

## *Principal Kennections*

Abby Kennell, Principal

What a difference ten weeks of school can make! As an IB campus, we are expected to engage in *The Action Cycle* in which we choose an area of improvement, actively work towards our goals and reflect on what is working and what is not working. The beginning of this school year has proven that our teachers are committed to taking action to make CC Mason a destination campus for academics and building a strong community. It is with great pride that I highlight a couple incredible improvement efforts that set the foundation of academic excellence and strong community.

The first improvement effort most directly impacts your child's learning environment to maximize students' instructional time in the classroom. The Leadership Team has done extensive work on reexamining our master schedule to work toward common instructional times so that we can work more consistently and efficiently to support our students. It is with great pride that I share that their hard work, dedication to taking action, and commitment to our student's success has resulted in a master schedule revision that protects core instruction and better utilizes our support staff. The new schedule will go into effect as early as November 7th. The campus will send out notification via Mason Insider as well as publish the updated schedule on the school website.

The second improvement effort more closely aligns to building a culture and community that cares for the school and takes pride in taking care of our school and environment. It is with sincere appreciation that I celebrate the *Love Where You Live* project sponsored by local churches and businesses. This past weekend, several volunteers including our very own Mary Schlung, Becky Crockett, and former Mason teacher Marla Warren gathered at the front of the school to complete a campus beautification project. The project included weeding, trimming and mulching the front and south side garden beds as well as painting the railings by the flagpoles. I was deeply impressed with our student volunteers that weren't afraid of grabbing a shovel and digging up weeds and did so with enthusiasm and a smile on their face.

While there are countless examples of additional improvement efforts made among our Mason community, both of these are prime examples of how our campus has unified to make CC Mason IB World School THE Destination Campus.

It is with great gratitude and pride that I get to serve our students, teachers and community.

With kindest regards, *Abby Kennell*

### One big goal fulfilled ...

Last year our stretch goal as a PTO was to raise enough money to provide CC Mason students with two water bottle filling stations. I am excited to report those stations will be installed over Thanksgiving break. One will be outside the gym and the other just outside the cafeteria. It took more planning than we anticipated, but they will be worth the wait.

### Halfway to our next stretch goal ...

This year's goal is to raise enough money – around \$40,000 – to fund a shade structure for our playground and continue to provide funding for field trips, reading programs for students, and teacher enrichment programs.

I'm happy to share that, because of your support of Spirit Nights at PDQ and DQ, last weekend's Mason Fest, cookie dough and popcorn sales, and general contributions, *we are halfway to that goal!*

Mason Fest was a wonderful success and we could not have pulled it off without the help of our volunteers and sponsors. Thank you so much to those who helped with setup, cleanup, working a shift, or baking goodies. We also have enjoyed seeing many of you at the Grandparents Lunch, Donuts with Dad, and other events.

### We still need your help to get across the finish line!

There are plenty of opportunities to make this dream a reality. Here are a few:

**1. *Shirt Sales:*** We are now selling last year's gray PTO shirts for \$3 each or two for \$5. This year's red shirts are also still available for purchase. Check our website for available sizes to order yours today.

**2. *Raffle Buckets:*** In December, each grade level, our Principal, Assistant Principal and others will raffle off different experiences for the kiddos to bid on. Students loved this last year! Raffle tickets – two tickets for \$1 – will be sold each day at lunch the week of December 5-9. We will also sell them at the Cookies with Santa event on Saturday, December 10. There also will be awesome prizes available for parents to win: photography sessions, Austin Aquarium family memberships, Alamo Draffhouse tickets and more!

**3. *More Spirit Nights:*** Be sure to mark down your calendars for

PDQ Spirit Nights  
11/3 & 12/1

Dairy Queen Spirit Nights  
11/16 & 12/14

Veteran's Day Luncheon  
11/11

Thanksgiving Luncheon  
11/17

Raffle Buckets  
12/5 - 12/10

Cookies with Santa  
12/10

## Contact Us

### WEB

<http://mason.my-pta.org>

### FACEBOOK

<http://facebook.com/ccmasonpto>

upcoming PDQ and DQ Spirit Nights. CC Mason receives a portion of sales on those nights.

