

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/5	Begin Session 1 of Expect Excellence Tutoring
10/6	3 rd Grade OAT Reading Achievement Test
10/7	Youth Power Meeting 3:30 p.m.
10/10	PTO Fall Festival 12:00-6:00 p.m.
10/13	Student Council 3:30 p.m.
10/13	PTO Market Day Pickup 6:30-7:00 p.m.
10/14-16	6 th Grade Students at Camp Joy
10/15	PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m.
10/15	PTO Program Grades 1 & 2 7:00 p.m.
10/19-23	Fire Prevention Education Week
10/20	Art & Earth Club Meeting Grades 3-4 3:30 p.m.
10/22	Art & Earth Club Meeting Grades 5-6 3:30 p.m.
10/22-11/5	PTO Holiday Fundraiser
10/23	End of 1 st Quarter
10/26	Begin 2 nd Quarter
10/26-30	Red Ribbon Week
10/29	Creative Family Art Night 6:30-8:00 p.m.
10/30	1 st Quarter Report Cards Sent Home
11/1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
11/3	Election Day No School for Students
11/4	COSI on Wheels

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Monroe Elementary School is to provide a nurturing educational environment in which students share the responsibility with staff, parents, and community to reach their full potential in all areas of learning and become competent, life-long learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Monroe Elementary School, in partnership with family and community, is to meet or exceed state standards by implementing a continuum of quality learning systems for all students.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have much to celebrate at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year! Through much hard work and dedication, Monroe Elementary School has earned a rating of “EXCELLENT” from the Ohio Department of Education for a second consecutive year! Monroe once again met 12 out of 12 state indicators on the building/district local report card! We are very proud of our students and staff for this accomplishment. Additionally, the New Richmond Exempted Village School District met 28 of 30 indicators and is rated as an “EXCELLENT” district. I feel very fortunate and honored to be associated with our fine public school system. We met Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) for students that are identified as “economically disadvantaged.” Therefore, our School Improvement Delay Status has been removed. We must now work to meet AYP for students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in the areas of reading and math. We will accomplish this goal through best instructional practices, differentiation of instruction, inclusion, and a heightened awareness of individual student needs. We will require your assistance at home to meet this expectation. Staff, students, and parents working together will enable us to continue to “raise the bar” for student success.

I encourage you to get involved in the education of your child, not just through effective communication and making sure homework is completed, but by volunteering in the classroom, a form of community service for our school. I know that by working together we can make a difference in the life of every child at Monroe. I invite you to become an active member of our Parent Teacher Organization. A solid partnership between home and school is of utmost importance,

and I look forward to working with you throughout this school year to meet your child’s educational needs.

We are fully embedded in the use of Positive Behavior Supports at Monroe Elementary School and our Leadership Team comprised of parents, teachers, and administration developed a school-wide plan last year based on our district’s plan. The areas of focus are:

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Ready to Learn

Resolve Problems Positively

The 4 “R’s” listed above have been customized for the different areas of our building. This consistent approach will enable us to better attend to your child’s learning needs.

The safety of your children continues to be my top priority. As in years past, we will continue to conduct fire drills on a monthly basis and will conduct tornado drills during the spring tornado season. Monroe has an up to date School Crisis Plan, which is on file with our local law enforcement agencies and the district central office. All school buildings are required to conduct safety drills with staff members and students to protect all against dangers such as “*an act of terrorism...a person possessing a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance...or other acts of violence.*” As all entrances to the building are locked and monitored during the school day, I want to remind parents to “buzz in” at the door and to always sign in at the office when coming to pick up your child, volunteer, or when visiting a classroom. Be sure to also secure a “Visitor Badge” when visiting Monroe Elementary School.

I would request that parents park their car in an identified parking space

rather than parking in the fire lane. Parents may park in the visitor parking lot, or in our new parking lot located on the other side of Laurel-Lindale Road. Our school day concludes at 3:30 p.m. Parents picking up their children should report to the cafeteria to sign out your child. By parking on the visitor side you will be permitted to depart before the buses. We request that parents picking their children up at the end of the day sign in no later than 3:20 p.m. Any adult entering the building after 3:20 p.m. greatly compromises the safety of students as well as the overall security within the building. Parents entering the building after 3:20 p.m. will be required to wait in the cafeteria until the school buses have left the premises.

October is an extremely busy month at Monroe. Our third graders will be taking the fall administration of the reading achievement test on October 6th. Third grade students will take this test again in the spring.

The annual PTO Fall Festival will occur on Saturday, October 10th from 12:00-6:00 p.m. This festival requires much planning and I thank our Fall Festival Committee for their dedication and hard work.

