

Principal Kennections

Abby Kennell, Principal

Dear CC Mason Mustangs,

It is hard to believe we only have three months left of school! As I reflect on the last six months, I can't help but celebrate all that we have accomplished. Our teachers, staff and students have a strong desire to learn and grow and have been working hard. As we come to the end of the 2016-2017 school year, I challenge our community, students, staff, teachers, and parents to celebrate as many successes as possible. Often, we do not take the time to reflect and focus on the positive action that is taking place right in front of us. I encourage all of our Mustang community to share one positive CC Mason experience with the world. It could be a positive encounter with a staff member, a learning experience that your child shared with you, evidence of students taking action in the community, or a proud accomplishment. No matter how big or small of a victory, let's focus on the positive. Simply scan the QR code below and add a note on the #storyofmason padlet. All posts will be approved prior to publication.

With kindest regards, *Abby Kennell*

#storyofmason



https://padlet.com/abby_kennell/kz5zed8g5n5i

Follow Us on Twitter @MasonIBPYP
#storyofmason

<i>Shannon's Shout Out</i>	PTO President	Upcoming Events
<p>Happy Spring, Mason Mustangs! How did we get here so fast? As we begin to speed toward year-end at C.C. Mason, your PTO is still working hard to raise money for our awesome school.</p> <p>One of the things we love to do as a PTO is show our phenomenal teachers and staff how much we appreciate them. With some of the money raised we are able to periodically surprise them with things like their favorite Sonic drinks, and sweet treats for Valentine's Day. Our teachers and staff work so hard to make our school a happy, fun place for learning and these little surprises brighten their day so much!</p> <p>The PTO is thrilled to share that we are just \$7,000 away from our school year fundraising goal - which will help us purchase and install a new shade structure to go over the playground - with one major fundraising event left: the Boosterthon Fun Run (or walk). More information will be sent home with your children soon, and we hope to see many of you out there. We are happy to accept donations too.</p> <p>We are starting to recruit for next year's PTO board, so if you have an interest in sharing your time and talents alongside other committed parents to make CC Mason the best school for all our students, we want to hear from you. No prior board experience necessary! Email me at sdarby@darbydarnit.com and we will connect with you to share more information.</p> <p>Thanks for an amazing year so far. Let's make these last few months count!</p> <p>All the best, <i>Shannon Darby</i></p>		<p>PDQ spirit nights: 3/2, 4/6, 5/4</p> <p>Dairy Queen spirit nights: 3/8 & 5/17</p> <p>PTO Camp Expo 3/9</p> <p>Fun Run 4/20 (during school)</p> <p>Science Night 4/20 (pm)</p> <p>Kinder/5th Graduation Picnic 5/20</p>
		<p>Contact Us</p> <p>WEB http://mason.my-pta.org</p> <p>FACEBOOK http://facebook.com/ccmasonpto</p> <p>EMAIL Masonptopresident@gmail.com</p>

PTO Board Updates

Family Nights by Roxanne Funes and Dinita Caldwell

Hello Mason Mustangs! We would like to tell you about our two events coming up this spring for our Mason families. First, on Thursday March 9, we will be hosting Mason Summer Camp Expo & Game Night. For this event, we have invited several local business and schools who offer summer camp options to come and set up in the MPR. They will have information and representatives available to help our Mason families plan their summer camp options. Simultaneously, in the cafeteria we will be hosting a Game Night for the kids. Bring your favorite board games to share with your friends, while the parents are investigating some camp options! This will be a win-win for both!!

Secondly, coming up on Saturday, May 20 we will be celebrating Kinder and 5th grade graduations with a picnic at the park. We will be kicking off summer break with some good 'ol outside fun on a Saturday with our favorite Mason families and friends. More info to come soon...

If you have any ideas or would like to be a part of the planning process please do not hesitate to contact either of us at roxanne.funes@gmail.com or at dinitacaldwell@gmail.com

Fundraising by Erica Baker

Our last big fundraiser of the year is the Boosterthon Fun Run. We are still in need of event sponsors who would love to have their logos printed on the fun run t-shirts. If you know of any business owners who would be interested, please email me: ERICALBAKER@ME.COM

The kick-off pep rally will be April 11th. Five days of character lessons and goal updates, will be given to each grade level during specials. The run will occur on April 20th.

5th Grade Field Trip by Na'Cole Thompson

Volunteers are needed for the 5th Grade field trip to Reunion Ranch which will be on Friday, March 31, 2017. **If you would like to volunteer to help, there is no cost for you to attend.** If you are not interested in volunteering but would like to attend, the cost is \$11 and is due March 24, 2017. A form will be coming home in the Wednesday folder with more information. Please email nacole.thompson@yahoo.com if you have questions. Thanks you.

Volunteer Information by Victoria Jimenez

Hello Volunteers !! We have one volunteer opportunity coming up for March. The event is our Summer Camp Expo and Game Night which is taking place Thursday March 9th from 6:30-8:00. We will need help keeping the kiddos entertained in the cafeteria with games and helping with refreshments while parents are researching fun summer activities in the MPR. If you can help out for a little while please reference the link below to access the sign up.

