

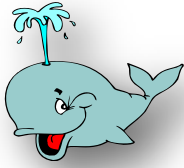
Whale Tales

Mandeville Elementary School PTA Newsletter

March 2011

Beth Laine, Principal

Eddie Strohmeyer, Asst. Principal



MARCH 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	1	2 Dominos Night	3	4 Records Day School Closed	5
6	7 Mardi Gras Break School Closed	8 Mardi Gras Break School Closed	9 Mardi Gras Break School Closed	10 Mardi Gras Break School Closed	11 Mardi Gras Break School Closed	12
13	14 Back to School!	15 Volunteer <u>Luncheon</u> 3 rd Grade Pet Day, 2-3 p.m.	16 PTA Bd Mtg - 9:30	17	18 Sock Hop! 6-8:30	19
20	21 Book Fair Begins	22 <u>Gen'l PTA Mtg</u> Gallery Night	23	24 Kindergarten Hearing/Vision Screening	25 Cultural Arts <u>Day</u> Young <u>Audiences</u> Book Fair Ends	26
27	28	29	30	31	APRIL 1	2

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>
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Learning *Together* . . .

As we approach the final quarter of the school year, we realize how much our children have grown and how responsible they have become. Just stop by and walk the halls at Mandeville Elementary and you will see fabulous and exciting learning happening everywhere.

It is amazing to see how our children have grown into great readers and writers. You will see very descriptive writing that has a strong sense of voice and is appropriate to the audience. Our teachers participated in professional development throughout the year that refined what they knew about good readers and writers of nonfiction. They now have become teachers of great readers and writers of nonfiction. It is amazing to see the talent and expertise in our young children.

You will also notice an increase in the technology used by the children in their classrooms. Whenever we as adults are worried about the challenge of setting up and using new technology, we often turn to our children as the experts. They have no fear of technology. They are not only comfortable but many are also proficient in using various forms of technology. We are all learning together and it is fabulous!

Our PBS Celebration was March 2nd. Our children who have followed all of the expectations and rules during the entire quarter enjoyed popcorn and lemonade, as well as an extra fifteen minutes of recess time with their friends. We are very blessed with fabulous children at MES. Our final celebration will be in May. Everyone has the opportunity to start over and earn the final celebration.

Thanks for giving your children fish at home! They are so proud to share with everyone what they did. Some of the great things we have heard are, "I made my mom's day by fixing her breakfast." "I made my dad's day because I rubbed his back!" "I was being there for my mom when we shopped at Wal-Mart." Keep up the good work! You have beautiful children! We are so fortunate to be a part of their growing into super adults of tomorrow. We can all relax because we will be in good hands when they are in charge of our world!

Happy Spring to all of you!
Beth Laine

. . . and Celebrating *Together*!



Third graders, with some help from Ms. Laine and Mr. Strohmeyer, celebrate Louisiana culture and heritage during Louisiana Day. Students created their own Mardi Gras-themed t-shirts, sampled Louisiana cuisine and enjoyed a beautiful early spring day in South Louisiana!

Pre-K News

Pre-K started the month off learning about nursery rhymes. These familiar little stories help our students become sensitive to hearing rhyming words such as “muffet” and “tuffet” in “Little Miss Muffet” and “wall” and “fall” in “Humpty Dumpty”. As their ears are trained, they can hear rhymes in everyday oral language. This mastery of hearing and identifying sounds is a foundational reading skill. Students who can hear and manipulate sounds or phonemes of our language effectively are at a wonderful advantage on their path to literacy. Students were able to role play and act out nursery rhymes in the classroom. Everyone’s favorite was “Little Miss Muffet.”

Our next unit was Community Helpers. We used prop boxes to pretend to be doctors, firefighters, chefs, veterinarians, dentists, police officers and mail carriers. We even took a field trip to a real airport and sat in a real airplane! We learned about how to get from one place to another using different types of transportation. We classified which vehicles traveled in the air, on land and in the water. Sequencing and participating in a toy car wash was a lot of fun. We can’t wait to help wash cars at home! Pre-K students also enjoyed drawing transportation scenes and writing words to describe our pictures!



Pre-K pilots get ready for takeoff!

Kindergarten News

February is always full of fun for Kindergartners! On February 2, we celebrated Groundhog Day with stories and the news that the Groundhog did not see his shadow! That, of course, means that we will have an early spring. Our next big event was our celebration of Valentine’s Day. The children had a fun time exchanging Valentine cards and treats. On Monday, February 21 we attended a special presentation by Gina Giraffe who explained all of the ways we need to take care of our teeth. February was a fun and exciting month for all of the Kindergartners!



