

The Third Grade ROAR

Monday, October 26, 2009

My mission is to prepare my children for the next grade and life.

Our Classroom Mission Statement

Zane Sartin inspired our classroom mission statement and the name of this newsletter. She put us in a lion frame of mind and the children created this mission statement:

Mrs. Clark's pack will show P.R.I.D.E. behavior, become lions in math, tame ourselves so we can get along with all other cubs, and become good readers and writers so we will be ready to **ROAR** into 4th grade.

Aren't you impressed? I certainly am.

P.R.I.D.E. Panthers

We have two official P.R.I.D.E. Panthers, Derek Deaver and Zane Sartin. They should be putting their handprints on the Wall of Fame very soon. We've also got two more on track for that honor. Kaylee Lambeth and Krista Jackson were nominated last Friday. Stay tuned for more information on new nominees.

This honor is within each child's reach. It has nothing to do with academic ability. The letters stand for five important character traits that we try to instill in each child:

Politeness Respect Integrity Discipline Effort

Math

We've been working on addition and subtraction for the past few weeks. Most children do not yet know those facts quickly. This is a great chance for you to help your child out. Help them practice for 10 minutes every evening, and they will show tremendous improvement. We are now working on a unit in measurement.

Yesterday, we estimated lengths and used a tape measure to confirm our estimates. The skill of estimating and measuring needs a lot of practice, more than I can provide at home. If you've got a yardstick or tape measure, please let your child work on this at home.

Reading

Most of the children in this class are reading at or above grade level. I hope that they're continuing the good habit of reading at home. They have books from our classroom library as well as the school library that they can take home to read. The public libraries have even more wonderful books. There's a branch located across Jefferson from Central High School. Another one is located on Kansas Expressway just north of Kearney.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

I'm still looking for a reply from thirteen parents about coming in for a conference at the end of first quarter. The first week in November is designated as Parent-Teacher Conference Week by the Board of Education. Teachers are hours in an effort to meet each parent who wants to come in. I hope that all of you do. If I did not receive a reply from my last note about scheduling a conference, I'm sending another one home with this letter.

Contact Me

If you want to reach me, the easiest way is through school e-mail. I usually come in early and check my e-mail before school each day. Write to jclark500@spsmail.org. Please write your child's full name on the subject line. I realize that not all of you have access to the internet, so the next best way to contact me is by sending a note with your child. I will reply that day or the next, depending on what I need to find out to answer your questions. You can call the school and leave a message for me and I will reply as soon as I can, but I have very limited time to do this.