<http://signup.com/go/ukp4Gx>

A heartfelt "Thank you" for all your help so far this year !!!

Science Night by our Mason W.A.T.C.H. Dogs

If you have a science, chemistry, physics, computer or mathematics skill that you'd like to share with our kids during this year's Science Night, please contact Olliver Engle at o_engle@yahoo.com. This is an exciting night each year for the kids and we'd love for you to be a part of it!!

Classroom Updates

Kindergarten Team

We have an immense amount of pride for our Kinders right now. Not only have they survived the first 100 days of school but they are doing such amazing things that we can't believe they are not already in First Grade! We are looking forward to our field trip to the Elgin Christmas tree farm in April as we connect to our Living on Earth science and social studies unit, as well as our IB unit Sharing the Planet. We had a successful 100th day of school canned food drive where we collected almost 1200 cans! This proves that while we are small, we are mighty. As we venture into our last few months of school, we focus on poetry and nonfiction, story problems, expanding our writing narratives and we really dive into How we express ourselves and How the world works. It has been an amazing school year with this group and we are thankful every day for them.

First Grade Team

First graders are busy bees these days! We are researching and becoming knowledgeable about habitats on Earth including the forest, the grasslands, the arctic, the rainforest and many more. We can't wait to take our research even deeper as we create our Shoebox habitats. We look forward to our field trip to Austin Nature and Science Center coming up in March to extend our learning about interdependence between living things. As we continue to approach the last few months of first grade, we will grow stronger as readers, writers, and mathematicians. We will also dive into our last two IB Planners, How we Express Ourselves and How We Organize Ourselves. Please continue to encourage your first grader to read, read, read! We want to send these sweet kids to 2nd grade as strong, independent readers! Thank you for all of your continued support this year:)

Second Grade Team

Second graders are currently learning about the inquiry process and engineering design process while understanding civil engineering. Students will learn about different bridge structures before ultimately designing one independently. Closer to the end of the year, we will have the opportunity to care for living animals within our Sharing the Planet unit. Butterflies, fish, snails, and more will move into our classrooms. But, shhhh! Make sure to keep it a secret. We plan on leaving some of this learning a secret for now. Skills that continue to be important for us are adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers and growing fluent readers and writers. Parents, you can help tremendously by reading and writing with your child at home. We will begin to spend more time writing about our reading in order to prepare our kiddos for third grade.

Third Grade Team

Third great Mustangs have a lot to look forward to during the months of March, April, and May. You will find our students engaged in biography projects that literally bring historical figures to life during our "Who We Are" unit of study. Our students will get to research famous people from near and far. They will also get to really "walk in their shoes" as they parade around the school dressed up as the person they researched. Before the year comes to a close, we will have a lot to CELEBRATE! This is the focal point of our final unit of study- "How We Express Ourselves." Our third graders will learn about how cultures around the world celebrate various occasions. We will, of course, also celebrate our academic growth this year before we send our little learners to fourth grade!

Fourth Grade Team

The fourth grade is zooming through this year! Currently we are piloting a new Science Unit and loving the experience. Our current Planner is How the World Works and this unit is all about Ecology. These scholars have investigated different biomes around the world and soon we will be visiting the YMCA for a day of exciting outdoor learning to investigate local plants and animals. Our next planner will focus on Sharing the Planet. Our global view is expanded when we discuss our resources, people and land. The final planner of the year is How We Express Ourselves and it's full of great opportunities for our students to explore the various ways people can express their personality. We will be taking a trip to the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin to see first hand some great works of art!

Fifth Grade Team

Fifth grade is investigating Where We Are in Place and Time through the exploration of westward expansion and Earth and space science. Students are conducting a variety of experiments to help us understand Earth's movement in spaces as well as the effects of movement on the surface of the earth. We are also looking forward to a quick visit and introduction to middle school when we visit RBMS in early March. Later in March we will take our 5th grade field trip to Reunion Ranch. Also continuing to ramp up is our preparation for exhibition, the culminating project for the Primary Years Programme. Students are learning about the world around them and will be identifying a passion to research and create and action plan to present at the end of May. Such an exciting time for 5th graders!

More Classrooms!

Spanish by

We are focusing on writing Spanish sentences, using all the vocabulary they have been learning.

Fifth and fourth grade are being risk takers and conjugating -ar, -er and -ir verbs in the present tense- memories of High School Spanish...Bueller??? :)

These are some of the verbs we have learned:

Correr, leer, tomar, hablar, bailar, escuchar y saltar.

For the younger grades we have been practicing how to say what the weather is like today and seasons. We are also practicing greetings. The students are being encouraged to listen for "cognates"- a word that sounds similar in both languages. Some examples: computer=computadora, lamp=lámpara, elephant=elefante, telephone=teléfono, etc We have also been doing "read alouds". The students enjoy seeing words they understand and reading along with me, in Spanish. Most books we have been reading involve animals, colors, action words and description of the characters.

We will continue to sing, talk, play and write in Spanish, covering all learning styles. Making sure all students feel a sense of progress in Spanish.