**4. General Contributions:** If you prefer to just write a check, that's great too as 100% of your donation goes directly toward our goals! We appreciate every bit of support to advance the campaign.

We look forward to celebrating the upcoming holidays with our Mason family and hope to see you at the Thanksgiving Lunch and Cookies with Santa. Thank you again for your continued support. Together, we can make a huge difference for our kids, the faculty and staff, and CC Mason.

All the best, *Shannon Darby*

## PTO Board Updates

### Family Nights by *Roxanne Funes and Dinita Caldwell*

Get ready for a Winter Wonderland coming up on December 10th!! We will have a multitude of activities centered around the Holidays such as caroling, mail center for letters to Santa, ornament decorating, and of course a photo opportunity with the man himself, SANTA CLAUS!!! We are very excited about this fantastic opportunity for our Mason Family. Stay tuned for more information via email and Wednesday folders. If you have any questions, ideas, or just want to help, please shoot us an email at [roxanne.funes@gmail.com](mailto:roxanne.funes@gmail.com) and [dinitacaldwell@gmail.com](mailto:dinitacaldwell@gmail.com)

### Fundraising by *Erica Baker*

Our cookie dough & popcorn fundraiser was a great success! The orders and seller prizes will be arriving on Wednesday, November 9th.

Because of your hard work, the earnings goal was surpassed, and we are rewarding you with a reptile show. Who is ready to pet a snapping turtle, a huge snake, and a crocodile? We are starting to review the schedule now. Stay tuned!

### Volunteer Updates by *Victoria Jimenez*

First of all I just wanted to say thank you to all of the awesome volunteers who helped at this year's Mason Fest!!! You guys were so great and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you!! There are a few opportunities for volunteers for November. Our first one is for the LISD Clothes Closet. This is a great program that allows families get the clothing they need for the school year. The date we have been assigned is Tuesday November 15th from 9:45-12:15. The second opportunity is for our Thanksgiving Luncheon which is Thursday November 17th. This is usually a pretty big event with lots of people which means we need lots of extra hands. If you can help at either event, type in the link address to sign up!! Thanks so much for all your help so far this year!! Victoria :)

**Clothes Closet Sign up-**  
<http://signup.com/go/xZufEt>



**Thanksgiving Luncheon Sign up-**  
<http://signup.com/go/E7UPnC>



### 5th Grade Field Trip by *Na'Cole Thompson*

Our annual field trip to Reunion Ranch is an exciting day that our 5<sup>th</sup> graders look forward to each year. It's the last field trip of their elementary years and it's always fun! The field trip is on Friday, March 31, 2017 and we are asking each family to contribute \$20 to assist with the cost of their student's participation, lunch and commemorative T-shirt. Please

email me for more information on chaperones and how to make your contributions at [nacole.thompson@yahoo.com](mailto:nacole.thompson@yahoo.com). Thanks and stay tuned for more info!

### **Treasurer's Report by Terri Gomez-Ferree**

Thanks so much to everyone who has donated to the PTO, sold cookie dough & popcorn, purchased spirit items, and/or attended a spirit night or Mason Fest! Because of your contributions we have already been able to provide the following this school year: Raz-Kids for Kinder through 2nd grade, 2nd grade field trip to the Thinkery, 3rd grade field trip to Inner Space Cavern, TASC field trip to Austin Zoo, Donuts with Dad, and Enrichment purchases for ELE, SLE, and SRP. We are on track toward meeting our goals for this year and appreciate the generosity and support that you all have provided.

