

Clyde Elementary School News

Spring, 2011 Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 1

Pamela Justice, Principal



Principal's News



A is for ATTENDANCE.

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Spring Pictures
March 4
- ◆ Progress Reports
March 8
- ◆ Cardinal Chorus
March 8
- ◆ Author Mike Graf
March 9
- ◆ 27 Week Assessments
March 14-April 1
- ◆ 5k & Family Fun Run
April 30

A lot of good things are happening at Clyde Elementary. In spite of many missed days due to bad weather conditions, teachers and students alike are working hard and lots of learning is taking place in our classrooms.

Several new or different programs have been introduced this school year. The local Kiwanis Club introduced and are sponsoring an incentive program, **Bringing up Grades (BUGS)** for our Third Grade students, recognizing those who maintain or bring up grades this school year. The benchmark was set at the end of the first nine weeks grading period, and students are recognized each nine weeks thereafter for the rest of the school year if they maintain or bring up grades. Many thanks to our local Kiwanians for supporting student achievement.

The receipt of a grant from NC Department of Public Instruction has provided Clyde Elementary with the opportunity and resources to initiate the **3D Reading Diagnostic Assessment** that is being utilized in several elementary schools across the county. This assessment tool allows teachers to track reading proficiency and understanding more closely than ever

before, through the use of this computerized assessment.

Two teachers at Clyde Elementary have recently received their National Board Certification. Congratulations to **Rena White** and **Debra Howell**. Clyde Elementary is very proud that we now have 8 teachers who are NBCT.

We are now offering additional support to students and classroom teachers through the use of Title I funds to work with students in math. Using funds to support math instruction allows teachers and Title I staff to provide additional time and instruction to students with a lower ratio of instructor to student.

Latchkey is now providing certified Clyde staff to support the **Homework Club**. The club meets Monday through Thursday afternoons to assist students who wish to complete assignments while in Latchkey.

You will be hearing more about the newly formed book club, **Book Hounds**, which has created a good bit of excitement around campus!

Clyde Elementary offers many opportunities beyond academics for our students. **Girls on the Run** is a big hit with 3-5 girls as is the **Boys' Running Club** for 3-5 boys.

SEE US RUN!

Dear Parents

It is amazing how quickly this year is passing. We have completed and celebrated our 100th day of school. I have enjoyed working with Clyde teachers, students, and parents to make sure that we are providing everything our students need to succeed!

Our School Improvement Team has completed its Mid-Year Review of Clyde's School Improvement Plan. Our Goals are to:

- Begin to use reading strategies in all grades to fit each student's needs
- Provide a supportive learning environment for all students
- Work with Community organizations so all students will be successful

School Improvement Team members are pleased with the progress we have made toward reaching our school goals. We will continue to work toward successful completion of all goals targeted for this school year.

Clyde Elementary has a history of being a School of Excellence. With the help and support of each of member of our School Community, we will continue to provide the same tradition of educational excellence for each student for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Pamela Justice

Kindergarten News



Read with your
child each night.

Kindergarten has had a busy month with many activities with our holidays and themes! We put our new SMARTBoards to use by watching Punxsutawney Phil to see if he would see his shadow, and so far the prediction was correct. We made finger puppets and read poems to complete our unit.

Kindergarten then started preparing for our Valentine's Day. It turned into the biggest celebration of the year. The entire kindergarten class made individual holders for their cards. The students had parties in their room, read books and made cards for their families. Valentine's Day is a great resource for using hearts with sorting and sharing with others.

On February 21, students celebrated President's Day. Students learned about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Again, the SMARTBoard was useful in comparing and contrasting these two presidents. All kindergarten students made hats to wear to lunch for this special day. They also talked about our current president.

Dental health is a theme for this month and we will be talking about the importance of brushing properly and using dental floss. We have started assessing students with the new 3D Reading Program and all students are now reading from the Kindergarten Sight Word books.

We encourage parents to read nightly with their child and to talk about their understanding of the books they bring home. We are excited about our field trip to see the Dr. Seuss Play and to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

First Grade News

First grade students have been very busy learners this month. We have enjoyed the many holidays and events in February. We started off the month anxiously waiting to see if the groundhog would see his shadow. Thanks to our new SMARTBoards, the class watched this event and received the news—"The sky is clear. Prepare for warmth!" With those rousing words, the world's famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, offered a ray of hope. By seeing no shadow as he emerged from his burrow, Phil is said to have predicted an early spring.

