

HILL-ROBERTS NEWS DECEMBER 2008



From the Principal's Desk

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our school volunteers. We value the help we receive from parents/volunteers enormously and realize that we would be unable to provide such quality experiences for the children without your time and expertise.

We want our school to be open and welcoming to all who would like to support the children. We also want to encourage parents and other adults to help teachers in a variety of ways. However, our overriding concern is for the safety of the children in our care.

The Hill-Roberts School Council in cooperation with a volunteer protocol focus group (made up of parents and teachers) developed a volunteer protocol that will be implemented into our school starting January 20, 2009. This protocol sets out our school's expectations, which is to ensure that the children benefit from as much help and support as possible, and are provided at the same time with the best possible security.

Starting Tuesday, January 20, 2009 only volunteers who have attended a short (15-20 minute) volunteer training will be eligible to volunteer in the school during the school day. Our goal is to provide over 10 training opportunities before January 20, 2009 to accommodate all our volunteers. We will continue to offer training session to increase the volunteers we have at Hill-Roberts. The training schedule is posted below

Volunteer Training Schedule	
Training Day	Time
December 4, 2008	8:15 a.m.
December 4, 2008	5:30 p.m.
December 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
December 9, 2008	8:15 a.m.
December 9, 2008	6:00 p.m.
December 12, 2008	1:00 p.m.
December 16, 2008	1:00 p.m.
December 16, 2008	6:00 p.m.
January 6, 2009	1:00 p.m.
January 13, 2009	6:30 p.m.
January 16, 2009	8:15 a.m.
January 16, 2009	1:00 p.m.

Friendly's Night

December 15
January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18

Proceeds from the food or ice cream purchases will be donated to the Hill-Roberts PTO.

Thanks for the support!!

Upcoming December Events:

Date/Time	Event
2 nd	Report card go home
3 rd 12:25 p.m.	Early Release Day Grade 1-4. No kindergarten Parent Conferences: 1:00-5:00 AM kindergarten 9:00-11:45
4 th 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Parent Conferences K-4
9 th 6:30 p.m.	PTO Meeting
10 th 12:25 p.m.	Early Release Day No PM kindergarten

It is hard to believe, but we are in December, and our first Hill-Roberts Chorus concert is almost here. The concert will be Friday, December 19th at 2:25 in the Hill-Roberts auditorium. All classes are welcome and encouraged to come and bring your school listening look, to show the fourth graders how much you appreciate their hard work. We will be singing five songs, in various styles, from a holiday polka, to a spoof on "Jingle Bells", to a ballad which features eight of our fourth grade Chorus members as soloist. We have been working hard, and can't wait to show off our new singing skills. This event is for students only, a family event will be held later in the year.

Mrs. Giannetti



HILL-ROBERTS

NEWS

News from the Gymnasium

The quest for fitness continues in Hill Roberts Gymnasium! The children are actively pursuing their optimal level of health fitness in relation to their individual ability. Activity-based fitness is emphasized rather than fitness through formal exercise/calisthenics. The students are taught the purpose of exercise, the correct form and the different components of health fitness (cardio-vascular endurance, flexibility, strength and muscle endurance).

These items of health fitness relate to one's overall state of health. Classes are designed to meet a child's need for active participation! The children in grades 2, 3 & 4 enjoy learning activities such as, "GO-FRONT-BACK", "FREEWAY", "I SEE", "HI FIVE TRAVEL JUMP ROPE" (just to name a few!) in their search for health fitness.

The skill related fitness items which relate to the possibility of people becoming good athletes are also addressed in our physical education classes. The fitness factors which belong to this group are agility, balance, hand-eye coordination, power, reaction time and speed. Both groups of fitness are equal in importance. The children are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of movement experiences to enhance their skill levels. Some of the learning activities (games) which provide these opportunities for skill enhancement are entitled, "SAVE YOUR HEART", "COLLECTION OF OXYGEN MOLECULES" & BRIDGE TAG". While participation in these learning games are designed to enhance the child's level of fitness (both health & skill), the cognitive idea behind lessons such as these is, "Aerobic exercise and a proper diet (one that is low in fat) can prevent or reduce cardio-vascular disease." The students are in the process of actively understanding this statement through a total fitness program that emphasizes children enjoying movement!

The students in the younger grades are exploring different ways of moving their bodies using both locomotor movements and non-locomotor movements. They have been introduced to a variety of equipment as they investigate the different aspects of both health and skill fitness.

As we progress through the school year we will explore other wellness concepts and also touch upon some basic curriculum concepts. In this interdisciplinary approach, with physical education as the main focus, connections are made to other disciplines such as health, music, art, science, math, social studies, and language arts. The primary focus, however, is always upon physical education concepts, skills, and knowledge. Whether the students are engaged in learning activities concerning the Human Body, Weather, Habitats or the water cycle, be assured that they are receiving a total fitness program which involves active participation in a wide variety of movement experiences. Most importantly, the children's needs are being met in both the areas of health related fitness and sports skills! Keep those bodies moving!!!