### **Room Reps by Wendy Walden**

Thank you for everyone's patience with getting the new Room Rep system up this year. It took longer than expected to get it all organized but now almost every class has a Room Rep and you all should have heard from him or her by now! If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at [texaspetvet@yahoo.com](mailto:texaspetvet@yahoo.com)

## **Classroom Updates**

### **Kindergarten Team**

Kindergarten is so excited about exploring all different cultures across the world during our Where we are in place and time transdisciplinary theme. We will learn about holidays around the world and find the ways in which they connect to our own holidays. Our math number sense has been exploding with all the ways we can show numbers (Tallies! Ten frames! Numerals! Number words! Number racks!). The second nine weeks will bring us a journey into fairytales and fables and we will become better writers by turning our labels into sentences and books. We are no longer the new kids on the block, but now active learners in this amazing school that we call home.

### **First Grade Team**

First graders have become very knowledgeable about Earth Resources and how they impact our Daily Lives. We have been researching all about landforms, soil, rocks, water, the sun, and much more! We are growing as Mathematicians as we develop confidence with strategies for adding and subtracting single-digit numbers (counting on, combining small groups of numbers within larger numbers, building from known facts, etc.). We are continuing to develop and foster the love for books in first grade..don't forget to read, read, read!

### **Second Grade Team**

Second graders have received a letter from NASA! We have discovered new land and are learning all about it in order to make an informed decision on where to settle. Students are also learning about how communication may lead to new discoveries. Math is becoming a bit more challenging as we tackle adding and subtracting two digit numbers using a variety of different strategies. This will look very different than the way children were taught to add and subtract in the past in order to create a strong foundation of numerical fluency. Please talk to your child's teacher or check out our district curriculum website <https://sites.google.com/a/leanderisd.org/elemcurrparentsites/second-grade> for more information on how to help at home.

### **Third Grade Team**

Third grade Mustangs are becoming so knowledgeable these days! We can confidently say we are experts on the solar system, and now we are busy acquiring new knowledge about landforms and natural disasters. We are thinking about ways that communities adapt to local landforms, and how living things prepare for a react to natural disasters. A BIG event coming up that we are all looking forward to is our FIELD TRIP to Innerspace Caverns! This unique landform is sure to be enjoyed by all of our little Mustangs! As always, third grade teachers are impressed with the way our students are communicating what they learn through art, writing, verbal language, and critical thinking.

### **Fourth Grade Team**

It has been a very eventful year so far! We just had our field trip to Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum this last month. Visiting the LaBelle and learning about our state's early years was a great experience. Our students have learned about the Texas regions and the Native Americans who inhabited our state and presented their findings in some very creative ways. Fourth grade has also been learning about and discussing systems in our world. From the family to education to agriculture to transportation, systems are everywhere and they are all connected in so many ways. Soon our research skills will take us on some exciting explorations!

### **Fifth Grade Team**

We have moved on to our Transdisciplinary Theme of Sharing the Planet. Our inquiry has been focused on conflict, and understanding the perspectives that can lead to all types of conflict. We have studied environmental conflicts, historical conflicts and interpersonal conflicts.

## **Classroom Updates Continued**

### **Spanish by Bree Howard**

¡Hola! ¿Cómo están?-- we have learned why in Spanish we have the "upside down" exclamation and interrogation marks. That's so the reader knows what's coming up and can adjust his/her voice to make it sound like a question or command, etc. In Spanish we use intonation of our voices to express different meanings with words.

we just finished a unit focusing on Time. we learned days, months, seasons, colors, weather and holidays. our focus has also been on learning sound our consonants and vowels make- knowing these rules will make reading Spanish more seamless.

our class will also continue to focus on counting and forming numbers. I really think this skill is important and we can connect to "place value" in Math class. Ask your child how numbers are formed in Spanish.

Example :

- 40- cuarenta
- 8- ocho
- $40+8= 48$
- Cuarenta y ocho

Boom! That easy. The goal- to have counting by tens memorized, up to one hundred. Bonus- practicing addition and counting by tens.

Happy Fall Season- ¡Feliz otoño!