Our 100th day celebration included 100 shaped glasses, 100 items brought in by students to practice math concepts, 100 shaped snacks and writing activities that included practice with the number sense of 100. It's amazing what you can find in 100s!

For Valentine's Day, each student created folders using many different art mediums to express their individuality and uniqueness. Students also celebrated with a party and exchanged valentines with each other. Students thoughtfully remembered others outside their immediate classroom on this special day.

Second Grade News

This is a very exciting time of the year for second grade! The children are working hard in our balanced literacy program. They are reading independently from a variety of self-selected fiction and non-fiction books at their own levels. They continue to receive instruction at the appropriate level in their guided reading groups. The students are going to be exploring the characteristics of the non-fiction genre such as table of contents, indexes, diagrams, labels, subheadings, captions and glossaries.

Each night, as you read with your child, remember to talk to him/her about the books they are reading to ensure comprehension of the book. Ask questions about the author's main idea, character traits, problem and solution and any connections he/she may have to the story.

The children are working on writing personal narratives that include a clear beginning, middle and end that is loaded with lots of details. **The students have now started to explore the exciting world of cursive handwriting as well!**

In math, students will be working on telling time, counting money and fractions. They will continue to use their addition and subtraction skills to solve real life word problems. The students will also learn how to represent data in pictographs and Venn diagrams.

We would like to thank all of you for the support that you give your precious children and the school to make the most out of this second grade school experience. We appreciate all you do and look forward to a wonderful rest of the year!

*"Remember to
talk to your child
about the books
he/she is reading
to ensure
comprehension."*

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Third Grade News

Third grade students have been working on mastering their multiplication facts. Students are all practicing by doing Multiplication for Sundaes. In March, students will be participating in Multiplication Madness. Multiplication Madness is a competition between the third grade classes that coincides with March Madness basketball.

Students are also going on a field trip next week to the Health Adventure to enhance the Science Curriculum. Each student will participate in two programs; one is about the bones and muscles

and the other one is about the solar system.

All third grade students created a monologue and dressed as a famous American in February. Each student had to research their famous American and make a presentation to the class. We appreciate all the parent support in helping with this project.

Thank you to all parents who participated in the Third Grade EOG Curriculum Night on February 15th.



Fourth Grade News

Presently we are studying a defining point in our history, The Civil War. Students researched Famous African Americans and designed and created posters which are displayed in our hall. Nutrition is the topic in Science where we are learning how food provides energy and materials for growth and repair of the body. In Math, students are focusing on fractions and decimals in addition to acquiring problem solving strategies for multi-step word problems. We are excited about an upcoming visit from Mike Graf, a

children's author and former elementary teacher. He will share a realistic fiction story about the National Parks and will conduct a writing workshop for many of our students. Other approaching events and activities:

- Midyear Assessments in Reading
- End of March brings our Spring Assessment in Reading and Mathematics. This is a mock test of the End of Grade test that takes place in May.
- On-demand Writing Task
- Poetry Study

Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade students are working on various math concepts, from geometry to fractions to measurements.

In Social Studies, each student has learned all the states and capitals and has just completed a state poster project that included state flag, state motto, state flower, and other attributes for that state. The posters highlighted state capitals,

important cities and state characteristics, and other important details about their chosen state.

Reading groups are very successful; the students enjoy the varied reading lessons in which they are engaged. Fifth grade is looking forward to visiting author Mike Graf on March 9.

Tuesday, March 1, students enjoyed a visit from WLOS-TV's Jason Boyer, for a lesson in meteorology. Each student was prepared to ask two weather-related questions to Mr. Boyer.

Special Education News

Mrs. McDonald's 5th Grade Wilson Reading students hope to finish the last important step in the program by reviewing all double vowels and r controlled vowels. Reading comprehension students in grades 3-5 began a new reading series, "Making Connections", and they have already learned strategies and key words for sequencing of events and main idea. We just finished a wonderful non-fiction story about Ralph Epperson who invented the original "Popsicle" by accident! (His soda drink froze when he left it outside over night in 1905!). Mrs. Perry's students are excited to use our new SMART board during daily lessons. We have also been busy learning to become more independent by carrying our own trays and washing our hands. We are looking forward to celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and reading many of his great books! During March, Mrs. Turner's class will also be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and focusing on many of his books. We will be creating our own rhyming class book.