First Grade News

“Laissez les bon temps rouler!” At least that’s what our first graders said as we completed our Louisiana integrated unit of study! February was an exciting month for us. We had a wonderful time learning and reading all about Louisiana and its plentiful wildlife. After researching an animal, each first grader created a tree map graphic organizer which helped organize all of the relevant facts and attributes that help them survive in their environment. Do you know what a brown pelican eats, looks like, and how long its wing span is? Our First Graders do! Please come down our hallway and take a look at these spectacular reports we wrote! We studied and learned to identify our city, parish, state, and country on the map. We learned the state symbols, the state bird, fish, mammal, flag, tree, crustacean, and bird.

We also had a very special visit from Connor’s dad, United States Coast Guard Petty Officer Kevin Brown with his partner, Andrew Allison, and their response vessel from the MSST New

Orleans. We learned that they patrol our waters to keep our country safe, protect our natural resources, and ensure safe navigation on the water. Also during February, we celebrated Groundhog’s Day with stories, predictions, voting, and drawings of this fascinating mammal labeled with its important features, and the news that the groundhog did not see his shadow which means an early spring for us!

During Valentine’s Day celebrations, we enjoyed sorting and graphing our candy while making comparisons using math vocabulary of “more than” and “less than.” We had a great time discussing and writing about all of the people and things we love. One child wrote “I love my mom like macaroni loves cheese!” Presidents Day was also exciting. We learned important facts about past presidents while we took a virtual field trip to our country’s important national symbols, such as the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, and the

Lincoln Memorial. Finally, we reviewed the traits and responsibilities of good citizens and leaders both in our school and country.

February is also Dental Health Month, so we couldn’t resist a visit from “Bippo”, our friendly favorite hippo. He joined us to explain all of the ways we need to take care of our teeth.

Finally, can you think of a better way to end our Louisiana study than with a parade? Joining our ‘krewe’ this year were the First Grade and T-1 classes, the Krewes of Hornets, Who Dat Saints, Cafe du Monde, Cuisine, Crawfish, and Blue Dogs. We sure enjoyed our Mardi Gras parade fun!

Until next month, “Au revoir mes amis” or, Goodbye my friends!

Second Grade News

Do you like solving mysteries? Did you know we have math detectives on the hunt in second grade? Looking for what you ask? Clues for solving math problems, OF COURSE! Our kids have been hard at work discovering math words to help them solve addition and subtraction problems. You know...words like altogether, combined, difference, and how many more. Here's one for you. If you combined hard working brain power with engaging activities, how many more awesome math minds would you have? An entire SECOND GRADE! Case closed!

Calling all writers! Did you know that we have creative imaginations hard at work in second grade? That's right! The students

have been hard at work making rich connections in their writing.

In science, the students had a fantastic time learning about weather and the water cycle. They were surprised after charting the weather to see how weather patterns can change drastically from day to day. They enjoyed discovering about weather through experimentation. Look up in the sky and ask your child what type of cloud they see. I bet they can tell you!

Family Breakfast was a hit! Last month, second graders welcomed their parents to MES to share special moments and create lasting memories!

To incorporate our unit on habitats and living things, our students enjoyed a fabulous field trip to Red Bluff Farm. They learned about how farm life touches us in so many ways. Each student enjoyed bottle feeding the baby calves, learning about how milk is produced, and most of all, seeing their teachers kiss a pig!!

As we continue on our ROAD TRIP OF LEARNING, we look forward to the many wonderful upcoming events such as Sock Hop on March 18th, Gallery Night on March 22th, and Cultural Arts Day on March 28th, just to name a few. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Third Grade News

