

## *Principal Kennections*

Abby Kennell, Principal

Happy New Year CC Mason,

We recently held a Site Based Committee Meeting in which staff, community and parents gathered to review 2015-2016 Accountability Data. The purpose of these meetings are to address campus specific needs and gather input and feedback from the community. The committee suggested the need for community to be informed of the work we are doing to better serve our students academically and socially. Based on this feedback, I have committed to creating Principal Kennections Video Blogs highlighting improvement efforts to increase all student's academic and social/emotional success. If you have not had a chance to view the First Principal Kennections Video Blog sent out on 1/2/17, I have included the link below for you to access.

<http://tinyurl.com/1masprinckennvidblog>

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the students and families of the CC Mason community. 2017 is just the beginning to many amazing accomplishments for our students and staff. We appreciate your continued trust and support.

With kindest regards, *Abby Kennell*

# Shannon's Shout Out

PTO President

## Upcoming Events

PDQ spirit nights:  
1/5/17, 2/2/17, 3/2/17

Dairy Queen spirit nights:  
1/18/17, 2/15/17, 3/8/17

No School  
1/16, 2/6, 2/7

PTO Camp Expo  
2/23

LEEF Gala  
1/28

Fun Run  
4/20

Welcome back to school Mason Mustangs and Happy New Year! We had such a busy and successful Fall semester and are already working hard to make the Spring one great as well. This semester brings more exciting family nights, spirit nights, and a Fun Run! We really enjoy seeing both familiar and new faces at all of the events. If you haven't made it to an event this year, don't fret. Come when you can! We'd love to see you!

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, our water bottle filling stations were installed and the staff and kiddos are loving them! We are hoping to be able to install two more upstairs for our upper grades by the end of the year.

We are proud to say that we have raised \$30,000 of our \$40,000 goal for the year! Yet we are still working hard to ensure that we meet our goal if not exceed it. One very successful way we have been raising money this year is through our company matching program. Many companies will either match your donation or will pay per volunteer hour worked. It is amazing how quickly the money adds up this way! If you are interested in learning more about volunteering or organizing a group of volunteers at your office to help with projects please contact Victoria Jimenez at [victoria.botello12@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.botello12@gmail.com).

Progress is being made and our goals are being met because of you, Mason families. It is so exciting to see how working together can help turn a school into a community. We are honored to be a part of that.

If you are interested in playing a bigger role in the PTO in the coming school year, start thinking about how you might want to participate! We are always looking for helping hands.

All the best,

**Shannon Darby**

## Contact Us

### WEB

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

### FACEBOOK

<http://facebook.com/ccmasonpto>

### EMAIL

[Masonptopresident@gmail.com](mailto:Masonptopresident@gmail.com)

# PTO Board Updates

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

Hello families, as we enter into the New Year, the Family Nights committee would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support and participation of our PTO sponsored events.

We look forward to 2017 and the exciting family activities we have planned. More details about this year's events will be shared in the coming weeks. If you would like to get involved or provide your input the committee can be reached by sending an email to [dinitacaldwell@gmail.com](mailto:dinitacaldwell@gmail.com) and [roxanne.funes@gmail.com](mailto:roxanne.funes@gmail.com).

## **Fundraising by *Erica Baker***

We are finalizing the details for our Spring Fun Run, and are in need of sponsors.

Do you know a business owner who would love to have their logo printed on t-shirts given to each of CC Mason's ~650 students? Please contact me via email: [ERICALBAKER@ME.COM](mailto:ERICALBAKER@ME.COM)

This year, the fun run will take place during school hours and will include a week's worth of character lessons that complement the IB profile.

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

Our annual field trip to Reunion Ranch is an exciting day that our 5th 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 submit your payments by February 3, 2017. For more information on chaperones and how to make your contributions, email me at [nacole.thompson@yahoo.com](mailto:nacole.thompson@yahoo.com).

# Classroom Updates

## Kindergarten Team

The amazing Kindergarten students have had a fantastic adventure exploring other countries and cultures as we learn about holidays around the world in our Where We Are In Place and Time IB theme. We've also been busy discovering fairy tales, as well as the stories behind the fairy tales and comparing and contrasting authors and different versions of stories. Our number sense continues to grow as we learn addition and subtraction within five and counting to 40. We are very excited to be working on our writing skills and counting down to our 100th day of school!

## First Grade Team

Our fabulous first graders are deep into our unit of study "How the World Works". We have been studying how cause and effect create changes in our world. We have been researching and brainstorming how we can make a positive change in our community. Soon, our first graders will begin to learn all about "Sharing the Planet". We will learn how living things may depend on each other. You can continue to help your first grader at home by reading every night. The Bridges Math packets will continue to be sent home for extra optional Math practice. Don't forget to check the HSC for weekly information in Daily folders!

## Second Grade Team

Second graders had the opportunity to travel back in time before the break and learn about the past by exploring artifacts from the Williamson County Museum's traveling trunk collection. After returning, students will begin researching a country of choice and will create a product that reflects a change in the country's history. We will continue to work on problem solving and using number lines as well as place value to add and subtract two and three digit numbers. You can continue to help your kiddo at home by reading nightly and encouraging number sense by playing games and practicing skills like telling time, counting change, and estimating.

## Third Grade Team

The Mustangs in third grade are actively engaged in our unit of study called "Sharing the Planet." Students are launching change in our school by raising awareness about organizations that have a positive impact on the planet. Soon, our little Mustangs will be learning about "How the World Works," and our focus will shift to simple machines and states of matter. Third grade teachers would like to remind everyone to access Think Through Math and the Istation from home so your children can continue to practice their targeted math and reading skills. These are great resources that you can access from the comfort of your home!