Mrs. Bree Howard

### **Art by Tracey Day**

In art we have been getting messy! Kinder and first have been focused on painting shape, lines, and colors like Mr. Kandinsky, they even got to use black glue to make their lines. Second and third have been discussing Pop Art and created some of their own. Fourth grade has been learning about color value and is currently painting tints and shades. Fifth grade has really been working hard on one point perspective drawings. Lots of great art has been done! Info.

### **SPROG by Kelly Stewart**

QUEST has been focusing on generating unique ideas by practicing with our creative awareness tools. In addition to using these tools in our QUEST classroom, the QUEST teachers have shared them campus-wide during enrichment. We have also started weekly kindergarten lessons to teach all kindergarteners about creative awareness.

#### **Creative Awareness Tools**

- Fluency – the ability to generate quantities of ideas
- Flexibility – the ability to create different categories of ideas, and to perceive an idea from different points of view
- Originality – the ability to generate new, different, and unique ideas that others are not likely to generate
- Elaboration – the ability to expand on an idea by embellishing it with details or the ability to create an intricate plan

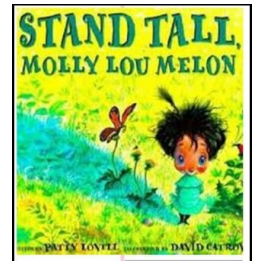
## **School Administration Updates**

### **Counselor's Corner by Vicki Gardiner ((512) 570-5516 \* [vicki.gardiner@leanderisd.org](mailto:vicki.gardiner@leanderisd.org))**

In this day and age, there are so many negative messages that our children internalize from television, social media, their peers, and more. It is our job to teach them to feel good about themselves despite the media.

Here are a few things you can do at home to encourage positive thoughts

- Ask your child daily about the positive things they did throughout the day
- Have your child write positive statements on the bathroom mirror (dry erase marker or sticky notes work great)
- Talk positively about yourself. Modeling this behavior is the best way to teach your children



This is a great book that helps begin to develop the skill of thinking and talking positively to themselves. Book : ***Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell***

### **Registrar's Reminders by Tracy Abadie ((512) 570-5513 \* [tracy.abadie@leanderisd.org](mailto:tracy.abadie@leanderisd.org))**

With flu season upon us I know that our students will miss school from time to time. Please remember to send in a parent or doctor's note to me in the office so I can code these absences "excused". Be sure to include your student's first and last name, the reason for the absence, and the date of the absence!

Flu Season is here!

**1 STAY INFORMED!** TexasFlu.org is the DSHS site for flu information in Texas. Everyone six months old and over should get vaccinated against the flu. This season's flu vaccine supply is plentiful.  
*PLEASE NOTE:* The nasal spray is not being offered this season.

**2 GET VACCINATED! Get a flu vaccination now!** It's the best way to protect yourself and others. DSHS urges everyone six months old and older to get vaccinated against the flu. It is particularly important for pregnant women, young children, older adults and people with chronic health conditions, because people in those groups are at a greater risk of severe complications if they do get the flu. This season's flu vaccine supply is plentiful, and vaccinations should be readily available in your area. *PLEASE NOTE:* The nasal spray is **not** being offered this season.

**Vaccination Locations :** Here are several ways to find vaccination sources:

- Check with your doctor or other usual healthcare provider for vaccine availability.
- Watch for announcements about flu vaccinations offered by supermarkets, drug stores and other businesses or commercial organizations in your community.
- Use the [Flu Vaccine Finder](#) feature to find vaccination locations in your area.
- Dial 2-1-1, the Texas Health Information and Referral Network, for vaccine availability from local public health departments and other non-profit organizations in your area.
- Check directly with your [local public health department](#) or nearest Texas Department of State Health Services [Regional Office](#).

**3 STOP THE SPREAD!**

- Get vaccinated.
- Wash hands frequently, before eating and before touching your face.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with elbow.
- Stay home if you're sick and for 24 hours after symptoms resolve.
- Convince those around you to follow steps 1 - 4.