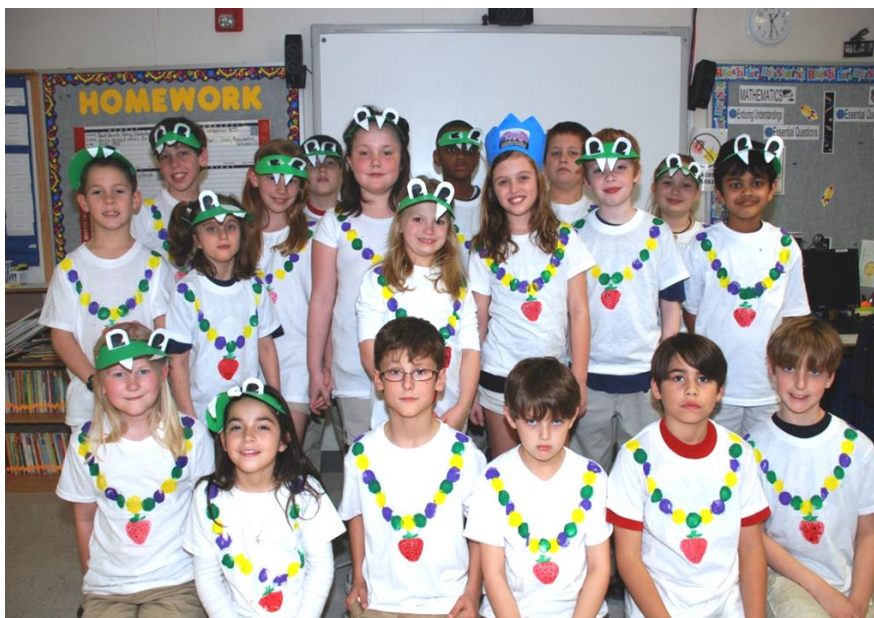
What an interesting time in 3rd grade! Students have been busy studying all types of interesting topics, including measurement, rocks and minerals, and government. Students have been measuring length, capacity, and weight of objects using both U.S. Customary and Metric units. The 3rd graders have continued to read and write both fiction and non-fiction stories. Some classes have been writing about Mardi Gras customs and traditions. The learning never stops in third grade!

Since the third graders have been studying Louisiana in Social Studies, they participated in the annual MES Louisiana Day. It was a celebration of all things

Louisiana including festivals, wildlife, art, music, and dance. Students created t-shirts to wear for the occasion. They rotated among four stations to learn about festivals and communities, to study artists like Clementine Hunter, to find out about wildlife and make an alligator visor, and to dance and second line to Louisiana music. In the afternoon, students enjoyed a sampling of Louisiana food and drinks. Families donated jambalaya, red beans, gumbo, and potato chips. There were pralines and root beer floats for dessert. Finally, students enjoyed dancing outside with their teachers as well as Mrs. Laine, and Mr. Strohmeyer. The day was a huge success and all of the students and teachers

were truly thankful to the families for all of their help!

Finally, the students came together this month to send a little support to our troops overseas. Working with a group called Operation We Care, students brought in Mardi Gras items to send to the troops. Students wrote cards and letters to send with the gift boxes to show the troops how much the MES 3rd Graders appreciate all of their amazing work!



Mr. Fussell's third graders show off their handmade Louisiana-themed t-shirts and alligator visors!

Technology Corner

Continuing our focus on increasing student engagement through technology integration in the curriculum, the MES faculty will be participating in a Technology In-Service Day in March. Teachers and paras will be rotating through several workshops including "Glogster", iTouches, ActiVotes/ActivExpressions, "Newsmaker" software, and webcams. To put this new learning into the students' hands, MES has purchased additional technology. For the tech classroom, 25 webcams and 25 Newsmaker licenses were purchased. This software, which was featured on Family Learning Night, provides students an easy and fun platform to practice writing, speaking, and presentation skills. Students take on the role of news anchor and producer using a webcam to create their own story in 3 easy steps: Write! Read! Publish! With the help of rubrics, **NewsMaker** provides individual students with **immediate feedback** for **self-assessment** of performance and it also facilitates **peer critiquing**, especially in the area of oral skills. Students frequently choose to rehearse and re-record in order to improve upon fluency, rhythm, pacing, intonation and expression.

MES has also purchased two Apple iTouches for each classroom. Students will be able to use them with many educational apps. In addition, ActiVotes and ActivExpression were also purchased. So many exciting things are happening at MES...ask your child how they are using technology in their classroom!

It is because of your support of PTA and fundraising that we are able to bring this 21st century learning to our students!

Book Report

By Cindy Lebas, MES Librarian



Our spring book fair is almost here. The book fair will be held from March 21 - 25, 2011. The theme is *Book Fair! Your Ticket to Read!* Children will attend the book fair during their normal library time with the exception of classes normally held on Fridays. Due to Cultural Arts Day on March 25, those classes will be rescheduled during the week. Check with your child's teacher to see the time and day they will attend book fair. We will be open on Tuesday night March 22 for Gallery Night, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and during the morning hours of Friday, March 25. Information will be coming home soon. Hope to see you at the Book Fair.

Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss! On March 2 we remembered his birthday by reading many of his wonderful stories and learning some interesting facts about him. Did you know Dr. Seuss was a pseudonym? His real name was Theodore Seuss Geisel. To learn more about Dr. Seuss, visit his web site, www.seussville.com.

Happy Reading!!

The Art Studio

with Ms. Cleveland



To increase awareness of the good works done by Habitat for Humanity and by the Keep Mandeville Beautiful organizations, students have been creating artworks for contests sponsored by each group. Habitat for Humanity will be framing and selling the winning student artwork to raise funds for its many building projects. Keep Mandeville Beautiful will be using some of the artwork to create a calendar which will be sold to help in efforts to keep our town pretty. Congratulations to the students who will represent MES at the city-wide level of judging for the Keep Mandeville Beautiful contest: Kindergarteners Madison Dufrene, Abdullah Ahsan, Eli Russell, and Sofia Smith; First graders Zach Smith, Cameron Richey and Avery Cockrell, and Vayle Giglione; Second graders Sophie Christ, Trent McKinney, Jayden Dorsett, and Trinity Fegan; Third graders Brandon Nolan, Jozette Oliveire, Emma Ebert, and Haley Wren.

Students also completed our studies of ancient art by using one of the earliest known mediums from ancient times, charcoal. Students were introduced to this messy media as we experimented with value techniques. We had fun trying to make our circles become spheres. With Mardi Gras on our minds many of our spheres became beads...and apples, and bowling balls, and all kinds of spheres! As we return from Mardi Gras we will begin a new focus: unusual perspectives in art.

We are looking forward to Tuesday, March 22, which is Gallery Night! Students have been eagerly choosing and giving titles to the pieces that will be on display for our friends and family to come see that night. Plan on arriving early as we will begin the evening with dinner in our cafeteria. Thank you "Art in the Classroom" volunteers for your time and effort in helping our young artists to mat and prepare their works for display!

The Sport Report

By P.E. Instructor, Angela Bounds



MES is stepping it up!! Our new program Step It Up is on the move. 3rd and 1st grades are leading the way with 120 feet on their grade level walls in the gym. This is awesome! Let's continue to exercise so that we can have healthy hearts! Remember to be safe and have fun staying fit!

In January, we participated in Jump Rope for Heart! Students became '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. I would like to give Kira Grass a special congratulations for being the school's top fundraiser. She raised \$1,000.00! Wow! Thank you for all of your hard work, Kira. Our students have learned how to help save lives and how to keep their hearts healthy!

Go MES! Just keep stepping!!!

P. E. is fun,
Ms. Bounds

Talented Music Program Offers Advanced Enrichment to MES Students



The Talented Music Program offered by St. Tammany Parish Schools is also available to MES Students? If you feel that your child has exceptional musical talents, please contact brian.strain@stpsb.org for more information regarding the screening process.

News from the Children's Museum of St. Tammany

The Children's Museum of St. Tammany sends an enthusiastic "shout out" and tremendous thanks for the support of the entire St. Tammany Parish School System for efforts with Black and Gold Day! It was a great success and thrill for us to engage in a full community-wide effort for this project!

Museum progress is steadfast. The Steering Committee is currently developing a full Business Plan and Model, organizing a Museum Task Force, developing a website, researching educational models, finalizing a national search for an Exhibit Design firm (expected hire this Spring), beginning a national search for a Capital Campaign Consultant and finalizing our Cooperative Endeavor with St. Tammany Parish. The extension of Koop Drive has just been completed, the property has recently been surveyed and the architectural firm is finalizing the master site plan. There is much planning that goes into a project such as a Children's Museum in addition to the actual vertical construction and we are working to complete the planning and design stage which will fold into our fundraising campaign. Once funding is secured, we will begin the construction of the Museum.

Additionally, we are preparing for Celebration of Discovery 2011, "Oh, the Places We'll Geaux!", our annual fundraiser, which is a major source of operational revenue for the project. Please join us for the phenomenal fundraiser or participate in one of our raffles: "Cash or Dash" Raffle or the "Kooky Wooky Thing-a-MaJooky" Playhouse Raffle. We appreciate your support of the Children's Museum of St. Tammany!

The Children's Museum is the signature project of the Junior League of Greater Covington in partnership with St. Tammany Parish. To volunteer or for more information about the Children's Museum or Celebration 2011, please visit www.jlhc.net.