## Fourth Grade Team

The fourth grade has been vigorously investigating some very interesting places on this planet and beyond! They have researched some unexplored places and created a persuasive product geared toward future tourists. It's been a lot of work and these kids have worked hard! Ask your student about their location, it may be an option for your next vacation! Next up we will be starting our Sharing the Planet planner. We will focus on how we can conserve, protect, and share our planet. It's the only one we have so we need to figure out how we can make it work. We are continuing to work on Writing and Reading. We are also going to be looking at measurements in our Math unit. All students have a Think Through Math account as well as an iStation login to get extra practice at home. You can also check your teacher's webpage for additional games and resources.

## Fifth Grade Team

This fifth grade year is flying by; I can't believe we are halfway through! In January we really begin gearing up for our end of the year exhibition project. We will be reviewing the local and global conflicts we've studied throughout the year, evaluating what breaks our hearts about the world and gearing up for an action-based research project and culmination of the IB learning experience.

# More Classrooms!

## Spanish by *Bree Howard*

### ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!--- Happy New Year!

In the next few weeks we will be learning/reviewing verbs, adjectives and opposites. We will also be reviewing home, school and clothing vocabulary!

I will be encouraging students to start forming sentences and we will be doing more writing.

I have provided folders for fifth grade classes and some fourth graders. I think this will help them have more of a record of what we have learned and they will be able to share their knowledge with you. They will also be able to review and be proud of all they've learned.

I just want to take a moment to **thank all the wonderful families** who remembered this Spanish teacher during the Holidays. It touched my heart to receive such thoughtful cards and sweet goodies.

Love this Mason family!!!

Gracias,  
SRA. Howard

## Art by *Tracey Day*

Happy New Year! Second semester is almost already here! In art all grade levels have started their ceramics unit. Kinder is beginning with pinch pots, while upper grades explore different ways to build with clay. This is always a favorite. Coming up is our spring fundraiser- look for information coming home in February. Art Club has been working hard making bowls for the empty bowl event in April.

## SPROG by *Cindy Hughes*

Welcome to the World of ESL ( English as a Second Language) at Mason Elementary. ESL at Mason has certainly changed this year. We have welcomed several newcomers to our campus this year from places around the globe spanning from India to Italy. This is my first year as the ESL teacher at Mason and I am thrilled to work with these amazing students!

## Reading Log Programs

Mason students can participate in 2 great reading programs this year!! Reading logs for Six Flags and Schlitterbahn Parks were sent home in November. Both reading logs are due back to Mrs. Abadie in the office on or before February 27th. Reading logs must be filled out with first and last name, teacher's name, and books and minutes read. No late reading logs will be accepted! Students who turn in completed forms by the deadline will receive one free admission to either or both parks for the 2017 Summer season. Tickets are usually distributed in April or May.

## ELE by *Cory Marble*

ELE is starting off the year by learning How the World Works by Observing Changes in Our Natural World. We will uncover new thoughts and ideas about Snow, Ice, Snowmen, Arctic Animals, and Polar Animals. We will be doing some ice experiments, ice and snow play in sensory boxes, building snowmen, playing snowman games, going ice skating Texas style (on shaving cream!!), and learning all about Arctic and Polar animals and how they survive in harsh climates. In February, we will begin learning How We Communicate by Telling Stories. We will be extensively breaking down and recreating two time honored folk tales, The Little Red Hen and Jack and the Beanstalk.

# School Administration Updates

Counselor's Corner by *Vicki Gardiner*

## GOING BEYOND "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"

Questions to ask your child after school to get a conversation started.

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today?
2. What was the worst thing that happened at school today?
3. Can you show me something that you learned in school today?
4. What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
5. What was the most interesting/funny thing your teacher said today?
6. How did you help someone today?
7. How were you a good friend today?
8. Did someone do something nice for you today?
9. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?
10. If you got one wish about school, what would it be?



Vicki Gardiner  
(512) 570-5516  
vicki.gardiner@leanderisd.org

Registrar's Reminders by *Tracy Abadie*

**Parents,**

***Please be sure to notify me if you have recently moved or changed your phone number. If you have moved, I will need proof of residency such as a utility bill or contract. Remember, you can always update your phone numbers and emergency contacts in txConnect!***

***Happy New Year!!***

Tracy Abadie  
(512) 570-5513  
tracy.abadie@leanderisd.org

## Health News by Nurse Wendy Reed

Flu season is here! Symptoms include a fever, aches, chills and fatigue, coughing, a high temperature, and a severe sore throat. It is imperative that you check your student for flu-like illness symptoms before school every day! If your student has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, he/she is required to remain home until he/she is fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications

It is important to encourage your children to wash their hands frequently, to cover coughs and sneezes, get plenty of rest and to dispose of tissues appropriately. Also, please notify the attendance office and/or nurse if your child is out with the flu or flu-like symptoms as described.

Wendy Reed RN, BSN-Campus Nurse  
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### Is it a cold or the Flu?

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare	Characteristic, high (100-102°F); lasts three to four days
Headache	Rare	Prominent
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual; often severe
Fatigue, Weakness	Quite mild	Can last up to two to three weeks
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Early and prominent
Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe
Complications	Sinus congestion or earache	Bronchitis or pneumonia; can be life-threatening
Prevention	None	Annual vaccination; Symmetrel, Flumadine, or Tamiflu (antiviral drugs)
Treatment	Only temporary relief of symptoms	Symmetrel, Flumadine, Relenza, or Tamiflu within 24-48 hours after onset of symptoms