who helped us end 2010 on such a high note! Holiday Gift Shop, Toys for Tots and the Holiday Food Drive were all great successes, and none of them were possible without the help of our volunteers! The outpouring of generosity and caring from our MES families is truly something to be proud of!

Our next big event is our annual Sock Hop! Join us March 18th for another great night of fun for the whole family. Food, music and fun are all on the agenda for this great event! Bring your best poodle skirt and penny loafers and get ready for some oldies but goodies! A flyer will be sent home with further details. As always, volunteers are welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact Christine Desposito at cddespo@bellsouth.net if you would like to help out with this event. We look forward to seeing you all there!

We would also like to invite you all to attend our next PTA general meeting, February 8th. We will be approving the nominating committee that assists in the selection of the PTA board for next year. We thank you all for supporting the MES PTA unit!

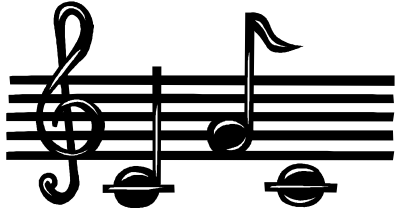
Monica Hernandez
Nicole Azzi
2010-11 MES PTA Co-Presidents



We Need YOU!

The MES PTA is currently putting together its Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for collecting nominations for the 2011-12 MES PTA Executive Board. If you would like to be a part of this process, or serve on the MES PTA Board next year, please contact Monica Hernandez (dml91@bellsouth.net) or Nicole Azzi (nicole.azzi@hotmail.com).

Thanks for your continued interest and support.



Mark your Calendars for the MES Sock Hop on March 18!

Break out your poodle skirts and leather jackets and bring the whole family for a night of dancing and fun! More information will be sent home in the next few weeks.
Hope to see you there!

MES PTA is on the Web!

www.mandevilleelementarypta.com



Thanks for "Being There" Volunteers of the Month!

We love our MES volunteers! This month, a few ladies went way above and far beyond and we'd like to say a special thank you to them:

Lori Hosch and Ashley Chugden did an amazing job of orchestrating and managing our MES Holiday Gift Shop. This event required a great deal of time and effort and MES students just loved it.

Diane Wehrman wrote thank you notes to the many sponsors who supported the MES Fall Fest. This too, was a time-consuming but very important task.

Thank you Lori, Ashley and Diane for your hard work and dedication to MES!



Vive la France! Cultural Arts Day -March 25

Join us as we embark on a cultural adventure at MES. This year, students will celebrate the language, customs, foods and traditions of France. Look for more information in your student's folder.

Fishing At Home!

Mandeville Elementary School



Be There-Choose Your Attitude-Have Fun-Make Someone's Day
Give this side to someone.

We're Fishing At Home

- Being there!
- Choosing your attitude!
- Having fun!
- Making someone's day!

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

Return this side to school.

Fishing At Home!

Mandeville Elementary School



Be There-Choose Your Attitude-Have Fun-Make Someone's Day
Give this side to someone.

We're Fishing At Home

- Being there!
- Choosing your attitude!
- Having fun!
- Making someone's day!

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

Return this side to school.

Fishing At Home!

Mandeville Elementary School



Be There-Choose Your Attitude-Have Fun-Make Someone's Day
Give this side to someone.

We're Fishing at Home

- Being there!
- Choosing your attitude!
- Having fun!
- Making someone's day!

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

Return this side to school.

Fishing At Home!

Mandeville Elementary School



Be There-Choose Your Attitude-Have Fun-Make Someone's Day
Give this side to someone.

We're Fishing At Home

- Being there!
- Choosing your attitude!
- Having fun!
- Making someone's day!

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

Return this side to school.