Have a great Spring! Please look on my website for more details on vocabulary/concepts we are covering at each grade level. ¡ !

Art by Tracey Day

In art we are wrapping up our annual fundraiser- the order forms will arrive early March! All classes are finishing with our clay projects. Most classes glazed on clay project and painted the other. The next lessons will be all about textile art (weaving, jewelry, maybe even some sewing).

SPROG by SRP Reading Teachers

Spring Break is coming up soon! Be on the lookout for a reading challenge to help keep your child engaged in reading during the week off. Remember...."The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." ~Dr. Seuss

ELE by Cory Marble

Spring is in the air and that means ELE will be learning about **Sharing the Planet**. Our Central Idea is that *living and nonliving things share the planet*. We will be learning how to figure out if something is living or not by exploring rocks, volcanoes, dinosaurs, birds, caterpillars and butterflies, pond animals and ocean animals. We will also learn of various life cycles including caterpillars, frogs, birds, and humans! Don't be surprised if you see us excavating dinosaur bones, rock collecting, erupting volcanoes, going bird watching, or releasing butterflies we watched transform from caterpillars. Spring is our favorite time of year and this is shaping up to be a great one!

School Administration Updates

Counselor's Corner by Vicki Gardiner

GOT GRIT?

What it is and why it is important to help your child get it.

Grit is defined as having perseverance and passion for long-term goals and working hard toward challenges, even when failure and adversity presents itself. Grit is a “non-cognitive” skill, similar to self-control and curiosity.

What happens when math gets a little tricky or when reading becomes “boring”? GRIT! That’s what!

Here’s how to help your child develop grit:

1. Praise the effort, not the grade.
 - a. When you praise the “stick-to-it-ness” of your child’s efforts, they will be more determined to continue working hard. This will encourage them not to give up.
2. Let them struggle.
 - a. As hard as it is to see your child struggle, they need to learn how to work through frustration and failure.
3. Create and talk about your own goals.
 - a. Share small steps you are taking along the way to meet your goal, and talk about your own struggles and how you plan to get past them.
4. Keep and model an open mindset.
 - a. An open mindset is believing that things can change, that we can improve our skills and knowledge, and that we can get past challenges. Instead of saying, “I can’t do this!” you can say, “I can’t do this.... yet.”
5. Find ways to challenge your child.
 - a. Encourage your child to try new things, even if they aren’t sure about it.

For more information about grit, check out the UPenn website, with work by Psychologist Angela Duckworth:

<https://sites.sas.upenn.edu/duckworth>

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

Registrar's Reminders by Tracy Abadie

Student Transfer Requests for 2017-18 School Year

Transfer requests can be submitted online beginning Monday, Feb. 13, 2017. Please be sure that you submit your transfer request(s) promptly, as the transfer request deadline is March 19, 2017 (with the exception of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten transfer requests, which will be accepted April 12-21); the district will not consider any transfer requests submitted after that date until approximately two weeks prior to the start of school.

Please note that some campuses will not be accepting any new transfers due to their being at or over projected capacity. Existing transfer students at all campuses who submit an application will be considered for approval after the March 19, 2017, deadline date.

Please note that a **non-refundable** \$30.00 processing fee was implemented beginning Sept. 1, 2011, for any student requesting a transfer (with the exception of students transferring into the [International Baccalaureate program](#)), and this fee does not guarantee approval to the requested campus. Again, the student transfer submission window opens on **Feb. 13, 2017**.

Health News by *Nurse Wendy Reed*

- Texas weather is unpredictable, so students should **WEAR JACKETS OR HOODIES** to school. Mornings can be cold and afternoons may warm up. **Don't forget to put child's name on ALL items!**
- Lice is popular this time of year! Students should be reminded to **NEVER SHARE** pillows, blankets, towels, clothes, hats, helmets, headphones, hair accessories or brushes to avoid spreading lice. **Discourage** hugs and head to head contact! **Encourage** wearing hair up/back for girls!



- It's a good idea to **send WATER to school with your child every day**. The heating system dries them out and allergies are bad. Water will help keep them more alert in class and thin out any mucous they may have in their nose or throat.
- **CHAPPED LIPS** are common. Send your child to school with chapstick, Vaseline or Aquaphor.
- Don't forget the **24 HOUR RULE**. If your child is home or sent home sick, he/she **MUST be symptom free for 24 hours** without the use of medication before returning to school. This is to prevent the spread of illness.
- **Please don't forget to NOTIFY me** if your emergency contact numbers and/or email have changed.

Wendy Reed RN, BSN-Campus Nurse
(P) 512-570-5527
wendy.reed@leanderisd.org

School Administration Updates



CC Mason

Pre-K and Kindergarten Roundup

April 13th, 7:00 am– 7:00 pm

2017/18 Kindergarteners must be 5 by September 1st, 2017 and pre-k must be 4 by September 1st

Parents,

Help us round up our future Pre-K and Kinder students!

Please try to bring your child to the round-up

so they can meet our kinder teachers and learn some fun activities!

Snacks provided!