

# Paw Prints

**South Hutchinson Elementary  
Parent Newsletter**

March 1, 2010

## **From Mrs. Simmons**

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to all the parents who participated in parent/teacher conferences. The support in your child's education is one of the greatest gifts you can give them, which lasts a lifetime. Your support and communication with teachers, helps identify critical issues concerning your child's education.

### **State Assessments**

The State Assessments are off to a fantastic start! Our students are making us proud and working very hard to do their best. Please keep supporting your student through this time with well-balanced meals, good nights of sleep, and good attendance. Again, we appreciate your support.

## **Yearbooks**

### **Orders Still Being Taken**

It's not too late to order a yearbook!. There are still yearbooks left, so reserve a copy for your student now! The cost of a yearbook is \$10.50. Checks should be made payable to South Hutchinson Elementary.

## **PTC Happenings**

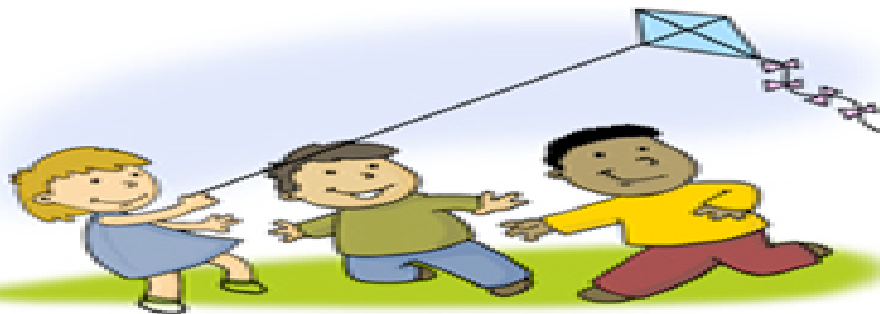
### **Spring Fundraiser**

Mark your calendars! The PTC Spring Auction Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Tammy Davis (662-2201) if you did not have a chance to sign up at conferences to help.

## **Kindergarten Roundup**

### **April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Do you have a child entering kindergarten next school year? Or do you know of someone who has a child entering kindergarten next year? If so, please mark your calendars for Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Our kindergarten teachers will be available to answer questions. Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records, and social security card.



## Kindergarten

We discovered lots of things to LOVE about February. We worked hard to decorate Valentine bags and enjoyed fantastic Valentine's Day parties. We played games, ate treats and opened Valentines from our friends. Thank you so much to all of the parents who worked hard to make these parties successful.

What is special about Wednesday in Kindergarten? That's when we wear our "color of the week". Classes focus on one color word each week and on Wednesday everyone wears that color. The totals are tallied and compared. Besides wearing the color, we also practice reading the word and writing with it. We especially enjoy singing the color word song.

Measurement has been the topic in math. We have been busy learning about length, weight and capacity. We've measured with inchworms, beans, cubes, our hands and green "giant feet". We have practiced estimation and making reasonable guesses. We continue to practice many different math skills at calendar time, including counting and number recognition.

Our science and social studies themes have been very interesting. We learned about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on Presidents' Day. We played a game called "Heads or Tails" with pennies and quarters. Not only did we get to practice recognizing the coins and the presidents, we also learned about probability and graphing. Since February is Dental Health Month, we have talked about healthy habits and taking good care of our teeth. We've played games, read stories, sorted healthy and unhealthy foods and we conducted scientific experiments. We can't wait to see what we will get to learn about in March!

## First Grade

The first grade classes have had a busy February! We celebrated Groundhog Day (local groundhogs predict Spring is around the corner), Valentine's Day (thank you so much to the parents who put our parties together, we had a GREAT time), and President's Day as we learned about Presidents Washington and Lincoln. We are also working on Dental Health. We learned about bus and train safety at the Buster the Bus Assembly. We're learning about fractions and place value in Math. The kids are working hard on AR, earning those points for the swim party in May. As Spelling words get more challenging, please keep up the hard work at home.

## Second Grade

The 2nd graders finished the month of January on the 28th with a big celebration of the Hundredth Day of School. The children created projects at home showcasing a hundred objects of their choice and brought them to school for Show and Tell. There was a great variety in the projects such as a hundred Hershey kisses glued on a paper to form a colorful heart and a dinosaur collection of 100 prehistoric creatures. Activities all day long focused on the number 100. One hundred colorful balloons were released in the cafeteria for the students to play and exercise with.

The Kansas Day program had to be shifted to February 2nd due to a Snow Day on January 29th. Mary Clark from Dillon Nature Center brought her wonderful slide show spotlighting the great beauty found in the Kansas outdoors, and gave the students a wealth of information about Kansas animals and plants from pioneer days to now. A live box turtle and live tiger salamander really livened up the program! The children got to examine a collection of animal pelts, skulls, and antlers too.

February has been spent learning about the lives of America's beloved Presidents Washington and Lincoln and the times in which they lived. The students have also been practicing hard on their Music Program "Schoolhouse Rock" which will be presented on the evening of Thursday, March 4th. The tunes are quite catchy and fun and will "ring a bell" with many in the audience.

## Fourth Grade

Fourth Graders started out the month with a cookie-baking project. Mrs. Weesner had connections in Haiti with a doctor that needed support to keep her hospital functioning. The students helped bake approximately 80 dozen chocolate chip cookies for which Mrs Weesner already had buyers. After the students sampled some cookies, they were still able to send \$249.00 to Haiti. Thanks to all the helpers who made this possible.

Fourth graders also spent lots of reading and math time getting ready to take and taking district assessments this month. We hope this will get us in gear for State Assessments, which are right around the corner. Measurement was a fun yet challenging thing for us in math. We ended our measurement unit with the Measurement Olympics, in honor of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Social studies continues to study the regions of the U.S., learning states and capitals. In English, learning prefixes and suffixes will help us be ready for the State Reading Assessment. Electricity was the last unit 4<sup>th</sup> graders finished up in science. What busy days we are having! However, we did slow down and spent some time celebrating Valentine's Day.

## Fifth Grade

Fifth grade worked very hard in February. We recently finished our District Reading Assessments and will start our State Reading Assessments the first week of March. It is very important that the kids get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast to start the day off right, especially on those days! In Social Studies we have been studying about the Revolutionary War and in Science our unit is about ecosystems, habitats, and the relationships between species. Both classes had a fun Valentine's Day filled with games, cards, and lots of treats! We are looking forward to a very fun and busy month of March!



# March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Assembly at 9:00am</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program at 7:00pm</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daylight Savings Time—set your clocks!</li> <li>• PTC Meeting at 6:00pm</li> </ul>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to Dillon Lecture Series</li> </ul>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</li> <li>• Early Dismissal at 12:40pm</li> </ul>
<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Fair at District Complex form 9am-5pm</li> </ul>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Patrick's Day</li> <li>• Spring Individual Portraits &amp; Classroom Pictures</li> </ul>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> to JUCO Tourney</li> <li>• SHE Talent Show at 7pm</li> </ul>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Spring Break</b>				
<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Awards Assembly at 2pm</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup> – No School</b>