We will begin exploring rocks and minerals in Science and will be "rock hunting" and will use a magnifying glass and a microscope to examine the rocks closer. Mrs. Branson's class has been studying dental hygiene. We've had lots of loose teeth among the students to talk about and share! We are looking forward as well to Dr. Seuss' birthday. We will see the play "Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!" in Franklin with all the Kindergarten classes. In Mrs. Cook's class, recycling efforts are still underway. Keep collecting your empty drink pouches and Frito Lay chip bags for us to count and send in to get CASH for our school! We are almost finished producing our promotional video to share with the school to remind everyone about this great Terracycle program! Also, we love our Book Buddies!!!! Many thanks to Ms. Holcombe's third grade class for spending time and reading with us! We are learning so much and are so very thankful for the new technology, such as updated Boardmaker and our brand new SMARTBoard! In all our classes for students participating, spring training for Special Olympics is coming up!

Book Hounds Book Club

Clyde is proud to present our new book club. Our club started on February 24, 2011. Students will participate in a total of 5 meetings, Thursdays from 3:00-3:30. We had over 30 students sign up and every student who completes the club's requirements will receive a free ticket to **Six Flags Over Atlanta**.

Jump Rope for Heart

Students participated in **Jump Rope for Heart** February 16 and February 17 during Physical Education classes. Heart facts were announced all month in connection with "Heart Month" and JRFH. Jump Rope for Heart donations are due March 1st. Thanks to all students, teachers, parent volunteers, staff and administration for being heart heroes!

Clyde Elementary PTO

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has raised over \$17,000 from the beginning of the school year to help with supplemental materials and activities for our students and faculty/staff. Money has been raised through the efforts of parents and students during the Fall Cookie Dough/Magazine Fundraiser, as well as with the Fall Flower Sale, Fall Festival, Cardinal Christmas Express Shop, and most recently the Apollo Flame Sweetheart Dinner. In addition to fundraising, the PTO has provided treats to students throughout the year including popcorn, root beer floats, turkey suckers, hot chocolate, and cones of ice cream.

To show appreciation to our wonderful teachers and staff, PTO has held a soup luncheon in their honor as well as provided a light breakfast a couple a times. PTO's major contribution this year has been to give the school \$300 for a new sound system for the gym, \$1700 for PE equipment, and \$15,000 for new playground equipment for 4th & 5th grade.

Future parent/teacher involvement is essential for the success of the PTO and its ability to provide supplemental support to the school, monetary and otherwise. We have some exciting plans in the near future that provide all parents and teachers the opportunity to become involved.

PTO will be giving treats to students on upcoming holidays.

We will be having a Spring Flower Sale beginning Friday, April 29. The Flower Sale will continue and be part of the much larger event, Cardinals Take Flight 5k and Family Fun Run on April 30. PTO will also be selling t-shirts at the race. This day will be extremely busy so all parents, teachers and students who can come out to help and participate will be greatly appreciated.

And a big THANK YOU to everyone who has bought from, sold for, participated in, or graciously volunteered time to the PTO during the first half of the school year!

FROM THE CARDINAL MUSIC NEST

What a performance of "I HAVE A DREAM" the 2nd and 3rd did last week! This was one of the best performances ever at Clyde. Just around the corner is the final performance of our Clyde Cardinal Chorus on Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 pm. Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 pm the 4th grade will present "A MUSICAL TOUR OF NORTH CAROLINA". May 10 at 7:00 pm the 1st grade will present "THE THREE PIGGY OPERA". Near the end of school, the Kindergarten will present "OUR FIRST YEAR AT SCHOOL" and 5th grade will present "THIS IS MY COUNTRY". We are very busy in the music nest at Clyde and we love it! Ya'll Come!

CARDINALS TAKE FLIGHT

5k and Family Fun Run

April 30, 2011

Registration begins March 7, 2011.

Registration form available on our website: <http://www.clyde.haywood.k12.nc.us/>

First 100 5k registrants will receive a free t-shirt!

In addition to 5k and Fun Run, Book Fair in Library, Hot Dog Lunch, PTO Flower Sale, Inflatables, Plan to celebrate this great Spring Fun Event for students, parents, grandparents and community!

8:00am – 1:00pm