Mrs. Hawk, our talented art teacher will sponsor the second annual Creative Family Art Night scheduled for October 29th that promises fun through artistic creativity for all.

The month of October will conclude with Fire Prevention Education Week sponsored by the Monroe Township Fire Department and Red Ribbon Week. Mrs. Snider, counselor, always does a wonderful job of educating the children during this week of awareness.

We are off to another great start at Monroe! Please stay involved in the

education of your children so that their full potential may be realized.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher conference forms will be sent home with students on Monday, October 12th. Please send your form back to school as soon as possible. A note will be sent home confirming your date and conference time. Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 5th from 5:00-8:30 p.m. and Monday, November 9th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Please remember that conference times are limited to 15 minutes. Preparing questions for your conferences will help you benefit the most from your time. We look forward to meeting with you.



COUNSELOR'S THOUGHTS

Carole J. Snider, Counselor

snider_c@nrschools.org

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

I really appreciate the way all parents have responded so positively to our new end of the day pick up procedures. The addition of the new parking lot has provided us the means to have all parents park on that side of the building away from the buses at the end of the day. You and your children are separated from the busy bus loading area and are able to leave immediately. Everyone seems happy and very safe, and I love it when you wave to me while driving by!

During the week of September 14 – 18, 2009 we administered the Stanford Achievement Test to all 2nd, 4th, and 6th graders. You will be mailed the results of this test in approximately 6 to 8 weeks. This is a nationally norm-referenced achievement test which will provide you and the school information on how your child is achieving in comparison to students from the entire nation. As always if you have any questions regarding this test please contact me.

Many of you have completed and returned the school counseling request form. I have reviewed all requests, contacted many of you who had specific comments, and have started individual counseling and small groups. Thank you so much for your input, it is invaluable to me. Please continue to stay in contact with me with any requests or questions you may have regarding your child's progress here at Monroe Elementary. You're wonderful parents and certainly make my job a true joy.

Kindergarten Corner

The children are doing a wonderful job adapting to the kindergarten day. We spent the first few weeks learning the classroom rules and routines and getting to know each other.

In October we will be working on the language arts theme, "Around the Table." The children will read and learn about the fun in working together to grow, prepare, and share food for themselves and others. We are learning new letters and sight words weekly. Keep reading the "mini" books that are sent home each week to reinforce the sight words.

In math, our emphasis will be on gaining proficiency sorting objects by one or more attributes, comparing objects to determine more and fewer, and recognizing numerals to 5.

October brings a new unit on seasons and fall. The children will learn about the signs of fall along with animal behaviors in fall.



First Grade News

The first weeks of school have flown by and the first graders are making new friends and enjoying new learning. Everyone is learning the 4R's, Respect, Responsibility, Be Ready to Learn, and Resolve Problems Positively. We practice these in the hallway, the cafeteria, restroom, and playground. Each class is developing class rules using the 4R's.

This month, we will be learning many new things. The children will continue learning "The Daily Five." We are making "I charts" and practicing "Read to Self," "Read to Someone," Writing, Listening to a Story and Word Work. The children are building STAMINA as they are challenged to "Read to Self" a little longer each day. We will practice early sight words through songs and pocket chart stories. The first graders will read both fiction and non-fiction selections and will learn to recognize factual elements in a fiction story. They will learn the concept of addition and strategies to help them solve addition problems.

We appreciate all of the help and support from our first grade parents!

Second Grade News

We are so happy to be back in school with a great group of second graders. They have made a quick transition to second grade and life in the circle at Monroe.

In Language Arts, we will be reading books written by Cynthia Rylant including the popular *Henry and Mudge* and the *Mr. Putter and Tabby* series. Visit your local library to check out more Cynthia Rylant books. Please continue to have your child read at home everyday for at least fifteen minutes. We will also be addressing several of our writing standards in correlation with our author study of Cynthia Rylant.

Our math chapter focuses on several number sense standards including place value to 99. We will work on ordinal numbers as well as comparing and ordering numbers. Flashcards will be coming home soon, so please be on the look out for them. Please practice these flashcards at home so students can pass his or her level in Rocket Math (please have your child bring back their flashcards everyday to school for use in the classroom). It is exciting to see them "blasting off" with their facts in Rocket Math.

In science, we will be working on Life Science as we learn about Ohio animals and plants and how they relate to each other. We look forward to seeing everyone at our PTO Performance on October 15th.



Third Grade News

Our third grade students are having a great start to a new school year. Our theme for the year is to be a good citizen in your school, in your community, and make good choices for yourself, the environment, and the world. Please make sure you listen to your child read every day for twenty minutes. You may also model reading with your child so that they can listen to you read as well. The children will have a homework folder come home every evening except for weekends. Please look over homework, fill in what was read during their twenty minutes of reading, then sign on the appropriate line. At this time we need for all students to have their basic addition and subtraction facts mastered. Our next social studies unit will be on map skills and geography.

