



Cougar Connection

Principal Newsletter of Grady A. Brown Elementary

May 1, 2012

Science and PTA Night: On May 3rd, starting at 5:00 pm, the grade levels will highlight Science in their classrooms. Fourth Grade will showcase experiments in the media center. Then at 6:00 pm we will have a PTA meeting in the gym followed by a Science performance by Mad Scientists. Please join us for this exciting enrichment time.

End of Grade Tests: In just a few short weeks, our third through fifth grade students will be taking lengthy tests on curriculum concepts that they have been taught all year long. I'm often asked for ways that parents can help children study for these tests. Studying isn't really needed but rest and proper nutrition are essential. Help your child by adjusting bedtimes so that they have ample rest to endure these long tests. Continue to serve a healthy breakfast for your children. Being on time to school also helps prepare your children for the requirements of the day. Your children have worked hard and the teachers have delivered quality instruction all year. Don't worry - your children will be Champs on these tests!!! We are very confident in their abilities.

Teacher of the Year: The Grady Brown Elementary staff selected Sarah Walker to represent our school as the Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Walker is a dedicated teacher that maximizes technology throughout her instructional program. She also collaborates with the Exceptional Program Staff to facilitate Inclusion within her classroom. She goes above and beyond expectations in all that she does. She is well loved by her students and her parents. On May 10th, she will be honored with the other OCS Teachers with a banquet. Please congratulate her and let her know how she represents GAB with excellence.

Kindergarten Registration: We have less than 40 children signed up to attend Kindergarten next year. Please talk to any neighbors or community members that you know have children starting school in the fall. Encourage them to come into GAB to enroll their children. Planning with staff and materials is crucial.

PTA Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now on sale for \$18.00 from Lifetouch. They are quality books and the PTA has worked so hard to produce them. Many thanks to Amanda Ellis and Rachel Monschein for their work on this yearbook. Eliza Stewart and Maddy Edmunds' artwork is featured in the books. Please consider purchasing one as it is an excellent keepsake for the year. Only about ten copies were sold last

Important Dates

May 2nd

Early Dismissal

11:20 am

May 3rd

PTA Science Night

5:00 pm

May 7th – 11th

PTA Teacher Appreciation
Week

May 11th

Last Day For Library

Check Out

PTA Staff Luncheon

Interim Reports Go Home

May 15th

3rd – 5th Grade Reading EOG

May 16th

3rd – 5th Grade Math EOG

May 17th

3rd – 5th Grade Math EOG

May 23rd

5th Grade Science EOG

May 28th

Memorial Day

No School



week but the PTA has hundreds that have been preordered that they will have to pay for if they aren't sold.

Transfers: The window for student transfers within Orange County Schools has opened and will be in effect until May 15th. Transfer forms are to be completed online. Once they are all received, then we can begin the process of determining approval or denial. Be advised that due to the lack of an NC class size limit in 4th and 5th grade, there won't be many transfers approved in these grades. Only students with extenuating circumstances will be seriously considered. Decisions regarding transfers will be made and shared with parents by May 25th. <http://research.zarca.com/survey.aspx?k=SsQSOVsQUVsPsPsP>

Late Checkins: Since attendance is closely correlated to academic performance, we have been closely monitoring our students that are coming to school late. In April, we missed an entire week of school due to Spring Break. However, the amount of children that came to school late increased. The amount of tardies **decreased!** That is good news. Please help ensure that your child consistently arrives to school on time.

December	January	February	March	April
240 tardies	323 tardies	284 tardies	348 tardies	259 tardies
21 children	160 children	136 children	67 children	141 children

Early Checkouts: We are pleased that the amount of children being checked out of school early **decreased** in April. The amount of times that classes were disturbed by children being checked out early also **decreased**. Thank you, thank you parents. Your help and attention to this matter, is making a difference!!

December	January	February	March	April
240 checkouts	176 checkouts	223 checkouts	238 checkouts	160 checkouts
52 children	126 children	168 children	144 children	108 children

CHAMP's Class of the Week: Thank you to these classes for consistently be **C**aring, **H**elpful, **A**chieving, **M**otivated, **P**roblem solvers! We are proud of all our CHAMPS for earning the Class of the Week!

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Jennings	Floyd	Sexton	Kirkendall

It is hard to believe that we're now into May and that there is only twenty-eight days left of school. Let's work together to ensure that our children finish the year strong academically. Continue to allow students to enjoy the pretty weather and to play hard after school before settling back in for homework. Our children will only be this young today and we can never have today back. So let's make the most of today by making memories that last. Remember that children are our greatest natural resource!

Respectfully Submitted,

Fay Jones

Principal