



# KREINHOP'S HOWLING WOLFPACK NEWSLETTER

November 2009, Vol. 3

## Kreinhop Mission Statement

The Kreinhop Elementary community will foster a safe environment, in which innovative technology and research based instructional strategies will be used to develop responsible, collaborative self-managers, who are life-long learners in a diverse society.



*From the Principal.....*

Kreinhop is a Professional Learning Community (PLC)!

Our teachers, just like our students, are engaged in learning. Once a week for 90 minutes Kreinhop teachers meet as members of a professional learning community. During this time, a variety of learning activities may occur. For example, teachers share strategies and suggestions for more precise and targeted instruction. Much time is spent in reviewing and analyzing student assessment data and reflecting on strategies that have been proven to accelerate learning. Professional development also takes place during this time. Some PLCs have book studies or invite district personnel in to provide training. Technology training is an ongoing part of each PLC's time.

## Construction

The widening of Ella Boulevard is well under way in front of Kreinhop. One driveway entrance or exit at a time will be closed periodically. Please watch for the barriers and signs that will direct the flow of traffic. Due to the construction and reduced amount of parking space, Grandpar-

ents' Day will not be held this year.

## Student Directory

The Kreinhop PTO is planning to produce a Student Directory. The directory will have the student's name and the telephone number that was given as the home telephone number. Parents who have checked, signed, and returned the privacy notice form from the student handbook will not have their child's information in the directory. If anyone wishes to make a change in this, please note the Kreinhop front office immediately. The directory is expected to be ready for release to all PTO members by the end of this semester.

Thank you!

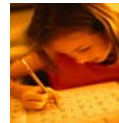
Thank you to all our parents for the support given to Kreinhop's Cookie Dough Fund Raiser. We appreciate all your help in being able to purchase additional materials for the classroom, science lab, and student incentives.



## FIRST GRADE

First graders are enjoying the cooler fall temperatures. Parents, please ask your child to retell important events of stories as you read together. This month, we will discuss settings and character traits. In math, we are exploring subtraction strategies to solve problems. In science we will recognize how animals and plants are interdependent. In social studies, we value the importance

of good citizenship, customs, and traditions.



## FOURTH GRADE

In Math, students are working on multiplying 1-digit and 2-digit numbers using arrays and partial product strategies. Students need to memorize their multiplication facts! A great resource to help with this is [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com).

In Science, fourth graders are learning about the Water Cycle and Oceans. Oceans can change the land through erosion.

Fourth Graders should be reading on a daily basis. Ask them about their reading - Where does the story take place? What happened in the story? What was the problem/resolution/ending? What was interesting about their reading? Encourage your child to write about their reading. In Writing, we are learning about strategies for writing using leads that hook the reader in, details that create a mental image, and endings that leave the reader thinking.

## FIFTH GRADE



Our reading teachers are working with students daily, helping them to recognize and use strategies for effective reading. The students are reading for enjoyment for longer periods of time, while working on using comprehension skills to master more challenging material. As the testing season comes closer, we are making sure that students have the skills and

strategies they need to be successful.

Having worked on multiplication, Fifth Graders will focus on division this month. Students will learn about divisibility rules while looking at different patterns of division. (Brush up on those long division skills, parents!) We will continue working on measurement and problem solving.

In Science, we are working on water, carbon and nitrogen cycles. Next, we will study earth sciences. During this time, we will learn about all kinds of earth formations, including structures and the creation of fossils. The students will continue with the hands on experiments that are essential for our students to internalize the concepts.

Fifth grade students are moving into our study of the American Revolution in Social Studies. We will look at the events and causes that led to the war with Britain and examining the issues from both points of view. Key battles that led to the American victory will be part of our study, followed by the problems facing the newly independent nation.

Meantime, parents looking for a fun and educational weekend activity need look no further than the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. A wonderful exhibit celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### Developmental



October was an active month with a great deal of science exploration as we covered our transportation, woodlands animals, and fall units.

As we moved into our fall unit, our class participated in the storybook character pumpkin decorating contest sponsored by the li-

brary. Our class chose to make the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. You can view pictures of the pumpkins on my website.

The students are excited and eager to learn about zoo animals in November. We will focus on identifying characteristics of each animal, learning about natural animal habitats, and the food chain.

As we prepare for the holiday season, I encourage you to invite your child to cook with you. We work on cooking skills within the classroom and this is a great time to generalize the skills to home.



## LIBRARY

Kreinhop's Storybook Pumpkin Contest was a great success! Our library was turned into a giant pumpkin patch with 126 decorated pumpkins. Our judges had to make some difficult decisions but ended up choosing 24 winners. Congratulations to all of the families who participated and the staff from Kreinhop, Schindewolf and the Klein Central Office who were our judges.

Jarrett Krocza, a popular author and illustrator of children's books will be visiting Kreinhop on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Krocza has written several books including "Monkey Boy", "Baghead", and "Punk Farm". There will be 3 assemblies in the cafeteria and he will demonstrate his drawing technique and discuss how he creates his humorous stories.

The theme for the book fair this year is "Destination Book Fair, Read Around the World". Bring the whole family to see our incredible selection of favorite books between November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>. What a great opportunity to begin your holiday shopping and support your child's interest in reading!



## REMI NDER

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: Dora Williams, Principal, 832-484-7400.



## NURSE'S NOTES.....

We continue to have students with the suspected H1N1, and we are beginning the seasonal cold and flu season. Here are a few things to remember. Please remember to keep your child home if they are running a fever of 100.0 or greater. Do not give medicine and send them to school because the medicine brought the fever down. Klein policy is that the student must remain home until the child's temperature is normal for 24 hours after you have stopped giving them fever reducing medicine. Also, encourage good hand washing techniques and have them do elbow cough rather than coughing into their hands. If your child needs medicine while at school, please remember that the parent must bring the medicine to school and fill out the appropriate medication forms. If your child is out ill, please remember to call and notify the attendance office as to what illness your child has. Please remember to send the doctor's note or parents note within 5 days of your child's absence. Also, check with your child's doctor or a clinic about getting your child's flu shot for the upcoming flu season, as well as the H1N1 vaccine.

If you received a vision referral this past month, please have your child seen by an eye doctor this month because vision problems in class can impact your child educa-

tion.

Please have all Pre-K and Kindergarten students keep a change of clothes in a ziplock bag in their backpack at all times!! We see an increase in the need for a change at school during the cold/winter months.