4th Grade News

The fourth graders have lots to keep them busy in school. In language arts, the students will continue to read a selection each week and then be tested on both vocabulary and comprehension. We encourage students to bring their reading book home and read the selection with you. We also expect students to read twenty minutes each night from something they are interested in.

Fourth grade math magicians are hard at work reviewing lots of number sense. We continue to work on expanded form, standard form, rounding numbers up to the ten thousands, perimeter, and measurement. In looking at their weekly progress folder, we encourage you to look over the math concepts and ask questions. What an awesome way for your math magician to sparkle your interest in their learning!

As we fall into learning for science, we continue to fine tune our process skills

and the design method. We will concentrate on the 4th grade standard of physical science this month. Be ready to discuss states of matter and physical and chemical changes with your child!

In Social Studies, students will be learning about what Ohio looked like many years ago. They will also explore the early people of Ohio and what their life was like. We learn about the various Native American groups that made up parts of Ohio like the Woodland Indians, the Moundbuilders and the Iroquois.

The scholar dollar program is off and running. We have many motivated fourth graders that are saving up for the big auction we will hold at the end of each quarter. There are various incentives along the way to entice them to spend their scholar dollars, but many will hold on to their earnings. Please feel free to donate any new kid – friendly items for our auction.



Fabulous Fifth Grade News

What a fabulous start to the year! The fifth graders have been busy learning the ins and outs of fifth grade. Each week in reading, we will have a weekly short story as well as a literature circle novel. Be on the lookout for stories to come home on Monday nights to be reread and novels to come home throughout the week. Please make sure your child is reading twenty minutes per night. In science we will be learning about life science. We will be doing lots of hands on activities to explore food chains, food webs and how they work together. In social studies we are learning about the U.S. government and the characteristics of a democracy. Math has us discovering patterns with integers and coordinate grids. Please ensure your child is studying their multiplication facts four nights a week for at least twenty minutes. This will help will math class throughout the school year. We look forward to a wonderful year and getting to know you and your child.

Sensational Sixth Grade

Welcome back to another year at Monroe Elementary. We are very excited to be sharing this year with you. Sixth grade will be a busy year as students acquire skills for the Ohio math and language arts achievement tests, travel into the past with Camp Joy Outdoor Educational Center, and prepare themselves for middle school.

Camp Joy is just around the corner. Students will be going on October 14-16. Money for Camp Joy is due October 9, 2009. We will be sending home information for you to complete about your child and a packing list. Camp Joy is a great opportunity, and we encourage everyone to attend.

This month, students are working on fractions, decimals, and percents in math. In science, the focus is on earth science, specifically rocks and minerals. Social studies will deal with ancient civilizations. Students will be learning about the Ice and Stone Ages. In language arts, students are focusing on finding the themes, tones, and moods of stories.

Please continue to check your child's agenda nightly for updated homework assignments. We would also like your assistance in helping your child stay organized through the use of their accordion file folder. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you this year!

MUSIC MESSAGE

The year is off to a terrific start. Students have learned our routines and procedures, and are doing a wonderful job meeting expectations. Kindergarten students are learning different ways to keep a steady beat. Students in grades 1-6 are focusing on music literacy skills, with specific attention to melody and music symbols. And of course, chorus is working on music for the holiday concert.

First and second grade parents please mark the date October 15, 2009 on your calendars. On the evening of October 15th, all first and second grade students are invited to participate in a musical performance which will take place at school at 7:00 pm. A letter outlining the details will be sent home soon.

Physical Education & Health News

In order to promote physical fitness at Monroe Elementary we will conduct our first walk/run Marathon (26.2 miles) during the months of September, October and November. Parents, students, staff, family and friends are welcome to join us as we work to improve our physical fitness.

Our playground has a quarter mile marked that the students are familiar with and will be marked until the end of November. A total of 125 laps around the area marked are equal to 26.2 miles. Participants may count their mileage regardless of the place you walk/run. Students will have their names posted in the gym where they can track their mileage.

Any student that completes the Marathon by the end of November will receive a neck chain and medal for their achievement. The student with the most family members (father, mother, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins) completing the Marathon will receive a plaque commemorating their achievement for a healthier life style.

Creative Sanctuary News

The school year is off to a beautiful start and the Monroe Artists are busy at work creating some really great work! Here is a brief summary of what each grade level is busy with!