Mrs. Cardillo

Technology News

It's hard to believe that it is December already. The students have been working hard on many activities. The students in kindergarten having been learning how to use a mouse in programs like Thinking Things and Kidspiration. First Graders have been busy creating activities using animals with our theme, *Animals, Tame and Wild*. We have worked on projects using Kidspiration, like creating our own zoos to show what we can learn by watching animals at a zoo. We have also been exploring a program called Math Zoo Zillions; this program uses animals to help students with their math facts. The second grade students theme has been *Exploration*. The students created habitats in Kidspiration and added pictures of plant and animal life could be found in each habitat. Students then wrote and shared what they would discover when they visited each place. The students also used Math Zoo Zillions worked in the souvenir shop of the "zoo" which helped students learn more about money. The third grade theme was *Dollars and Sense*. We used Inspiration to create concept web stories about what they would do or buy if they had a million dollars, and the advantages and disadvantages of each idea. Students used their concept website to create a journal about what they would do with their money, and the advantages and disadvantages of their choices. We have a very charitable group of third graders! The theme for the fourth graders was *This Land Is Your Land*. They learned about regions of the United States. One region they learned about was the Southwest. The students created a concept web in Inspiration to about the regions of Texas. Each group gathered information to complete their concept web. Students then used Microsoft Publisher to create a travel brochure for their region of Texas. I'm so excited to work with the students on many more projects this term! I know the students in Mrs. Janssen's classes on Mondays have been busy with their own projects as well!

Miss Keane

STUDENT SECTION:

HUSKY NEWS CREW



Book Orders
By: Autumn S.

Almost every month, your teacher probably gives you something called a book order. It might be called Arrow, Lucky, or Accelerated Reader. Do you know what to do with it? If you're new to the school you might not. Basically what you do is, on the order form you write down what book or books you want to get, and give the form and your money to your teacher. In a matter of weeks, you will receive your order. Book order forms come out a lot, so please don't feel you have to buy a book every month. Also, don't forget the Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the library, from December 1-8. This is a great chance to find some interesting new books!

Winter

By Veecheat and Brandon

Winter frost is coming in December! There is lots of things to do like make a snowman, have a snowball fight, also make an igloo. So dress warm and go play in the cold! In the month of December we also have a school vacation, this is a great time to play outside in the cold weather. Remember to wear clothes to keep you warm like, a hat, scarf, gloves, mittens, a big jacket, and boots with warm socks. Wearing these things will help make sure you are always ready for the cold weather!

Inspiration Alley

By: Sarah Carello

Did you know that we have an Inspiration Alley in our school? The Inspiration Alley has a wall for all five grades. Your teacher can put out excellent school work, so that everyone can see it. Our art teacher, Mrs. McCaughey, put out work that students participated in. When you walk by, you should try and find your work!

Favorite Words

By Maddy

This month I decided to write about some teachers favorite words. I asked different teachers what their favorite words were and why. Ms. Puccio took a week to come up with her favorite word she needed a dead line. Her word is *amount* because she spelt it wrong through high school and no one caught her! Mr. Nieratko's favorite word is *rainbow* because it represents nature beauty and it makes him smile! I think Mrs. Giannetti's favorite word is the weirdest, it is *cacophony*. It means a loud screeching noise. Mrs. Simmons' favorite word is similar to Mrs. Cotsalas's favorite word because they have to do with the library they are *book* and *read*. I always save the best for last! Ms. Dunn's word is the most interesting to me. It is *racecar* because you can spell it frontward and backward and it is still spelt the same. Words that are spelt the same frontward and backward are called palindromes.

STUDENT SECTION CONTINUED



Ms. Withers
By: From Matt M.

Having Ms. Withers as a fourth grade teacher is great. She is the most loyal and thoughtful teacher. She cares for all her students, and she listens to anything you say. She's always smiling, and she always helps us. She is young, funny, and has a great sense of humor. She is very smart, and is very creative. I really liked when she taught us about decimals in math. Today she was out, and we all missed her. Things haven't been the same without her today!

Cowboys and Cowgirls

By: Breana Pereira

This year the fourth graders got to dress up as cowboys and cowgirls to support a story from our reading curriculum. The best thing is about it is that the teachers get to dress up too. We get to act like cowboys and cowgirls because we were reading a story about students at Coyote School. The students were cowboys and cowgirls. It is a story from our unit 2 in Reading Street. It was a fun way to help us understand what we were learning about!

Winter Cheer By Kyle C.

Winter is almost here and many holidays will be coming soon. Next month is going to be filled with holiday cheer like caroling. Frost is finally here and is on the grass. The wind chill is picking up and it makes the weather seem like it's colder than it really is get ready for winter with warm clothes. Have a great winter!

Harvest Hoopla By: Kyle S.

The harvest hoopla was held on November 1st. I couldn't wait for it! Before it happened, I asked Mr. Stors what was it was going to be like. He told me there would be a D.J. who would play great music, food, drinks, games and a lot of fun. If smaller kids didn't want to play any of the games, they could read books.

Harvest Hoopla By: Breana P.

Mr. Stors shared some of the excited activities that will be at the Harvest Hoopla before it happened! There will be a haunted hallway that you would need to buy tickets to walk through. We would also see a science lab and a castle where you could play High School Musical 3 games in. There would also be activities for younger students, like a bubble machine and games. I think the best part will be carving pumpkins!