Letter from our PTA Co-Presidents

Dear MES Families -

What a fun month we have ahead! March is filled with many fun volunteer opportunities at MES.

When we return from the Mardi Gras holidays, it will be time to prepare for our sock hop. It is a carefree and fun event to enjoy with your children. We will need volunteers to help with set up, decorations, and tear down. All volunteers are welcome to join us at 9:15 am, Friday March 18th to prepare for our sock hop. The sock hop will take place Friday evening from 6-8:30. Tickets are now available for purchase. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Christine Desposito at cddespo@bellsouth.net or Lori Hosch at busychic370@att.net. So put on your favorite poodle skirt or roll up those jeans and come join us rock around the clock!

Our Book Fair week will be held March 21st-25th. If you would like to volunteer your time in assisting students with book selection please contact Susan Bidleman at susiefb@yahoo.com.

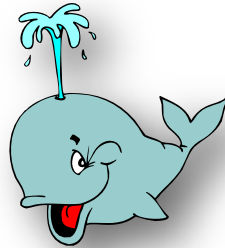
Gallery night will be held on Tuesday March 22nd. This is a great opportunity to come and enjoy all of your children's creations. If you are interested in giving of your time for this event, please contact Katie Gruntz at klgruntz@hotmail.com. We will also hold a general PTA meeting at this time to approve the PTA Executive Board for next year.

Our last event in March, and for which we need many volunteers, is Cultural Arts Day. Come join us as we explore the culture of

France! In order for this to be a successful day and run smoothly, we will need your help. There are many learning stations involved for the students and we need volunteers to monitor all of them. Please consider giving your time on Friday, March 25th. You may contact Kim Bourgeois at kwb2993@yahoo.com.

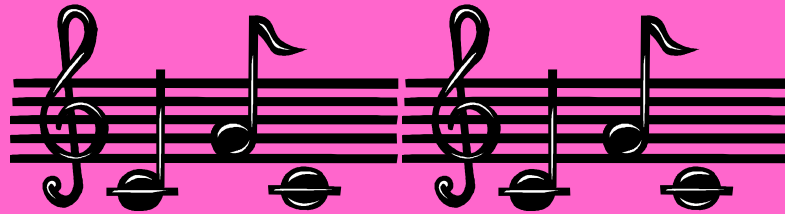
Thanks for all you do at MES!!

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



Gallery Night is March 22!

There is a lot of excitement in the air this month at MES and one of the many wonderful events coming up is Gallery Night on March 22. Teachers, children and parents have been working hard to prepare for an exciting night of artwork, friends and family. Come join us as we share in our children's talents and love of art. If you can help, please contact your teacher, Art in the Classroom parent or Katie at klgruntz@hotmail.com.



One o'clock, Two o'clock, Three o'clock ROCK!
 It's time for the Annual MES Sock HOP!
 Friday, March 18th * 6:00 - 8:30pm
 Mandeville Elementary School Gym
 \$5 p/p with a \$20 family maximum

Email busychic370@att.net to volunteer!

MES PTA is on the Web!

www.mandevilleelementarypta.com

Click



Thanks for "Being There" Volunteers of the Month!

We would like to thank our March
Volunteers of the month. We appreciate
their reliability and flexibility.
We can always count on you!!

Hilda Sonnier- our amazing Front Office
volunteer;

Shawn Orgeron- was a tremendous help on
Picture Day.

Thank you both for being there!



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.

Past, Present (and Future?) Presidents!



Ms. Markel's third grade students gave their Presidential Reports in character and dressed as the President or First Lady. The reports were part of their study of government and Presidents Day.

Congrats to Ms. Aleshire!



Mr. Strohmeyer and Ms. Laine congratulate Ms. Aleshire for being nominated by MES for the *Superintendant's Character Award*

CONGRATULATIONS!



Carolyn Miller poses with our BoxTops contest winners! McKayla Fagan won a \$10 Playville gift certificate, Avery Bulot won the Hornets Mardi Gras Jersey and Amelia Bourgeois won a \$20 gift card.

Great job to all three!

Debbie Miller was honored as MES Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year 2011.

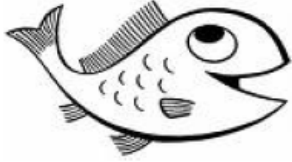


LaGina Davis was honored as MES' Substitute of the Year.



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.

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