Kindergarten artists are hard at work learning about and creating lines. They are experts with the art room rules and procedures, mastering the special clean-up directions already! They have also created and designed their first sketchbooks which they will be using throughout the school year!

1st Grade artists were introduced to the work of contemporary artist Matthew

Richie, an artist who does large scale paintings and sculpture using many different types of lines. The 1st graders then worked collaboratively on very large paper to create their own versions of work by Matthew Richie. To top off the work, they added sculptural elements to give interest to their work.

2nd Grade artists are currently studying the work and life of Frida Kahlo. They will be creating self-portraits in the style of Kahlo and will be using gesso to prime their canvases.

3rd Grade artists just finished their Pinwheels for Peace to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21st. They are beginning a watercolor project where they will be painting images of what they can do to make the world a better place.

4th Grade artists are busy working on mobile sculptures inspired by American sculptor Alexander Calder. They are experiencing the use of balance and space in their work.

5th Grade artists are beginning a unit on Native American art and will be creating a functional piece called a Parfleche.

6th Grade artists are working on an installation sculpture inspired by the artist Jana Napoli. Jana is a New Orleans native who created a work called the Floodwall, where after Hurricane Katrina, she collected dresser drawers from devastated parts of New Orleans and combined them into a sculpture. The 6th grade artists will be creating and designing a drawer of their own to add to the overall installation sculpture. More information about the project will be coming home soon!

Technology

This year is off to a great start. All of the classes have been getting reacquainted with the computer. The fifth and sixth graders will continue to refine their typing skills. They will be expected to keep their fingers on the home row keys. I hope they will work on this outside of the technology lab. This is the website that is used www.freetypinggamenet when the students are taking the typing test. The kindergarten classes are learning how to log onto the computer. They will also be working on how to use the mouse correctly. The first grade classes will continue working with mouse control as well as typing skills. The second graders will be learning about the different programs that are available on the computers. The third graders will continue learning where letters are located on the keyboard. The fourth graders will be setting goals for their keyboarding skills. I look forward to another great year with everyone.☀



Band Notes

The beginning band classes are starting to run a bit smoother each week as more and more students rent instruments or retrieve their instruments from the repair shop. All band students bring in signed practice sheets every two weeks of the school year. At home, band students should always be preparing one full page of their band books. In band class, students will be tested on their current line(s) in the book. As they successfully pass a tested line they progress to the next one. These steps will help us reach both our personal goals and state standards. One of the Ohio Academic Content Standards that we have in music is *Creative Expression and Communication*. In the fifth and sixth grades, we need the students to “respond appropriately to the cues of a conductor and play alone or with others, using good posture and breath control, with appropriate dynamics (soft or loud) and tempo (speed)”.



Library News for October

September was National Library Card month. If you did not get to the public library to sign up for your library card in September, it's never too late. Stop by one of your local branches today to get your own card and start taking advantage of all the Clermont County Public Library has to offer. Their hours are as follows: Monday and Tuesday 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Friday and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is no cost to get a card, and there's never a charge unless you don't get your materials returned on time.

Our first Scholastic Bookfair of the year is fast upon us. It will run from November 4 through 10. If you would like to volunteer at the bookfair, please contact Mrs. Greeson.

All classes have been busy with refresher courses in Library skills. Hopefully every child is checking out a book each week. We are so lucky to have a wonderful selection of books. Let's all try to read for 20 minutes each day.

When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change..



PTO NEWS

Welcome back, Monroe! Congratulations on another year of Excellence. We are so proud to be part of such an amazing school.

Last year we wrapped up the year with our Walk-A-Thon and raised \$4500.00 for the school. And over the summer we were able to donate \$6800.00 towards the purchase of SmartBoards for the Second Grade classrooms.

There's only one way to describe the Monroe PTO right now: busy, busy, busy! And that's how we like it.

Thanks to all of our wonderful Grandparents who joined us for Grandparents Day. We hope everyone enjoyed breakfast and visiting the classrooms. It looked like we had a record crowd this year with our parking lots overflowing!

Planning for Fall Festival '09 is well underway. This year Fall Festival takes place on Saturday, October 10th from noon until 6:00 pm. We will have new games and more raffles, and our first ever Cornhole Tournament so be sure to come out and have some fun! Contact Amy Matheney with questions at 553-2547.

The PTO is trying some new things this year to be more accommodating and accessible to everyone. Monthly meeting times have changed, so please check the school calendar or the PTO Calendar. The next meeting is October 15th at 6:00 pm.

The PTO Student Directory is in process and will be sent home as soon as they are completed. If you are looking for updates, information or have questions, check out our fan page on Facebook! Search for Monroe Elementary PTO and you'll find our High Flying Excellence logo.