April 2016

Principal's Message

We hope you had a fun and relaxing spring break. Now that it is behind us, both teachers and students are ready to tackle the last 2 and 1/2 months of school. April will be a very busy month. The PTL will hold the spring book fair, state testing will be administered, and Grandparent's Day will be held on April 29.

Students in grades 3 - 5 will participate in the state assessments (PSSA). During testing days, each student will test for about an hour and a half in the morning. The rest of the day will be spent participating in simple, relaxing activities as to keep stress levels down. Please be sure students get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast each morning. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

Finally, thank you for working with us to make our parking lot a
safer place for our students. As the weather gets warmer, please continue to follow the rules for the parking lot. Please do not let students run across the parking lot or bus loop. Thank you!

Writing Contest Winners

Three Aston Elementary students were awarded top honors in the Aston General Federation of Women's Club Literature Contest. Many entries were received and only thirty were chosen as winners. Congratulations to our following Aston writers:

(from left to right)
McKenzie Korenkiewicz, Kylie Robinson, and Micah Williamson

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR:
February - "Citizenship"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adelyn Moyer</th>
<th>Nicholas Peer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peyton Hearn</td>
<td>Autumn McAloon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella Smith</td>
<td>Nina Melone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron Douglas</td>
<td>Charla Sinatha</td>
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<td>Emma Worthington</td>
<td>Alison Riley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mya Orlando</td>
<td>Charlee Smith</td>
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<td>Colin Loftus</td>
<td>Anastasia Aungst</td>
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<td>Grace Getz</td>
<td>Grace Hegarty</td>
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<td>Tyler Kyrakos</td>
<td>Olivia Hoy</td>
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<td>Nolan Denney</td>
<td>Nina Dickason</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase Thompson</td>
<td>Emma Kumpf</td>
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<td>Abby Chambers</td>
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Aston Elementary Student Council participated in "Rock Your Socks" to celebrate and support World Down Syndrome Day. During the week of March 7th our student council members sold $270.00 worth of "crazy socks" during lunch periods. All proceeds will go to the Down Syndrome Association. Students wore their crazy socks to school to support the Down Syndrome effort to advocate the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome. On Rock Your Socks Day, Aston Elementary School was filled with colorful and crazy socks. Pictured below are some of the socks worn by Mr. Gladfelter's Fifth Grade. Way to go Aston!

Aston Elementary School Essay Winners!

Pictured below are our Aston VFW Americanism essay winners. The topic this year was about Lincoln's promise in his inaugural address to care for our veterans, their widows and orphans. Anthony Masseys' essay went on to the State level. Congratulations to one and all.
Pictured from left to right: Anthony Massey, Josh Tanner, Chelsea Pippino, Alex Kramer, and Mason Ross.

Aston Library Bookmark Contest Winner

Congratulations to McKenzie Korenkiewicz for winning the Aston Library Bookmark contest for 4th grade.

Great job!

"Kick Butts" Book Mark Contest Winner

Congratulations to Jacob Shapiro for winning 1st place in the "Kick Butts" bookmark contest. Jacob is pictured below, bottom row, third from the right, at County Council with other bookmark winners. Way to go Jacob.
P.S.S.A. Test Dates

Below are the dates for this year's PSSA testing. We ask that parents/guardians make every effort to have their students here during testing times. No vacations will be approved during these dates.

April 11th - 14th, 2016 -- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades PSSA Language Arts
April 18th - 20th, 2016 -- 3rd, 4th & 5th PSSA Mathematics
April 25th and 27th, 2016 -- 4th Grade PSSA Science

Your cooperation will be a big help and greatly appreciated.

READING COUNTS

Reading Counts Goal: 135,000,000
Current A.E.S. Words Read: 87,843,172
Words Needed: 47,156,828

One Million Word Readers:
Alexander Kramer - 1,183,655
Emma Greaves - 1,158,033
Trevor Smith - 1,118,378
Dr. Seuss - Read Across America Night

On March 2nd Penn-Delco Elementary school students enjoyed a family event at Sun Valley High School celebrating both reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students enjoyed many crafts and games.
By Danielle Murray & Christopher Mazzino, Curriculum Supervisors

Reading Matters

It seems that the older children get, the less they read for pleasure.
Teachers across the county can confirm that there is some truth to this statement. So why don't they read? While a great deal of emphasis is placed on writing across the curriculum in our schools, another equally important skill is reading. Students will be called upon to exercise their reading skills in all of their classes, including mathematics. Content specific teachers emphasize literacy experiences through subject area texts. In science and social studies, students learn from domain-specific text, using evidence from the text to support assertions in class and in their writing. At Penn-Delco, various programs including Reading Counts, the summer reading program, Raz-Kids, and School-wide Reads Programs help to reinforce critical reading skills.

The ability to read well is fundamental to function in today's society. Filling out an application, reading a road map, understanding the directions on a medicine bottle all require the ability to read and comprehend text. The ability to learn from text grants access to lifelong learning, training and education, whether it includes reading reports and memos at work or books and newspapers outside of work. Internet and social networking operate primarily through the written word. The digital revolution provides a vast and readily available library at one's fingertips. Digital literacy has increased the availability of and access to written text. The information can impart knowledge as well as the ability to communicate with family, friends and employers.

So how do we motivate students to read? Some students are drawn to the written text, and enjoy the act of reading. But what about those reluctant readers—those students who do not like to read? Like anything that is worth doing in life, it takes patience and practice. Students need to be self-motivated to read. They need to see the purpose in reading in order to put forth the effort and persist in a task that is difficulty. The belief that their efforts have been successful will increase confidence and their willingness to read.

In April and May, middle and elementary students across the state will be participating in the Science, English Language Arts, and Math PSSAs. High school students will be taking the Biology, Literature and Algebra Keystones. Teachers have been working diligently preparing students with solid test-taking strategies which include close reading of text to and looking for key words, terms and phrases. Similarly, math teachers are working with students emphasizing critical thinking skills and the ability to show and explain their work. The teachers of Penn-Delco strive to provide students with rich and meaningful literacy experiences. Teachers provide a wide range of interesting and appropriate texts. Feedback and encouragement is offered to increase students' self-efficacy, their belief in them as readers. Discussions on characters, settings and plot of stories and the content of nonfiction books are central to all classrooms. An extension of teaching young readers the value of reading could involve something as simple as parents and guardians taking time to read to their
children or discuss the text being read. Celebrate the new knowledge learned; enhance the discussion by making real-world connections. Whether it is for a state assessment, for pleasure, or a report at work, the bottom line is that reading matters. Celebrate the art of reading and the rewards will be exponential.

Important Dates:

April 4th - 6th - Scholastic Book Fair

April 11th - 15th, 2016 -- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades PSSA Language Arts

April 18th - 22nd, 2016 -- 3rd, 4th & 5th PSSA Mathematics

April 25th - 29th, 2016 -- 4th Grade PSSA Science

April 26th - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

April 29th - Grandparents Day

Full April Calendar of Events
Click here for a complete school calendar

STAY CONNECTED:

Aston Elementary School
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Aston, PA 19014
610-497-6300
Website