

HASSLER HERALD

"Hassler Ponies Have Horsepower"

October 6, 2009



The Hassler Herald is a monthly newsletter that is sent home on the first Tuesday of each month to provide information about school events and information that will enhance the working relationships between school and home.

Chess Club Meetings

Chess Club is open to 2nd -5th graders and will meet on the following dates in the Hassler Library:

- October 7th and 28th
- November 11th and 18th
- December 2nd and 16th
- January 6th and 20th
- February 3rd and 17th
- March 3rd and 24th
- April 7th and 21st
- May 5th and 19th



Mr. Paul Berryman is our Chess Club Coordinator and we are grateful that he does this for our Hassler children.

Thank you Parents

Thank you for your support in our policy of not delivering forgotten items. This is a big help in diminishing classroom distractions. Just a reminder, we will only be able to deliver forgotten prescription glasses and lunch to classes. Classrooms will not be interrupted for homework, Tuesday folders, library books, snacks, or other items. Thank you for helping in this matter, as well as encouraging good character and responsibility.

Reminder

Please assist us in the handling of custody related issues. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide the principal a certified copy of the court order affecting any other person's right to their children. Should you have any questions please call Mrs. Carol Randall at 832-484-7080.



State Roll Call

Klein school bus drivers will be taking State Roll Call on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 7, 2009
- Wednesday, November 4, 2009
- Wednesday, February 3, 2010
- Wednesday, March 3, 2010

This process involves checking off names on a prepared list and adding students not on the list. Roll call is taken during the morning and afternoon runs. Every effort is made to streamline this process; however, buses will sometimes run later on these days. We encourage students to ride on these days, as part of our funding is based on student ridership. Your children will not be counted tardy if they arrive "late" to school on a Klein school bus.

When should you stop for a school bus?

Remember: Yellow lights mean the bus is going to stop. Slow down! Red lights mean students are getting on or off the bus. STOP! STOP! STOP!



The Counselor's Corner

Adria Stacha



When parents take studying and homework seriously, kids do as well. Here are some steps you can take to help guide your child into a productive homework and study routine:

- Set aside a regular study and homework time each day
- Have clear limits on television, video game, and telephone use
- Choose a quiet, organized homework area that is free from distractions
- Suggest your child start with the toughest assignment first
- Help your child break down assignments into chunks if necessary
- Be available to answer questions and give support if needed
- Check over your child's work for neatness and completion
- Talk with your child about what he or she has learned
- Teach your child to pack homework, books, and other materials back into the backpack each night once the homework is completed

Following these simple steps will help get your child on the road to homework success!



The Reading Corner

Marilyn Nehls
Reading Specialist

Parents,

Development of a large vocabulary is an important part of your child's growth in reading. Children learn new words by having oppor-

tunities to use them many times in talking, reading, and writing. Providing your child with many exposures to words helps him or her gain an appreciation for how words are used in our language and builds a solid foundation for later reading success. It's not necessary for children to memorize long lists of words, but it is important for them to use words in many different situations. Here are some examples.

1. Each family member can attempt to learn a new word each day. All the family members will benefit.
2. As you talk to your child, use new words frequently. Put them in sentences that he or she can understand. For example, "That was an enormous elephant. Look how big it is."
3. Remember that children need many repetitions of words before those words become a natural part of their vocabularies. Try to share new words with your child in a variety of situations.
4. Read lots of books to your child. The more opportunities children have to hear words in action, the more inclined they will be to add those words to their own vocabularies.

In school, when a new word is introduced in a text, the word can be added to a vocabulary notebook. Clues from the text aid in helping your child discover what the word means; plus, the word is discussed. Your child writes down in his/her own words what the word means. Some forms call for an example of the word. Then your child draws a picture which in some way depicts the meaning of the word. This process helps your child in understanding the word in text and in remembering the word.

Have fun with words while enjoying your time with your child. Crossword puzzles and/or playing Scrabble with your child/children are among the fun ways of working with vocabulary.

