

Camp Creek Weekly Paws

December 4, 2009

Camp Creek Elementary School

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www.campcreekschool.com



Dates to Remember December 7 – December 11

Monday	7:00 P.M. – PTA Board Meeting	Day 4
Tuesday	3:25-5:30 P.M. – Chess Clubs	Day 5
Wednesday	3:40-4:45 P.M. – Readers' Rally Team Mtg.	Day 6
Thursday		Day 7
Friday	Spirit Wear Day 7:45 A.M. – Student Council Mtg. In Computer Lab Downstairs 8:00 A.M. – Chorus	Day 8

Principal's Notes

The holidays will soon be upon us, but we have much academic work yet to do in December! The students are already excited about the upcoming school holidays! The hallways and lunchroom (unfortunately!) are filled with wiggly bodies and excited voices. Please support our teachers by reminding your child to continue to work hard and do their best in the classroom, to complete homework, and to be on their best behavior at school. We have received the ITBS and CogAT scores for 1st (CogAT), 3rd, and 5th grade students. Teachers are reviewing scores now and we will be sending home this information as soon as we can. If you have any question about your child's test score report, please don't hesitate to ask. The test reports are often confusing, but any of our administrators or teachers can explain the test reports in detail.

Have a great weekend!

Kathy Jones, Principal

Criteria for Gifted Placement using the CogAT /ITBS Test Scores

In September the 1st, 3rd and 5th grade students took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). The 3rd and 5th grade students took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) in October, which is a norm-referenced test. We've recently received the results and are preparing to send them home for your review.

With the receipt of standardized test scores comes the perennial question "Does my child qualify to be referred for gifted testing?". The state of Georgia has four qualifying areas to determine eligibility into the gifted program. A student must meet the state criteria in three of the four areas to be in the program. Ability (CogAT) and achievement (ITBS) scores are two areas considered.

To be in the gifted program, ability criteria is pegged at the 99th national percentile ranking (NPR) for grades K-2 and at the 96th NPR or above for grades 3-5. For achievement, the cutoff is the 90th NPR or above in Reading total, Language Arts total or Math total categories. Therefore, if your child has achieved at these levels, you will be hearing from one of our FOCUS teachers asking your permission for your child to be referred to be tested.

If referred, a student must be assessed in motivation and creativity as well as achievement and ability. This is accomplished by using standardized surveys and tests specified by the state. Assessment can take several weeks as one of the instruments has to be sent away to be graded and returned. Again, students must meet state criteria in three of the four qualification areas to be placed in the gifted program.

Emergency Closings for Weather

When weather conditions warrant the closing of schools, the decision will be made by the Gwinnett County Central Office as soon as possible, usually no later than 6:00 a.m. The Office of Communication and Media Relations will provide local radio and television stations with the appropriate information. Information also will be posted on the school district's web site and television station. If closing becomes necessary during the school day, an announcement will be made to the schools and then to the public through local radio and television stations, as well as via the district's web site. The official television station is WSB TV and the official radio station to hear updated school closing information is WSB TV 750. Please do not rely on the Camp Creek website for weather information.

Recycling Update

Camp Creek is becoming more "Green" with each day that passes! We have a new recycling center at our school that we are very proud of. When you come in the front door you will see what was once an old filing cabinet being REUSED as our RECYCLING CENTER! Thanks to our wonderful art teacher, Mr. Mazzata, for offering his talent into making recycling more accessible to everyone. Ink cartridges, small electronics, bottle caps, soda pull tabs, and glasses can be put in here for us to recycle. Our newspaper recycling contest is going great. Please remember that the contest ends December 14. Send in newspapers with your child or a note stating how many inches of newspapers you recycled at your house. We are also

trying to win money by recycling aluminum cans. Please put these cans in the bin in the parking lot. NO BAGS please.

New Earth Patrols

Our fourth grade Earth Patrol members help recycle paper every other Friday. We also meet on the off Fridays to talk about recycling, make posters etc. The group changes every three months so that more students can participate. The following students are our new Earth Patrol members from December through February.

Makayla Favors-Santana
Tobenna Egbochue-Reeves/Britt
Rachel Harp-Jory
Rodney Wayne-Boutin
Craig Burnett-Moritz
Mason Verdi and Joseph L'Heureux-Olson
Albin Grbic-Walker

Diane Dotson
Speech/Language Pathologist
Earth Patrol Sponsor

Personal Safety Lessons

During the months of January and February, the two school counselors will be presenting personal safety lessons, including information about child sexual abuse, to every grade level. Mrs. Zamora will be presenting lessons to kindergarten, third and fifth grades, while Mrs. Tweed will be presenting lessons to first, second and fourth grades. You will be given the opportunity to preview these materials in a small room off the media center, if you are interested. We are primarily looking at the dates between January 6 and January 13 for parent preview, but we will have other times, if needed. Upon conclusion of this preview week, we will begin these lessons. If you would like to see the material we will be using, please call your counselor and arrange a day and time that will work for you. We will give the media center staff a schedule of the times so they will know when to expect you. A letter with more details will be coming home during the month of December and, of course, we are always available to answer questions if you would like to call.



Weekly PAWS PTA Points



The yearbook is still being sold for \$32.00

On-line Ordering Link: <http://jostensyearbooks..com?REF=A01454310>

There are no reprintings available if books run out. The best way to secure your student's copy is to buy now and avoid the frustrating rush coming signing day. You may be thinking the holidays have come up on you pretty fast...I can guarantee the last days of school will feel just the same. So buy today!

5th Grade Recognition Ads

Just a reminder that the January deadline is coming next month so be thinking of what you would like in your student's ad. Feel free to send them in now and I will reply with a confirmation that the information has been received.

The final ad copy and photos are due by January 15th, 2010.

Photo Submissions

The deadline from Josten's is coming. The middle of January is a fixed date for submitting final pages to the printers. If you have photos you wish to be considered for the yearbook they need to be uploaded as soon as possible. *Note: not all photos can be used, but will be considered. *Teachers are encouraged to upload their photos, as well.**

Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.jostens.com/login>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username:400001801 and password:campcreek
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details".

Any questions should be sent to: yearbook@campcreekpta.com

Thank you,

Victoria Taylor
PTA Yearbook Chair



Recruiting Media Center Volunteers

Looking to get involved? Want to know what students at Camp Creek are reading? Join the Media Center (a.k.a. library) volunteer team. You'll assist in checking materials in/out, shelving and working with Camp Creek students. Don't worry if you've never worked in a library....our fabulous library staff will get you started. Find out more by contacting the Volunteer Coordinator, Pattiann Taylor, at taylorpd@comcast.net or 678-924-9683.