Source of portions: Scott Foresman & Company



Grades vs. Effort

Deborah Wilson
GT Specialist

"Intelligence does not equal effortlessness." You want your child's teacher to provide a challenging environment and expectations. You want your child to learn not to fear hard work. To my knowledge, there is no college application that asks for transcripts from elementary or middle schools. These are the safest times for students to learn to welcome hard work rather than avoid it. You certainly don't want your child to glide through school getting high grades with little or no effort, then go off to a highly competitive college with no clue how to study and work hard to learn. I know because I was one of those students. It's much better if your child understands that real learning means forward progress from wherever one enters the learning curve of a particular subject. So celebrate the challenges and continue to encourage and reward the effort they put into their work.

Portions from *Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom*

Red Ribbon Week



The week of October 26-30 will be Red Ribbon Week at Hassler. "Commit to Character-Be Drug Free" is our motto. Many anti-drug activities are planned for this special week. More information will be coming.

Please join us in fighting against drugs and make your claim to be drug free by dressing accordingly during Red Ribbon Week.

October 26 We're Red Hot Against Drugs -
Wear red

October 27 Sock It To Drugs -
Wear crazy socks

October 28 Join the Fight Against Drugs -
Wear camouflage

October 29 Turn Your Back On Drugs -
Wear clothes backwards

October 30 Hats off to Being Drug Free -
Wear crazy hats



First in Math® Program

www.firstinmath.com

Cathy (Kay Kay) Schultea
Hassler TAKS Specialist

Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade are so excited to begin the First in Math® Program. This program is web based so it can be accessed from school and home. You can find the minimal technical requirements needed to run this program on the web site of First in Math®. We are using First in Math in place of Pony math for grades 3-5.

Students can earn "virtual" stickers for working at any level of this program. They can start where they like, skip around and do what they prefer. However, students might want to start on one level and get accustomed to the program before moving to another level. This will help them learn the format of First in Math®. Games such as "Just the Facts", Gyms and Know & Show (word problems) will provide lots of stickers and great skills for excelling in many areas of math.

The top five students per class will receive a certificate at the end of each nine weeks. At the end of the year, the top 25 students per grade level will attend the First in Math® party.

We want to thank the Hassler PTO and Klein ISD for funding this wonderful program. Please encourage your children to participate in the First in Math® program. They will soon discover it is really fun!



Library News Marilyn Smith

Scholastic Fall Book Fair

Mark your calendars now for the Fall Book Fair which will be held in the Hassler library from October 16th - October 23rd! Students will preview the Book Fair beginning on Friday, October 16th through Tuesday, October 20th. Be on the lookout for their "Wish Lists!" The Family Night Sale will be on Tuesday, October 20th from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Sales will start at the Family Night Sale and continue through Friday, October 23rd. Your child's "Wish List" will give their class's times and dates for purchasing books. All Book Fair purchases benefit Hassler. Most importantly, these outstanding books encourage your child to be excited about reading and learning, the keys to future success.



Online Resources

Hassler students have access to some amazing online resources. Students can search the Hassler online catalog (**Kid's Catalog** or **CARLweb**) for a library book, and explore great databases (**EBSCO** and **ABC-Clio**), an encyclopedia (**Encyclopedia Britannica Online**), and a reliable search engine (**netTrekker**). Go to the Hassler Library webpage and check out these wonderful research tools! The user name for all online resources is **hassler**, and the password is **ponies**. If you have not registered for **netTrekker**, you will need this registration key: **CIF748**. The user name, password, and registration key should not be shared with anyone who is not a Hassler student.

School Store News

The school store is open daily from 8:05-8:20. In addition to basic classroom supplies, we have fun items such as novelty folders, key chains, mechanical pencils, and novelty erasers. Hassler t-shirts are available during school store hours for \$10.00 and Hassler hooded sweatshirts are available for \$20.00.

Reminder:

Just a reminder, please remember that the use of cell phones is prohibited in school zones. There is a \$200 fine if caught. Our main concern is not the fine, but the safety of your children and our teachers. Just since the first of school, we have had several near misses that have really given us a scare. We ask for your help and cooperation in this matter. Thank you.



Dates to Remember

October 12	Parent Conference Day/ Student Holiday
October 19-23 October 20	Fall Book Fair Week Evening Fair 5:00-8:00
October 20	Klein Golf Tournament
October 26-30	Red Ribbon Week
November 4-11	Food Holiday Food Drive
November 4	Motivational Productions